



VESPERS **on the eve of the** **Memorial of Ignatius of Antioch** **Circa 115**

2025 October 16

As members of a parish within the Diocese of New Westminster, we acknowledge that we are gathered from a variety of locations within the traditional, unceded ancestral territory of the Coast Salish people, including but not limited to, the halq'-emylém speaking Kwantlen, Kwikwetlam, Musqueam, Tseilwatuth, and Tsawwassen nations.

The Preparation

Officiant

Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch in Syria, who was caught in a persecution of the Church around the year 115 and condemned to suffer death in the public arena. The authorities decided to send him all the way to Rome for execution of this sentence. He was put in the custody of ten soldiers and escorted along a route which led through cities with large Christian congregations. There was a lengthy stop-over at Smyrna, on the coast of Asia Minor, and Ignatius took the opportunity to write letters to the four churches that he had just passed through. There was another stop-over at Philippi in Macedonia, where Ignatius wrote another three letters, two back to churches in Asia Minor and one forward to the church at Rome. Taken together, these seven letters were Ignatius's last testament. He exhorted each church to gather in unity under its bishop, most especially at the eucharist; and he urged the churches to reject certain heresies about the person of Christ. Above all, Ignatius urged the churches to rejoice with him in the prospect of his own martyrdom for the sake of Christ. He embraced his fate passionately, even with a joy that we may find hard to fathom. Ignatius wrote in his letter to the church at Rome: "I am God's wheat: let me be ground by the teeth of wild beasts, that I may be found pure bread for Christ."

From: ***"For All the Saints"***
Anglican Church of Canada

The Preparation

Officiant

O God, make speed to save us,
O Lord, make haste to help us.

From the rising of the Sun to its setting
your glory is proclaimed in all the world.

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever.
Amen.

Act of Praise

O Light, Whose Splendour Thrills
Common Praise 16

Officiant or Cantor

O Light, whose splendour thrills and gladdens with
radiance brighter than the sun, pure gleam of God's
unending glory, O Jesus, blest, Anointed One;

as twilight hovers near at sunset, and lamps are lit,
and children nod, in evening hymns we lift our voices
to Father, Spirit, Son: one God.

In all life's brilliant, timeless moments, let faithful
voices sing your praise, O Son of God, our life
bestower, whose glory lightens endless days.

The Psalm

Psalm 116: 1 - 8

Psalmist

I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *

**because he has inclined his ear to me
whenever I called upon him.**

The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; *

I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the name of the Lord: *

“O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”

Gracious is the Lord and righteous; *

our God is full of compassion.

The Lord watches over the innocent; *

I was brought very low, and he helped me.

Turn again to your rest, O my soul, *

for the Lord has treated you well.

The Psalm (Cont'd)

For you have rescued my life from death, *
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord *
in the land of the living.

The Psalm Prayer

Eternal God, faithful in your tender compassion, you give us hope for our life here and hereafter through the victory of your only Son. When we share his cup of salvation, revive in us the joy of this everlasting gift. We ask this in his name.

Amen.

The Reading

John 12: 23 - 26

Reader

Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour”.

Response

*After a brief period of reflection
the Reader says:*

Blessed are the meek for they shall
inherit the Earth.

Thanks be to God!

Affirmation of Faith

Officiant

Let us affirm our faith as we recite “Hear, O Israel”

**Hear, O Israel,
The Lord our God, the Lord is one.**

**Love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.**

**This is the first and great commandment.
The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.**

There is no commandment greater than these.

Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings

Officiant

God clothes the grass of the field and feeds the birds of the air. Recognizing our need to be transformed by our awareness of them, we offer our prayers on behalf of the church and the world, responding to the bidding “God of Glory” with “Hear our Prayers”

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for The Diocese of Pennsylvania – The Episcopal Church, The Rt. Revd. Daniel G.P. Gutiérrez, Bishop. God of Glory, **Hear our Prayers.**

In the Anglican - Lutheran - Moravian cycle, we pray for The Rt. Rev. David Lehmann, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Caledonia; The dean, council, and congregations of the North Region of the British Columbia Synod; and together for people and ministries working to address issues of poverty, homelessness, and affordable housing. God of Glory, **Hear our Prayers.**

In our Diocese, we pray for Shane, our Primate; John, our Archbishop; Stephanie, our Priest; St. Laurence, Coquitlam - The Revd Philip Cochrane, The Revd Patricia Ratcliffe;

Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings (Cont'd)

Officiant

The Deanery of Yale – The Revd Paul Bowie, Regional Dean. God of Glory, **Hear our Prayers.**

In our Parish, we give thanks for all who assisted in New Westminster's "Homelessness Action Week Connect Day"; and we pray for those in need of healing: Garry J, Marilyn L., Robert R.; and for the Property Development Committee: Carla, Stephanie, Betty, Rob S., Don P., Andrew, Meredith, Stuart, and Dan. God of Glory, **Hear our Prayers.**

Free us from all fear and worry that, trusting in your goodness, we may always praise your mighty deeds and give you thanks for the bounty of your gifts. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

Officiant

Almighty God,
we praise your Name for your bishop and martyr
Ignatius of Antioch, who offered himself as grain to be
ground that he might present to you the pure bread of
sacrifice. Accept, we pray, the willing tribute of our
lives and give us a share in the pure and spotless
offering of your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant

Believing in the promises of God,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

The Sending Forth

Deacon (or Officiant)

Let us go forth into the night, rejoicing
in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Officiant

May the peace of God, which passes all
understanding, keep our hearts and minds in
Christ Jesus.

Amen.