



VESPERS
on eve of the Commemoration of
Charles Stuart, King of England
1649

2026 Jan 29

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.

The Preparation

Officiant

Today we remember Charles I, who became King of England and Scotland in 1625. A shy man with refined tastes, he was in private life a devoted husband and a loving father. As Supreme Governor of the Church of England, Charles's commitment to its life was whole-hearted. He began his day with private devotions, and he loved to attend the public liturgy, especially the Lord's Supper. For eleven years Charles counted himself "the happiest king in Christendom". As England was at peace, he had no need to support an army or navy, and therefore no need to summon Parliament. But Charles's subjects seethed with grievances; and when he finally did call a Parliament, its members proved militant in their demands for redress and reform. Parliament wished to reform the Church of England according to a presbyterian model, but Charles refused to surrender episcopacy and the Book of Common Prayer. The House of Commons set the King on trial, and Charles was sentenced to death. He was beheaded on January 30, 1649.

Adapted 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 Gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ
Common Praise 14

Cantor or Officiant

O gracious light, Lord Jesus Christ, in you the
Father's glory shone, Immortal, holy
blest is he, and blest are you, his holy Son.

Now sunset comes but light shines forth; the lamps are
lit to pierce the night. Praise Father, Son, and
Spirit; God who dwells in the eternal light.

Worthy are you of endless praise, O Son of
God, life giving Lord; wherefore you are through
all the earth and in the highest heaven adored.

The Psalm

Psalm 52

Psalmist

You tyrant, why do you boast of wickedness *
against the godly all day long?

You plot ruin; your tongue is like a sharpened razor, *
O worker of deception.

You love evil more than good *
and lying more than speaking the truth.

You love words that hurt, *
O you deceitful tongue.

Oh, that God would demolish you utterly, *
topple you and snatch you from your dwelling,
and root you out of the land of the living!

The righteous shall see and tremble, *
and they shall laugh at him, saying,

The Psalm (Cont'd)

This is the one who did not take God for refuge, *
but trusted in great wealth, and relied upon wickedness.

But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; *
I trust in the mercy of God, for ever and ever.

I will give you thanks for what you have done *
**and declare the goodness of your name in the presence
of the godly.**

The Psalm Prayer

God of the oppressed, we pray for all those who suffer injustice at the hands of cruel and indifferent rulers, especially for the innocent victims of war. Give them strength and patience, and hasten the day when the kingdoms of this world will own the perfect law of love, made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Reading

Matthew 10: 16 - 22

Reader

“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

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 the Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the father almighty,
creator of heaven and Earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day, he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings

Officiant

To God who welcomes all in love, let us pray for the good of the church and the concerns of those in need, responding to the bidding “Gracious God” with “**Hear our Prayers**”.

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for The Diocese of Sydney – The Anglican Church of Australia; the Most Revd. Kanishka Raffel, Archbishop of Sydney and Metropolitan of New South Wales. Gracious God, **Hear our Prayers**.

In the Anglican, Lutheran, Moravian Cycle, we pray for The Most Rev. David Edwards, Metropolitan, and the people and clergy of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada; The Assistants to the Bishop and the staff of the Eastern Synod. The dean, council, and congregations of the Atlantic and Montreal Areas of the Eastern Synod ; The Rev. Jason Andersen, president of the Western District Executive Board of the Moravian Church Northern Province. Gracious God, **Hear our prayers**.

In our Diocesan Cycle, we pray for The Archdeaconry of Granville; St. Michael, Surrey - Archdeacon Louie Engnan & The Revd Christian Okeke; Holy Cross, Vancouver – The Revd Clare Morgan. Gracious God, **Hear our Prayers**.

Intercessions, Petitions and Thanksgivings (Cont'd)

Officiant

In our Companion Diocese, we pray for Bishop Benny, the people of the Northern Philippines, and our sister parish of St. Gabriel the Archangel, Lubon. Loving God, **Hear our Prayers.**

In our Parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral, as we prepare for our annual Vestry meeting, we pray with thanksgiving for all who are considering allowing their names to stand for positions on Parish Council. Loving God, **Hear our Prayers.**

God of every land and nation, you have created all people and you dwell among us in Jesus Christ. Listen to the cries of those who pray to you, and grant that, as we proclaim the greatness of your name, all people will know the power of love at work in the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect

Officiant

O God, the Judge of all,
you anointed Charles Stuart
to be King of England and Scotland
and sustained him in prayer through all his troubles,
even to death at the hands of his enemies.
Grant that all rulers among the nations
may use the power entrusted to their care
to vindicate the cause of those who suffer wrong
and to rescue the needy among the people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
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

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love
of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be
with us all, evermore.

Amen.