



VESPERS **(Evening Prayer)** **First Thursday in Advent**

2025 Dec 4

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

Pray Without Ceasing

The Anglican Church of Canada



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The Invitation

Presider

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, creator of light and darkness, to you be glory and praise for ever. As evening falls, you renew your promise to reveal among us the light of your presence. May your word be a lantern to our feet and a light upon our path so that we may behold your coming among us. Strengthen us in our stumbling weakness and free our tongues to sing your praise. Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Preparation

Presider

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

Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus

Common Praise 88

Presider or Cantor

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to
set thy people free; from our fears and
sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of
all the earth thou art; dear desire of
every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver; born a
child and yet a King; born to reign in
us forever: now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit, rule in
all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient
merit, raise us to thy glorious throne

The Psalm

Psalm 122

Psalmist

I was glad when they said to me,*
"Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem built as a city *
that is bound firmly together.

To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, *
**the assembly of Israel,
to praise the name of the LORD.**

For there are the thrones for judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.

The Psalm (Cont'd)

For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.

Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

The Psalm Prayer

Lord Jesus, give us the peace of the new Jerusalem. Bring all nations into your kingdom to share your gifts, that they may render thanks to you without end and may come to your eternal city, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

The Reading

Matthew 24: 36 - 44

Reader

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The Responsory

My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation: in your word is my hope.

**My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation:
in your word is my hope.**

There is forgiveness with you, so that you shall be held in awe.

**My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation:
in your word is my hope.**

Reveal among us the light of your presence, so that we may behold your power and glory.

**My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation:
in your word is my hope.**

The Canticle

Presider:

“Behold, I am coming soon,” says the Lord, “and bringing my reward with me, *

to give everyone according to their deeds.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, *

the beginning and the end”

Blessed are those who do God’s commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, *

And may enter into the city through the gates.

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you, *

With this testimony for all the churches.

I am the root and the offspring of David, *

I am the bright morning star.”

“Come!” say the Spirit and the Bride; *

“Come”, let each hearer reply.

Come forward, you who are thirsty, *

let those who desire take the water of life as a gift.

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.

Amen.

The Affirmation of Faith

**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 the great commandment.
The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.
There is no commandment greater than these.**

The Litany

Presider

Watchful at all times, let us pray to God for strength to stand with confidence. God, our Maker and Redeemer, fill the earth with justice and compassion.

God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.

Establish righteousness in the nations.

God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.

Bind up the broken-hearted, restore the sick, and raise up all who have fallen.

God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.

Shine the light of Christ on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death.

God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.

Empower us, with all the saints in light, to be your witnesses in the world.

God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.

Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings

Presider

We seek the mighty God in the most unlikely places: as a child in a stable, and in an empty tomb. May God hear our prayers, which come from the unlikely corners of our lives, as we respond to the bidding “God of love and compassion” with “**Hear our Prayers**”.

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Diocese of Rupert’s Land, the Anglican Church of Canada. God of love and compassion, **Hear our Prayers**.

In the Lutheran, Anglican, Moravian cycle, we pray for the people of the Anglican, Evangelical Lutheran, and Moravian Churches in Canada. God of love and compassion, **Hear our Prayers**.

In our own Diocese, we pray for St. Andrew, Langley, the Ven. Andrew Halladay; St. Mary Magdalene, Vancouver, the Rev. Tasha Carrothers; Dean Chris Pappas (Burrard); Bishop Benny and the people of the Northern Philippines; and our sister parish of St. Gabriel, the Archangel, Lubon. God of love and compassion, **Hear our Prayers**.

Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings (Cont'd)

In Canada, we pray for Charles, our King; Mary, our Governor General; Mark, our Prime Minister; David, our Premier; and all who serve in national, provincial, or local government. God of love and compassion, **Hear our Prayers.**

In our local community, we pray for all in need of care, assistance, sustenance, clothing, food, and a place to find shelter and warmth. May they receive and benefit from the compassion of the community this holiday season. God of love and compassion, **Hear our Prayers.**

Give us ears to hear, O God, and eyes to watch, that we may know your presence in our midst during this holy season of joy as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Collect

Presider

God of peace,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light;
so that on the last day,
when your Son Jesus shall come again
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to eternal life;
through him who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Presider

Awaiting his coming in glory and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**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 Presider)

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Presider

May Christ, when he comes, find us watching
and waiting.
Amen.