



VESPERS on the Eve of the Memorial of Antony, Abbot in Egypt 356

2025 Jan 16

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

A holy man named Antony, born around 250, is often counted as the first true monk in the Christian tradition. The son of a prosperous farmer in the district of Middle Egypt, he probably never knew any but the Christian way, and grew up listening to the Gospels read out in the village church. When he was twenty, Antony suddenly heard these words of Christ: “Go, sell all you have, and give to the poor; and come, follow me.” Antony did just that, retiring to the desert that became his home for the rest of his life. In solitude he gave himself to prayer and fasting, to daily recitation of the Psalter, and, most of all to waging war against the forces of spiritual darkness. He succeeded in this purpose by performing amazing deeds of physical self-discipline. Before he died in the year 356, well over a hundred years old, Antony learned something still greater — to love God. It is for his love of God, wondrous and simple, that we remember Antony today.

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

Day is Done, But Love Unfailing
Common Praise 20

Presider or Cantor

Day is done, but love unfailing dwells ever here;
shadows fall but hope, prevailing, calms every fear;
God, our maker, none forsaking, take our hearts, of love's
own making; watch our sleeping, guard our waking, be
always near.

Dark descends, but light unending shines through our night;
you are with us, ever lending new strength to sight.
One in love, your truth confessing, one in hope of heaven's
blessing, may we see, in love's possessing, love's endless
light!

Eyes will close, but you unsleeping watch by our side;
death may come, in love's safe keeping still we abide.
God of love, all evil quelling, sin forgiving, fear dispelling,
stay with us, our hearts indwelling, this eventide.

The Psalm

Psalm 91: 9 - 16

Psalmist

Because you have made the Lord your refuge, *
and the Most High your habitation.

There shall no evil happen to you, *
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over you, *
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you in their hands, *
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

You shall tread upon the lion and adder; *
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent.

Because he is bound to me in love, therefore will I
deliver him; *
I will protect him, because he knows my name.

The Psalm (Cont'd)

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; *
**I am with him in trouble; I will rescue him and bring
him to honour.**

With long life will I satisfy him, *
and show him my salvation.

The Psalm Prayer

Gracious God, in times of anxiety and stress, teach us to wait
in quietness for your protection and defence, made known to
us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Reading

Mark 10: 17 - 21

Reader

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’ ” He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”

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

Presider

Sisters and brothers, our baptismal vows call us to compassion and mercy on behalf of those in need. We offer our prayers for the church and the world, responding to the bidding “God of Love” with “**Hear our Prayers**”.

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Diocese of Lebombo, Anglican Church of Mosambique and Angola, Rt. Rev. Dean Augusto. God of Love, **Hear our Prayers**.

In the Anglican, Lutheran, Moravian Cycle, we pray for Dr. Andrea Mann, Global Relations, Ryan Weston, Public Witness for Social and Economic Justice, Will Postma, PWRDF/Alongside Hope; Karen Achtelstetter, Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Eastern Synod Staff; the Edmonton Moravian Church. God of Love, **Hear our Prayers**.

In our Diocesan Cycle, we pray for the Church of the Epiphany, Ven. Richard Leggett; St. Margaret Cedar Cottage, Rev. Heidi Brear; the Deanery of Royal City South Burnaby, Rev. Arvin Amayag. God of Love, **Hear our Prayers**.

Intercessions, Petitions and Thanksgivings (Cont'd)

Presider

In our Companion Diocese, we pray for Bishop Benny, the people of the Northern Philippines, and our sister parish of St. Gabriel the Archangel, Lubon. Loving God, **Hear our Prayers.**

In our Parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral, we pray for the members of parish council and for the congregation's discernment in nominating new members for 2025 - 2026. Loving God, **Hear our Prayers.**

Lord God, you revealed your Son in the waters of the Jordan and anointed him with the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim good news to all people. Sanctify us by the same Spirit, that we may proclaim the healing power of the gospel by acts of love in your name. **Amen.**

The Collect

Presider

Almighty God,
you strengthened your servant Antony
to endure all trials of the spirit
and cleansed his heart of fear
to make him perfect in the discipline of love.
Give us grace to cherish his example,
that we may know your call
and walk in the paths of your righteousness
all the days of our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

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.