

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Vespers

Thursday August 13,

2026

Book of Alternative Services

Territorial Acknowledgment

Officiant

We are gathered here on the unceded territory of the Halkomelem-speaking peoples, including the Qayqayt First Nation, who have lived on and cared for these lands since time immemorial.

As we meet tonight, we acknowledge their enduring connection to this land and commit ourselves to the ongoing work of truth, justice, and reconciliation.

The Preparation

Officiant

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Greeting and Call to Prayer

Officiant/People

Officiant: Seek the Lord while he wills to be found.

People: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!

O Gladsome Light

People

PHOS HILARON

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the ever living Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Psalm 124

Thanksgiving for Israel's Deliverance

People

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side

—let Israel now say—

*if it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,
then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against
us;*

then the flood would have swept us away;

the torrent would have gone over us;

then over us would have gone the raging waters.

Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the hunters;

the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

1 Kings 18: 20-40 1/3

Reader

A reading from the First Book of Kings, chapter 18.

So Ahab sent to all the Israelites and assembled the prophets at Mount Carmel. Elijah then came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him, but if Baal, then follow him." The people did not answer him a word. Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord, but Baal's prophets number four hundred fifty. Let two bulls be given to us; let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood but put no fire to it; I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood but put no fire to it. Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord; the god who answers by fire is indeed God."

All the people answered, "Well spoken!"

Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many; then call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it." So they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, crying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice and no answer. They limped about the altar that they had made.

At noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud! Surely, he is a god; either he is meditating, or he has wandered away, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened."

1 Kings 18: 20-40 ^{2/3}

Reader

A reading from the First Book of Kings, chapter 18.

Then they cried aloud, and as was their custom, they cut themselves with swords and lances until the blood gushed out over them. As midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice, no answer, and no response.

Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come closer to me," and all the people came closer to him. First, he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down; Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, "Israel shall be your name"; with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. Then he made a trench around the altar, large enough to contain two measures of seed.

Next, he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." Then he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time. Again, he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time, so that the water ran all around the altar and filled the trench also with water.

1 Kings 18: 20-40 ^{3/3}

Reader

A reading from the First Book of Kings, chapter 18.

At the time of the offering of the oblation, the prophet Elijah came near and said, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God and that you have turned their hearts back."

Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust and even licked up the water that was in the trench.

When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord indeed is God; the Lord indeed is God."

Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; do not let one of them escape." Then they seized them, and Elijah brought them down to the Wadi Kishon and killed them there.

The Word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

Confession

People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Leader: Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

People

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.

Prayers of the People

Prayers

Let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Let us pray for the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples. Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for our bishops, and for all the clergy and people. Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for this city for every city and community, and for those who live in them in faith. Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to God alone, that they may have a place in his eternal kingdom. Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Collects & Blessing

Officiant

COLLECT FROM "PRAYER WITHOUT CEASING"

O God, whose son Jesus Christ is the gladsome light of the eternal Father: sustain us through the setting of the sun and the rising of the moon, that we may enter into the rest of your sabbath peace, and wake to serve you in the light of the new day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONCLUSION

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.**