

EVENING PRAYER
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
December 12

Preparation:

Presider should be in an alb. If presider is a priest or deacon, a white stole should be worn

Assembly may be given programs and tapers to be **lit after the** *Proclamation of Light* and before the *Thanksgiving*.

Charcoal is lit and placed beside a bowl of incense.

Church or other space is in darkness or dimly lit.

Lights turned **on** at the **conclusion** of the *Evening Thanksgiving*

Alternatively, the Liturgy could begin simply at CBW 14F, followed by *Evening Hymn*

PROCESSION

All Stand.

Assistant processes with large lighted candle (Paschal Candle if available) to the candle stand followed by the Presider.

Presider: Proclamation of the Light (14C CBWIII)

Presider (or Cantor): Evening Thanksgiving (14E CBWIII)

Cantor: Evening Hymn (CBWIII 447) *God of Day and God of Darkness*

(If taper candles are used they are extinguished following Evening Hymn)

All Sit

Cantor: *Evening Psalm 141 (CBWIII 670 *Be Gracious, O Lord!*)

(*During Psalm 141 an assistant may incense the candle and the congregation)

SILENCE

All Stand

Presider: Psalm Prayer

All Sit

Cantor: Psalm (CBWIII 16)

SILENCE

All Stand

Presider: Psalm Prayer

Cantor: Cantic of Praise (Celebrate in Song 6.31 *Christ Be Our Light*)

All Sit

Scripture Reading: Choose one of the following

Zechariah 2.14-17

Revelation 12.1

Revelation 21:2-3

Reflection (optional)

All Stand

Cantor: *Cantic of Mary* (CBWIII 14-I)

Presider or Cantor: *Intercessions (CBWIII 14J)

*Intercessions may be said if unable to be canted. Texts for these may be found in the appendix at the end of this program

Presider: Lord's Prayer

Presider: Concluding Prayer

Presider: Blessing (CBWIII 14M) and Sign of Peace

APPENDIX

Suggestions for Psalm Prayers, Concluding Prayer, Sung or Spoken Intercessions

Psalm 141 Prayer

O God of all peoples
From the rising of the sun to its setting
Your name is worthy of all praise.
May our prayer ascend like incense before you
And from our upraised hands
Receive our evening sacrifice to your glory

Grant this through Jesus Christ your son,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever.

Psalm 25 Prayer

God of Wisdom and Love,
To you we lift up our souls.
Send your Spirit to teach us your truth
And guide our actions
In a covenant of love and reconciliation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever, and ever

Concluding Prayer:

Eternal God
As we celebrate this feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
We honour the holiness and glory of Mary.
With her guidance,
Grant us the grace of opening our lives
To all that you would call us to be.

Give us the mind and heart of Mary
That we too may bear your Christ to a waiting world.
Through her intercession,
May we live the gospel of Jesus
with constancy and love.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Eternal Word,
Who lives with you and with the Holy Spirit,
For ever and ever

Optional Concluding Prayer

Taken from *Laudato Si* by Pope Francis

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,

help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,

that we may protect the world and not prey on it,

that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts

of those who look only for gain

at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,

to be filled with awe and contemplation,

to recognize that we are profoundly united

with every creature

as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle

for justice, love, and peace.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

READING SUGGESTIONS

Zechariah 2.14-17

"Sing and rejoice, daughter of Zion, for behold, I come to dwell within you," says the Lord.

Many nations shall join themselves to the Lord on that day, and shall be my people, and I will dwell among you, and you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. The Lord will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem.

Be silent, all flesh, before the Lord, for he has roused himself from his holy habitation!

Revelation 12.1

A great sign appeared in the sky,
a woman clothed with the sun,
with the moon under her feet,
and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

"Now have salvation and power come,
and the Kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Anointed."

Revelation 21:2-3

I, John, saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. God will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God."

SUNG INTERCESSIONS

Introduction

As we celebrate and honour Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, we place these prayers before our merciful God, pleading for the needs of the human family

- For all God's people, called to build a society of justice, equality and liberation....let us pray to the Lord
- For all peoples of our land, experiencing discrimination and economic struggles ...
- For peace in our world, especially all areas suffering from invasions and terror...
- For leaders of our Church and nations, working for understanding and for justice,...
- For indigenous and non-Indigenous, called to be ambassadors of reconciliation...
- For the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe as she shows us a path of understanding within our different communities of faith....
- For all who have suffered in body and spirit during this world wide pandemic.....
- For a more just and harmonious relationship with all of creation, gift of our loving God ...

Creator God, giver of mercy and source of all blessings, you delight in the happiness of your people. Hear the prayers we offer today for all your people and for the entire world. Fulfill our needs and guide our actions toward the building up of your kingdom. Through Christ our Lord

SPOKEN INTERCESSIONS

Introduction:

As we celebrate and honour Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, we place these prayers before our merciful God, pleading for the needs of the human family.

- For all God's people, in our call to build a society of justice, equality and liberation....
- For all peoples of our land, especially those who experience discrimination and economic struggles at this time....
- For peace in our world, especially in the Ukraine, Iran, Haiti and all areas suffering from invasions and war....
- For leaders of our Church and nations, in their call to work for understanding and justice, especially where it is most needed at this time....
- For indigenous and non-Indigenous, called to be ambassadors of reconciliation, as we work towards healing the relationships among us through greater respect, dialogue and understanding....
- For the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe as she shows us a path of understanding and mutual cooperation within our different communities of faith....
- For all who suffer in body and spirit, especially COVID -19 and other serious illnesses in our nation and throughout the world...

- For a more just and careful use of our the resources of the environment and a more harmonious relationship with all of creation, gift of our loving God for all the living.....

Creator God, giver of mercy and source of all blessings, you delight in the happiness of your people. Hear the prayers we offer today for all your people and for the entire world. Fulfill our needs and guide our actions toward the building up of your kingdom. Through Christ our Lord

REFLECTIONS (This reflection may be used or adapted. Other reflections prepared by the Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council may be found at <https://www.cccb.ca/about/commissions-committees/canadian-catholic-aboriginal-council/documents/>)

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES 2021 (The reflection for 2022 was not available at the time this Evening Prayer service was prepared).

We are called to Healing, Forgiveness, Reconciliation

We, the Body of Christ, are called to live in friendship and harmony with all peoples. We are brothers and sisters of our One Creator God. God gives everything to all of us. God creates and sustains the wonderful diversity of peoples, cultures, races and creeds.

It is a source of great sadness when our blessed diversity becomes a source of division, threat, and intolerance. Furthermore, as we deal with life's challenges and hurts, our pain can feed our fear and anger, destroying opportunities for forgiveness and healing, and preventing the journey to achieving them. Unless we take responsibility for our healing, it is difficult to move forward.

Indigenous peoples have responded to this common human situation through various traditions, seeking spiritual healing. For example, a common teaching is to seek healing by going 'on the land.' The land – whether a desert or wilderness – is the place

where we encounter the Love of our Creator, inviting us to leave our baggage behind, and to encounter the God and Creator of Peace, Light and Hope. The “Sharing Circle” is another way in which a person who has been harmed can be welcomed and heard by the other member of the circle, in order to move from a place of brokenness and retribution, to a pathway of restoration and peace.

Saint John Paul II reminds us that there can be, “No peace without justice, no justice without forgiveness.” And he insists: “I shall not tire of repeating this warning to those who, for one reason or another, nourish feelings of hatred, a desire for revenge or the will to destroy.¹”

Forgiveness becomes harder the older we get. An elderly missionary priest once reflected about an important choice we all make as we age; “One can be an angry old man or a wise old fool. Choose wisely!”

The discovery by the Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation of the 215 unmarked graves and further grave discoveries at other former residential schools, has given rise to much sorrow and anguish of knowing that Catholics were among those who ran residential schools established by the federal government that operated in this country from the 1870s until the late 1990s.

Pope Francis reminds us that ‘forgiveness’ is not temporary or shallow. As he states in *Fratelli Tutti*²:

Forgiving does not mean forgetting... Free and heartfelt forgiveness is something noble, a reflection of God’s own infinite ability to forgive... Those who truly forgive do not forget. Instead, they... choose not to yield to the same destructive force that caused them so much suffering. They break the vicious circle; they halt the advance of the forces of

destruction. They choose not to spread...the spirit of revenge that will sooner or later return to take its toll.²

We often have such a hard time finding and seeing God. In response to the question, why do you ask where God is, a Tlicho Dene woman once commented that we should look around, despite all the violence on the earth, it continues to provide for us. Our mother continues to provide for us, and gives us everything.

The insight of one Dene Elder is that the Creator shows us the way to healing. The Land is always giving back. Our parents and grandparents are people who have given their lives for us. We have made many mistakes. But there has been someone who has given His life for us. We have been forgiven many times by the blood of Jesus Christ. The privilege of our humanity carries with it the great responsibility of the respect and care of our brothers and sisters – especially those who deal with obstacles, injustices, or other barriers to their human freedom and blessedness.

One of these barriers is discrimination and prejudice because of the differences among peoples. The COVID-19 pandemic has made this worse, and unless we find a better and more respectful path, people's minds and hearts will be further corrupted. This better way always begins in our own lives; in our own minds and hearts. The prophet Ezekiel reminds us: "Make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit!" (Ezekiel 18:31) We can work towards reconciliation, growth, and healing, when we are open to this in our own lives.

In this year of St. Joseph, perhaps this elder of our faith – the father of Jesus and husband of Mary – can teach us an important feature of this path. As Pope Francis states:

Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to accept the course of events and, mysterious as they seemed, to embrace them, take responsibility for them and make them part of his own history.

Unless we are reconciled with our own history, we will be unable to take a single step forward, for we will always remain hostage to our expectations and the disappointments that follow.³

There is a proverbial Inuit saying: “ ‘A long time ago, in the future.’ Let the children see our history, and maybe it will help to shape the future.” Let us pray and work in such a way that our children will know that the people who preceded them took seriously the problem of intolerance and prejudice – especially during times of uncertainty and fear – and responded by working for a culture of caring and respect. What a gift we can give our young people – an example and memory that they can take forward to an unknown, but, hopeful future.

¹ XXXV World Day For Peace 2002, No peace without justice, no justice without forgiveness | John Paul II (vatican.va) ² Fratelli Tutti (3 October 2020) | Francis (vatican.va)

² Fratelli Tutti (3 October 2020) | Francis (vatican.va)

³ Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* of the Holy Father Francis on the 150th Anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church (8 December 2020) | Francis (vatican.va)