



## VESPERS on the Commemoration of Theodore of Tarsus

690

2024 Sept 19

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

## *Presider*

Today we remember Theodore, who became Archbishop of Canterbury in the year 667 and brought peace and new order to the troubled English Church. Theodore was a sixty-five year old refugee from Tarsus in war-torn Asia Minor when chosen by the Pope to rule the Anglo-Saxon church. On arriving in England, he found an institution in disarray. Numerous bishops were flouting a recent synod, where those who followed the customs of the older Celtic tradition agreed, for unity's sake, to conform to Roman usages. Theodore found that many dioceses had to be reorganized, or new dioceses set up, just to meet the pastoral needs of the people. The Venerable Bede says that Theodore "was the first of the archbishops whom the whole English church consented to obey." His skills as an organizer, and his wisdom in setting policies, made the Church a truly national and unifying force in a country still divided into many kingdoms. When he died on this date in the year 690, he left the Church very strong and at peace.

Adapted from "***For All the Saints***"  
Anglican Church of Canada

# The Preparation

*Presider*

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

O Gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ  
Common Praise 14

## *Presider or Cantor*

O gracious light, Lord Jesus Christ, in you the  
Father's glory shone. Immortal, holy,  
blest is he, and blest are you, his holy Son.

Now sunset comes, but light shines forth; the lamps  
are lit to pierce the night. Praise Father, Son, and  
Spirit: God who dwells in the eternal light.

Worthy are you of endless praise, O Son of God,  
life giving Lord; wherefore you are through  
all the earth and in the highest heaven adored.

# The Psalm

Psalm 112: 4 - 9

## *Psalmist*

Light shines in the darkness for the upright; \*  
**the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

It is good for them to be generous in lending \*  
**and to manage their affairs with justice.**

For they will never be shaken; \*  
**the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

They will not be afraid of any evil rumours; \*  
**their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord.**

Their heart is established and will not shrink, \*  
**until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

They have given freely to the poor, \*  
**and their righteousness stands fast for ever; they will hold up their head with honour.**

# The Psalm Prayer

God of light, teach us to love each other as you love us, that we may bring peace and joy to the world, and rejoice in the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# The Reading

## Matthew 24: 42 - 47

### *Reader*

Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour. “Who then is the faithful and wise slave, whom his master has put in charge of his household, to give the other slaves their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions.”

# Response

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

Blessed are the meek for they shall  
inherit the Earth.

**Thanks be to God!**



# Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings

(Please add your own prayers, either silently or aloud, in the pause before the bidding)

## *Presider*

Lord God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has untied our burdens and healed our spirits. We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened, those seeking healing, and those in need within the church and the world, responding to the bidding “God of love and compassion”, with **hear our prayers**.

In the Anglican Communion cycle, we pray for the Diocese of Irele Ese-Odo - the Church of Nigeria. God of love and compassion, **hear our prayers**.

In the Anglican-Lutheran cycle, we pray for the Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon, and for the dean, council and congregations of the Southern Interior Region of British Columbia Synod. God of love and compassion, **hear our prayers**.

In the Diocesan cycle, we pray for St. Michale, Surrey, Archdeacon Louie Engnan; St. Michael, Vancouver, the Revd Wilmer Toyoken; and St. Michael's Centre,

## Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings (cont'd)

### *Presider*

The Revd Justin Cheng; and in our companion diocese of Northern Philippines, we pray for Bishop Benny and the people of our sister parish of St. Gabriel the Archangel, Lubon. God of love and compassion, **here our prayers.**

In our own Parish and the City of New Westminster, we pray for all who provide for the needs of others, remembering especially: care givers, police officers, fire fighters, ambulance attendants, nurses, physicians, social workers, and any others you wish to name either silently or aloud. God of love and compassion, **hear our prayers.**

# The Collect

*Presider*

Almighty God,  
by the faithful ministry of your bishop Theodore  
you bound up the wounds of the English Church  
and renewed its vigour in the works of peace.  
Teach us, we pray, the art of your healing grace,  
that we may know the true balm and remedy  
for the divisions which afflict your Church;  
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

# The Lord's Prayer

## *Presider*

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 Presider)*

Let us go forth into the night, rejoicing  
in the power of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Presider*

May the peace of God, which passes all  
understanding, keep our hearts and minds in  
Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**