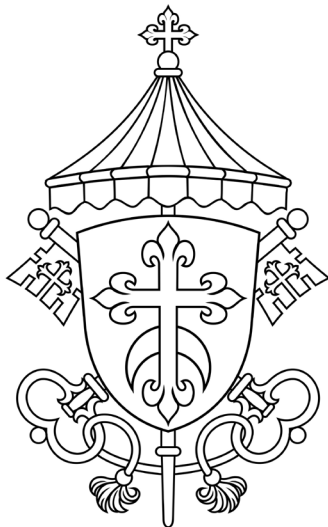


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

18 December 2021
5.30pm

THE OFFICE OF VESPERS

Vespers, also called Evening Prayer, is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office. In the Liturgy of the Hours, the Church fulfills Jesus' command to "pray continually". Through hymns, psalms, canticles, readings, and prayers, the people of God sanctify the day by continual praise of God and intercession for the needs of the world.

The Liturgy of the Hours includes several specified times of prayer. The most important times are Morning Prayer: Lauds (which takes place upon rising) and Evening Prayer: Vespers (which takes place as dusk begins to fall). The Office of Vespers gives thanks for the day just past and makes an evening sacrifice of praise to God.

Bishops, priests, deacons, and many men and women in consecrated life pray the Liturgy of the Hours each day. Their work is organised around this prayer, keeping God always at the centre of their days. Lay people are encouraged to pray the Liturgy of the Hours as well, especially Morning and Evening Prayer. The public singing of Lauds and Vespers is a regular part of the life and worship of St Mary's Cathedral.

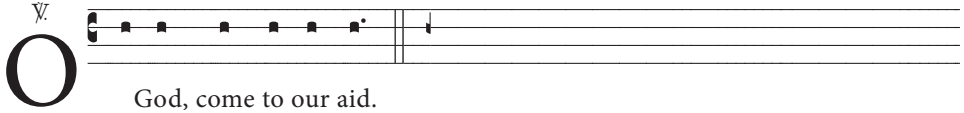
**TO MAINTAIN A SPIRIT OF REVERENCE AND SOLEMNITY,
PLEASE TURN OFF AND REFRAIN FROM USING ALL MOBILE TELEPHONES
AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

ORDER OF VESPERS

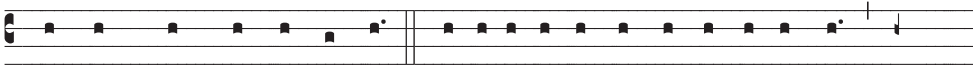
At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.

INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFICE

♫



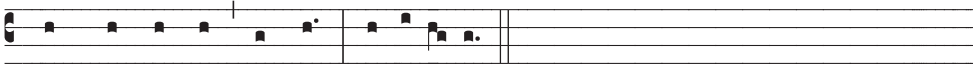
O God, come to our aid.



℞ **O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son**



and to the Holy Spi-rit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,



world without end. A-men. Al-le-lu-ia.

All sing

THE OFFICE HYMN

THE Word the Father hath de-creed That humankind from sin hath freed,

Re-ceive O Ma-ry, Vir-gin fair, To make its earth-ly dwell-ing here.

2. The Spi-rit's shadow co-vers thee To bear God's fruit a-bun-dant-ly,

And bring forth Je-sus Christ, God's Son, Who with his Fa-ther reigns as One.

3. The One of whom the prophets spake Whose ad-vent daylight doth a-wake,

An-nounced by Ga-briel at his birth, Our Lord, de-scendeth now to earth.

4. The an-gels all at once re-joice, And all man-kind doth raise its voice,

'Midst low-ly man comes the Most High To save what was condemned to die.

5. To Christ, Most High and faithful King, And to the Fa-ther praise we bring,

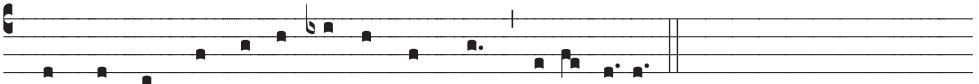
Likewise, O Pa-ra-clete, to thee Who live and reign e-ter-nal-ly. A- men.

All sit.

PSALMODY

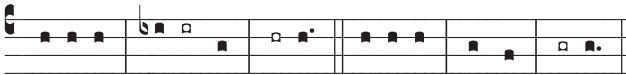
All sing the FIRST ANTIPHON

Mode I



The One De-sired by all peoples will come, al-le- lu-ia.

PSALM 121 (122)



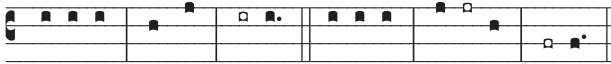
- Cantor* 1 I rejoiced when I | heard them | say: *
Let us go | to God's | house.
- All* 2 **And now our | feet are | standing *
within your gates, | O Je- | rusalem.**
- 3 Jerusalem is | built as a | city *
strong- | ly com- | pact.
- 4 **It is there that the | tribes go | up, *
the tribes | of the | Lord.**
- 5 For Israel's | law it | is, *
there to praise | the Lord's | name.
- 6 **There were set the | thrones of | judgment *
of the | house of | David.**
- 7 For the peace of Je- | rusalem | pray: *
Peace be | to your | homes!
- 8 **May peace | reign in your | walls, *
in your pa- | laces, | peace!**
- 9 For love of my | brethren and | friends *
I say: | Peace up- | on you.
- 10 **For love of the | house of the | Lord *
I will ask | for your | good.**
- 11 Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son *
and to the | Holy | Spirit,
- 12 **As it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, *
world without | end. A- | men.**

All repeat the Antiphon.



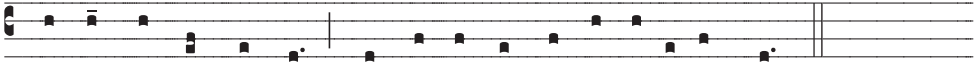
Come, O Lord, and do not de-lay: forgive the sins of your people Israel.

PSALM 129 (130)



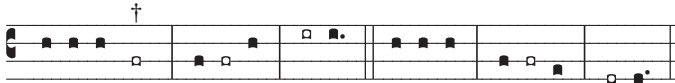
- Cantor* 1 Out of the depths I cry to | you, O | Lord, *
Lord, | hear my | voice!
- All* 2 **O let your ears | be at- | tentive *
to the | voice of my | pleading.**
- 3 If you, O Lord, should | mark our | guilt, *
Lord, who | would sur- | vive?
- 4 **But with you is | found for- | giveness: *
for this | we re- | vere you.**
- 5 My soul is waiting | for the | Lord. *
I | count on his | word.
- 6 **My soul is longing | for the | Lord *
more than | watchman for | daybreak.**
- 7 Let the watchman | count on | daybreak *
and Israel | on the | Lord.
- 8 **Because with the Lord | there is | mercy *
and fullness | of re- | demption,**
- 9 Israel indeed he | will re- | deem *
from | all its in- | iquity.
- 10 **Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son *
and to the | Holy | Spirit,**
- 11 As it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, *
world without | end. A- | men.

All repeat the Antiphon.



Behold, the time has come for God to send his Son in-to the world.

CANTICLE
Philippians 2:6-11

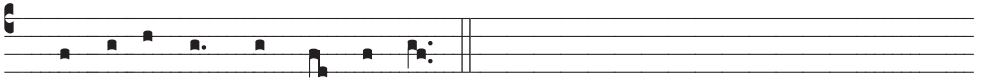


- Cantor* 1 Though he was in the | form of | God, *
 Jesus did not count equality with God a thing | to be | grasped.
- All* 2 **He emptied him-self †**
taking the form | of a | servant, *
being born in the like- | ness of | men.
- 3 And being found in human form, †
 he humbled himself and became obedient | unto | death, *
 even death | on a | cross.
- 4 **Therefore God has high- | ly ex- | alted him ***
and bestowed on him the name which is above | every | name.
- 5 That at the name of Jesus every | knee should | bow, *
 in heaven and on earth and un- | der the | earth,
- 6 **And every tongue confess that Jesus | Christ is | Lord, ***
to the glory of | God the | Father.
- 7 Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son *
 and to the | Holy | Spirit,
- 8 **as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, ***
world without | end. A- | men.

All repeat the Antiphon.

MAY the God who gives us peace make you completely his, and keep your whole being, spirit, soul, and body, free from all fault, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you will do it, for he is faithful!

THE SHORT RESPONSORY



Show us, O Lord, your steadfast love.



∩ And grant us your sal-vation. ∩ **Your steadfast love.**



∩ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit.



∩ **Show us, O Lord, your steadfast love.**

All stand.

All sing the MAGNIFICAT ANTIPHON

MODE II



O A-do-na-i and leader of Is-ra-el, you appeared to Moses in a burn-ing bush



and you gave him the Law on Sinai. O come and save us with your mighty power.

INTERCESSIONS

Before time began, the Word was with the Father; in the fulness of time he came to us through the Virgin Mary.

℟: **Come today through the Church, Lord Jesus.**

All that came to be was alive with his life: may our lives be a light for men. ℟

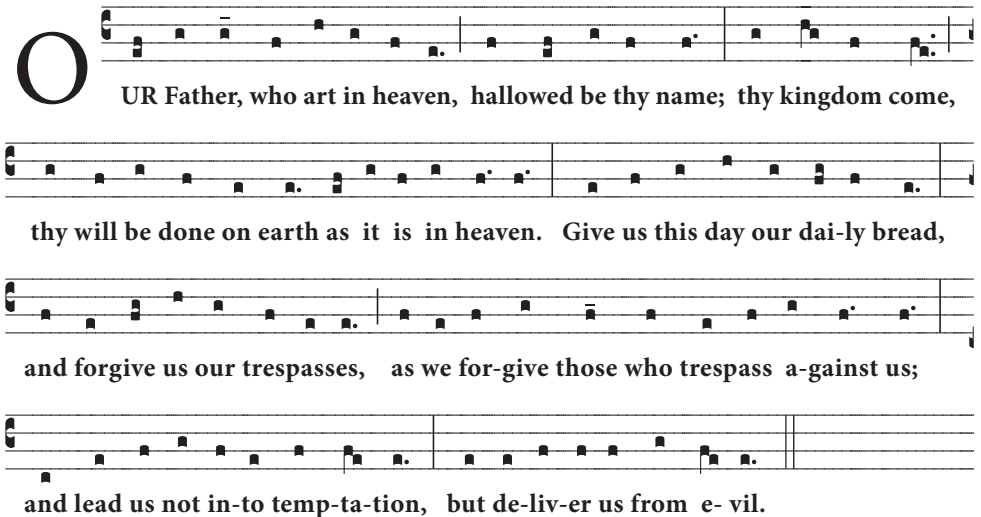
The Word dwells with God: may we dwell with him in the Father's love. ℟

The Word entered his own realm, and his own would not receive him. By responding to those who demand our care, may we welcome him into our hearts. ℟

The Word came among us, full of grace and truth; may all the dead be counted as children of God. ℟

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All sing



O UR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our dai-ly bread,
and forgive us our trespasses, as we for-give those who trespass a-gainst us;
and lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but de-liv-er us from e- vil.

COLLECT

LORD, open our hearts to your grace.
Through the angel's message to Mary
we have learned to believe in the incarnation of Christ your Son:
lead us by his passion and cross
to the glory of his resurrection.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

℟️ **Amen.**

CONCLUSION OF THE OFFICE

The Lord be with you.

℟️ **And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

℟️ **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

℟️ **Thanks be to God.**

In the absence of a Priest:

The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

℟️ **Amen.**

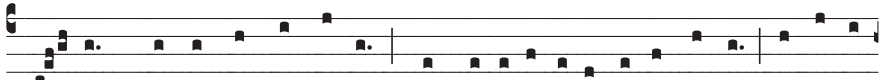
Let us bless the Lord.

℟️ **Thanks be to God.**

All sing

THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

A



LMA * **Redemptó-ris Mater, quæ pérv-i-a cæli porta manes, et stella**
Loving mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star



ma-ris, succúrre cadénti, súrgere qui curat, pópu-lo; tu quæ genu- ísti,
of the sea, assist your people who have fallen yet strive to rise again, To the



natúra mi-ránte, tu-um sanctum Geni-tó-rem, Virgo pri-us ac posté-ri-us,
wonderment of nature you bore your Creator, yet remained a virgin after as before,



Gabri-é-lis ab o-re sumens illud A-ve, peccató-rum mi-se-ré-re.
You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting, have pity on us poor sinners.

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