

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Vespers

Thursday August 20,
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!

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.

Psalm 134

Praise in the Night

People

A Song of Ascents.

**Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD,
who stand by night in the house of the LORD!**

**Lift up your hands to the holy place,
and bless the LORD.**

**May the LORD, maker of heaven and earth,
bless you from Zion.**

It was told Joab, ‘The king is weeping and mourning for Absalom.’ So the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the troops; for the troops heard that day, ‘The king is grieving for his son.’ The troops stole into the city that day as soldiers steal in who are ashamed when they flee in battle. The king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, ‘O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!’ Then Joab came into the house to the king, and said, ‘Today you have covered with shame the faces of all your officers who have saved your life today, and the lives of your sons and your daughters, and the lives of your wives and your concubines, for love of those who hate you and for hatred of those who love you. You have made it clear today that commanders and officers are nothing to you; for I perceive that if Absalom were alive and all of us were dead today, then you would be pleased. So go out at once and speak kindly to your servants; for I swear by the Lord, if you do not go, not a man will stay with you this night; and this will be worse for you than any disaster that has come upon you from your youth until now.’ Then the king got up and took his seat in the gate. The troops were all told, ‘See, the king is sitting in the gate’; and all the troops came before the king.

David Recalled to Jerusalem

Meanwhile, all the Israelites had fled to their homes. All the people were disputing throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, ‘The king delivered us from the hand of our enemies, and saved us from the hand of the Philistines; and now he has fled out of the land because of Absalom. But Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why do you say nothing about bringing the king back?’

King David sent this message to the priests Zadok and Abiathar, ‘Say to the elders of Judah, “Why should you be the last to bring the king back to his house? The talk of all Israel has come to the king. You are my kin, you are my bone and my flesh; why then should you be the last to bring back the king?” And say to Amasa, “Are you not my bone and my flesh? So may God do to me, and more, if you are not the commander of my army from now on, in place of Joab.”’ Amasa swayed the hearts of all the people of Judah as one, and they sent word to the king, ‘Return, both you and all your servants.’ So the king came back to the Jordan; and Judah came to Gilgal to meet the king and to bring him over the Jordan.

Shimei son of Gera, the Benjaminite, from Bahurim, hurried to come down with the people of Judah to meet King David; with him were a thousand people from Benjamin. And Ziba, the servant of the house of Saul, with his fifteen sons and his twenty servants, rushed down to the Jordan ahead of the king, while the crossing was taking place, to bring over the king's household, and to do his pleasure.

David's Mercy to Shimei

Shimei son of Gera fell down before the king, as he was about to cross the Jordan, and said to the king, 'May my lord not hold me guilty or remember how your servant did wrong on the day my lord the king left Jerusalem; may the king not bear it in mind. For your servant knows that I have sinned; therefore, see, I have come this day, the first of all the house of Joseph to come down to meet my lord the king.' Abishai son of Zeruiah answered, 'Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the Lord's anointed?' But David said, 'What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah, that you should today become an adversary to me? Shall anyone be put to death in Israel this day? For do I not know that I am this day king over Israel?' The king said to Shimei, 'You shall not die.' And the king gave him his oath.

John 6:16–27

Reader

When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, ‘It is I; do not be afraid.’ Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

The next day the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the lake saw that there had been only one boat there. They also saw that Jesus had not got into the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. Then some boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So, when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, ‘Rabbi, when did you come here?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.’

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

Leader: Let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For peace from on high and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the peace in the Middle East, for the needs of the people of Cuba, and for the needs of the victims of forest fires throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For our bishops, for all the clergy and for the welfare of the holy Church of God and your people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For Charles our King, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Prayers of the People

Prayers

Leader: For this New Westminster, for every city and community, and for those who live in them in faith, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For relief from our drought, good weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the sick and the suffering, for prisoners and captives, and for their safety, health, and salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Remembering all the saints, we commit ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

People: To you, O Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

People

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

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.**