



VESPERS
on the eve of the Commemoration of
George Herbert
Priest and Poet, 1593 - 1633

2026 Feb 26

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 honour George Herbert, an English priest of the early seventeenth century — and a poet who taught his verse to “rise harmoniously” on the wings of prayer. Born in 1593, he was convinced that God had chosen him for a great purpose, to instruct kings and princes in godly rule. But in a hard inner struggle Herbert learned to question his ambitions. He came to realize, “Perhaps great places and God’s praise/ Do not so well agree.” Ordained a deacon at age thirty-three, he was appointed priest of St. Andrew’s, Bemerton (now a suburb of Salisbury) four years later. His ministry was cut short far too soon, for he died of tuberculosis in early 1633, just shy of his fortieth birthday. A collection of his poems was later published as **“The Temple”**, nourishing the spiritual life of generations. Several have been set to music, and two have become very popular as hymns — **“Let all the world in ev’ry corner sing”** and **“Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life.”** Herbert especially loved to sing about the eucharist - a banquet where the masterful courtesy of Christ bids us sit down and taste his meat, to acquire, with Herbert himself, “such a heart, whose pulse may be God’s praise.”

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

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life
Common Praise 569

Cantor or Officiant

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us breath, such a truth as ends all strife, such a life as killeth death.

Come my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a light as shows a feast, such a feast as mends in length, such a strength as makes his guest.

Come my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a joy as none can move, such a love as none can part, such a heart as joys in love.

The Psalm

Psalm 42: 1 - 7

Psalmist

As the deer longs for the water brooks, *
so longs my soul for you, O God.

My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; *
**when shall I come to appear before the
presence of God?**

My tears have been my food day and night, *
**while all day long they say to me,
“Where now is your God?”**

I pour out my soul when I think on these things: *
**how I went with the multitude and led them into
the house of God,**

With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, *
among those who keep holy-day.

The Psalm (Cont'd)

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?

Put your trust in God; *
**for I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help
of my countenance, and my God.**

The Psalm Prayer

Gracious God, in the night of distress we forget the days of sun and joy. Even when we do not know your presence, preserve us from the dark torrent of despair. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Reading

John 21: 15 - 17

Reader

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

Response

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

Blessed are the meek for they shall
inherit the Earth.

Thanks be to God!

Act 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

Gracious God, creator, sustainer, and redeemer of all that is, source and foundation of time and space, matter and energy, life and consciousness, receive our prayers for the good of the church and the concerns of those in need, as we respond to the bidding, “Loving God”, with “Hear our Prayers”.

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for The Diocese of Thika – The Anglican Church of Kenya, The Rt. Rev. Prof. Julius Wanyoike, Bishop. Loving God, **Hear our Prayers.**

In the Anglican/Lutheran/Moravian cycle, we pray for The Most Rev. David Edwards, Archbishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Fredericton; The dean, council, and congregations of the Grand River and Thames Areas of the Eastern Synod; The anniversary of the founding of the Unitas Fratrum (or Unity of the Brethren) on March 1, 1457, in Bohemia; and an end to human trafficking and modern slavery. Loving God, **Hear our Prayers.**

Intercessions, Petitions, and Thanksgivings (Cont'd)

In our Diocesan cycle, we pray for The Archdeaconry of Fraser; St. Catherine, North Vancouver, The Revd Sarah Lehman; St. John, Shaughnessy - The Revd Terry Dirbas. Loving God, **Hear or Prayers.**

In this Parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral, we pray for Shane, our Primate; John, our Archbishop; Stephanie, our Priest; Bishop Benny and the people of the Diocese of Northern Philippines; our sister parish of St. Gabriel the Archangel in Lubon; all in need of care, shelter, and sustenance; and all who have been elected as members of Parish Council. Please add any you wish to name, either silently or aloud. 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

Heavenly Father,
by the working of your love you made your servant
George Herbert to sing of your mercies and to stand
as priest and pastor at the table of the Paschal Lamb.
Grant us to hear your call and lay hold of the gifts you
have given us, that we also may come to share in the
fellowship of your heavenly banquet; through Jesus
Christ our Lord, who is alive 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 God of hope fill us with all joy and
peace in believing through the power of the
Holy Spirit.

Amen.