

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Vespers

Thursday September 3, 2026

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: Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

A period of silence is kept, after which it is said:

O God, as the evening shadows lengthen, we commit into your hands the cares and labors of this day.

Look down from your heavenly throne, illuminate the darkness of this night with your celestial brightness, and drive far from us all the snares of the enemy.

Protect our homes and our loved ones, grant us quiet rest and a peaceful night, and raise us up again in the morning to serve you with a joyful heart; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Psalm 37: 16-24

Psalmist

Better is a little that the righteous person has than the abundance of many wicked.
For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous.

The Lord knows the days of the blameless, and their heritage will abide for ever;
they are not put to shame in evil times, in the days of famine, they have abundance.
But the wicked perish, and the enemies of the Lord are like the glory of the pastures;
they vanish—like smoke they vanish away.

The wicked borrow, and do not pay back, but the righteous are generous and keep giving; for those
blessed by the Lord shall inherit the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off.
Our steps are made firm by the Lord, when he delights in our way;
though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong, for the Lord holds us by the hand.

Amen

1 Kings 11: 1-13

Reader

King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the Israelites, 'You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you; for they will surely incline your heart to follow their gods;' Solomon clung to these in love. Among his wives were seven hundred princesses and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. For when Solomon was old, his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David. For Solomon followed Astarte the goddess of the Sidonians, and Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. So, Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not completely follow the Lord, as his father David had done. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. He did the same for all his foreign wives, who offered incense and sacrificed to their gods.

Then the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning this matter, that he should not follow other gods; but he did not observe what the Lord commanded. Therefore, the Lord said to Solomon, 'Since this has been your mind and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and give it to your servant. Yet for the sake of your father David I will not do it in your lifetime; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. I will not, however, tear away the entire kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen.'

Hoy Word, Holy Wisdom. **Amen**

John 9: 1–17 3

Reader

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom, **Amen**

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 for the worldwide Anglican Communion—specifically the Diocese of Beni (Congo), our bishops, and for all the clergy and people. ... Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who live in them in faith. For those struggling with doubt. For those who are persecuted because of their faith in you. ... 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.

Prayers of the People

Prayers

Let us pray for the peace of the world, For rest and safety for the victims in the theatres of conflict. ... Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the leaders in the world that are using fear and punishment, Constrain them, We ask that you raise people up to lead us in peace. Thy will be done in all the nations. ... Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Amen

Collects & Blessing

Officiant

COLLECT FROM "PRAYER WITHOUT CEASING"

“O Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow after us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.” **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.**