

**Saints of the Week:**  
**Paul Shinji Sasaki (1885-1946) Bishop of Tokyo**  
**& Philip Lindel Tsen (1885-1954) Bishop of Honan, China**

*Observed 31 October*

Philip Lindel Tsen (Zheng Hefu in Chinese) was poor in his childhood and homeless at fourteen, when he came under the care of an Anglican Missionary. The missionary saw to his education which led him to ordination and devoted service to the church. He furthered his work by study of divinity and sociology at several prominent US institutions of higher learning. Tsen was the first native Chinese priest to become an Anglican bishop in China and the first Chinese Bishop to attend the Lambeth Conference. In fact he was the only non-white Bishop at Lambeth 1930. He worked hard throughout his life, often assuming the work of others when war took them away. Later he became the first Chinese Presiding Bishop. Likewise, Bishop Sasaki was the first native Japanese to become an Anglican Bishop and the first primate of Nippon Sei Ko Kai (the Holy Catholic Church of Japan, a member church of the Anglican Communion). Bishops Sasaki and Tsen bore witness to the unity of the church under serious 20th century persecution and political pressure. As well as representing the thriving of native leadership in churches founded by missionaries around the world, both men shine as examples of faith and devotion to the welfare of others in the face of severe pressure from oppressive governments that would limit religious expression. As individuals of recognized learning and wisdom, they were part of the international bonds which knit together the church throughout the world, making the Communion of Saints a tangible reality for all of us.

*Lessons* Ezekiel 34:22-31; Psalm 20; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Mark 4:26-32

*Collect* Almighty God, we thank you for the faith and witness of Paul Sasaki, bishop in the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, tortured and imprisoned by his government, and Philip Tsen, leader of the Chinese Anglican Church, arrested for his faith. We pray that all Church leaders oppressed by hostile governments may be delivered by your mercy, and that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may be faithful to the Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.