

VESPERS
on the Commemoration of
Monnica
Mother of Augustine of Hippo
387

2026 Aug 27

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 Monnica, a woman of fourth-century North Africa and the mother of Augustine of Hippo. She was a devout Christian, regular in her prayers and careful in raising her children to be Christians as well. However, her eldest son Augustine wandered away from the Church in his youth and came under the spell of an outlaw sect known as the Manichees. Monnica refused to give up on her son and tried to get others to argue him out of his infatuation with Manichean teachings. She once approached a bishop who told her that, given time, her son would certainly outgrow his false opinions. But Monnica would not be soothed and continued her entreaties. The bishop finally groaned: "Woman, go away from me now! As sure as you live, it is impossible that a son of such tears should perish!"

Augustine was embarrassed by his mother, and when he decided to leave North Africa and seek his fortune in Italy, he tricked her so that she would not come with him. He ought to have known her better, for she eventually showed up on his doorstep. By that time Augustine had at last renounced the Manichees and was slowly moving back towards the Church. Monnica had the supreme joy of beholding the fulfillment of her

prayers at the Easter Vigil of the year 387, when Augustine was baptized at the basilica of Milan. Shortly afterwards he decided to return to North Africa with his mother, but while they were waiting for a ship to take them across the Mediterranean Monnica fell ill. It was soon clear that she was dying, and Augustine became anxious, knowing she had always wanted to be buried in North Africa. She told him not to worry, saying: "Nothing is far from God; I need not fear that he will know where to raise me up at the end of the world." A few days later she died, at peace with God, the Church, and her son.

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 115: 12 - 15

Psalmist

The Lord has been mindful of us, and he will bless us; *
he will bless the house of Israel;
he will bless the house of Aaron;

He will bless those who fear the Lord, *
both small and great together.

May the Lord increase you more and more, *
you and your children after you.

May you be blessed by the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

The Psalm Prayer

God, you delivered Israel from the worship of false gods. Redeem, we pray, your people in every age from the pursuit of all that is worthless and untrue in human life; through Jesus our Saviour, who came to bring us life in all its fullness.

Amen.

The Reading

John 16: 20 - 24

Reader

Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. When a woman is in labour, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. On that day you will ask nothing of me. Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

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

Creator God,
you call us to love and serve you with body, mind, and
spirit through loving your creation and our sisters and
brothers. Open our hearts in compassion as we offer our
prayers on behalf of the needs of the church and the
world, responding to the bidding “Gracious God” with
“**Hear our Prayers**”.

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for The Diocese of
Barrackpore, the Church of North India, The Rt. Rev.
Subrata Chakrabarty, Bishop. Gracious God, **Hear our
Prayers.**

In the Anglican, Lutheran, Moravian Cycle, we pray for
The Rt. Rev. Richard Reed, Bishop; The Rt. Rev. Adam
Halkett, Bishop of Missinippi; and the clergy and people of
the Diocese of Saskatchewan; and the Dean, Council,
and congregations of the Southwest Area of the Synod of
Alberta and the Territories. Gracious God, **Hear our
Prayers.**

Intercessions, Petitions, and Thanksgivings (Cont'd)

In Canada, we pray for all affected by the ongoing tariff escalation. May genuine negotiation resume and cool heads prevail. Gracious God, **Hear our Prayers.**

In this Diocese, we pray for the Postulants for ordination; St. Mary the Virgin, Sapperton - The Rev. Arvin Amayag. Gracious God, **Hear our Prayers.**

In this Parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral, we pray for Shane, our Primate; Chris, the National Indigenous Archbishop; John, our Metropolitan; Stephanie, our Priest; Bishop Benny Langan and the People of Northern Philippines; our sister Parish of St. Gabriel, the Archangel; members of Parish Council; and any others you wish to name, either silently or aloud. Gracious God, **Hear our Prayers.**

Holy One, hear our prayers and make us faithful stewards of the fragile bounty of this earth so that we may be entrusted with the riches of heaven. **Amen.**

The Collect

Officiant

O God,
who heard the prayers and gathered up the loving tears of
Monnica for the conversion of her child Augustine,
deepen our devotion, we pray, and help us to work in
accordance with your will, that we may bring others, even
our own kindred, to the knowledge and love of Jesus
Christ; 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.