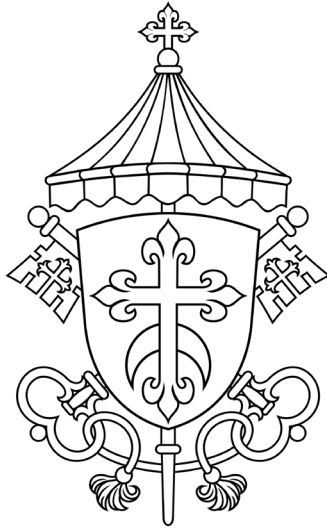


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Solemn Vespers and Benediction

The Office of Evening Prayer

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

21 May 2023
5.00pm

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.**

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.

As the Blessed Sacrament is brought to the altar all kneel and sing:



O sa - lu - tá - ris Hó - sti - a, Quae cae - li pan - dis ós - ti - um,
O saving Victim, opening wide the gate of Heaven to man below;



Bel - la pre - munt ho - stí - li - a, Da ro - bur, fer au - xí - li - um.
Our foes press hard on every side; thine aid supply; thy strength bestow.



U - ni tri - nó - que Dó - mi - no Sit sem - pi - tér - na gló - ri - a,
All praise and thanks to thee ascend, for ever more, blest one in three.



Qui vi - tam si - ne tér - mi - no No - bis do - net in pá - tri - a.
O grant us life that shall not end, in our true native land with thee.



A - men.

ORDER OF VESPERS

INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFICE

☩ Deus, in adiutorium meum intende.	<i>O God, come to our aid.</i>
☩ Domine, ad adiuvandum me festina.	<i>O Lord, make haste to help us.</i>
Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.	<i>Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,</i>
Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. Alleluia.	<i>as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia.</i>

OFFICE HYMN

Iesu, nostra redemptio amor et desiderium, Deus creator omnium, homo in fine temporum,	<i>O Jesus, our redeeming Lord, the source of love and all desire, true God, creator of the world, true Man beyond the end of time,</i>
Quæ te vicit clementia, ut ferres nostra crimina, crudellem mortem patiens, ut nos a morte tolleres;	<i>What clemency has mastered you, that you should bear our grievous sins, and suffer cruel and bitter death to rescue us from death's domain?</i>
Inferni claustra penetrans, tuos captivos redimens; victor triumpho nobili ad dextram Patris residens?	<i>For us you breached the walls of hell, and ransomed all your captives there; as victor at the Father's right, in noble triumph you preside.</i>
Ipsa te cogat pietas, ut mala nostra superes parcendo, et voti compotes nos tuo vultu saties.	<i>May this same love impel you still to overcome our evil deeds, to pardon them and grant our prayer, to gaze for ever on your face.</i>
Tu esto nostrum gaudium, qui es futurus præmium; sit nostra in te gloria per cuncta semper sæcula. Amen.	<i>Lord Jesus, be all joy for us, for you shall be our great reward; may all our glory be in you through endless ages evermore. Amen.</i>

All sit.

PSALMODY

FIRST ANTIPHON

SEDE a dextis meis, dixit Dominus
Domino meo, alleluia.

*Sit on my right, said the Lord to my
Master, alleluia.*

PSALM 109 (110)

Dixit Dominus Domino meo: *The Lord's revelation to my Master:*
«Sede a dextris meis, *'Sit on my right:*

donec ponam inimicos tuos: *your foes I will put*
scabellum pedum tuorum». *beneath your feet.'*

Virgam potentiae tuae emittet Dominus ex Sion: *The Lord will wield from Zion your sceptre of power:*
dominare in medio inimicorum tuorum. *rule in the midst of all your foes.*

Tecum principatus in die virtutis tuae, *A prince from the day of your birth*
in splendoribus sanctis: *on the holy mountains;*
ex utero ante luciferum genui te. *from the womb before the dawn I begot you.*

Iuravit Dominus et non pœnitebit eum: *The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change.*
«Tu es sacerdos in æternum secundum *'You are a priest for ever,*
ordinem Melchisedech». *a priest like Melchizedek of old.'*

Dominus a dextris tuis: *The Master standing at your right hand*
conquassabit in die iræ suæ reges. *will shatter kings in the day of his wrath.*

De torrente in via bibet: *He shall drink from the stream by the wayside*
propterea exaltabit caput. *and therefore he shall lift up his head.*

Gloria Patri et Filio, *Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
et Spiritui Sancto. *and to the Holy Spirit,*

Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper *as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,*
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. *world without end. Amen.*

The Antiphon is repeated.

SECOND ANTIPHON

ASCENDIT Deus in iubilatione, et
Dominus in voce tubæ, alleluia.

*God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord
ascends with trumpet blast. Alleluia.*

PSALM 46 (47)

Omnes gentes, plaudite manibus, *All peoples, clap your hands,*
iubilare Deo in voce exsultationis, *cry to God with shouts of joy!*

quoniam Dominus Altissimus, terribilis, *For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,*
rex magnus super omnem terram. *great king over all the earth.*

Subiecit populos nobis *He subdues peoples under us*
et gentes sub pedibus nostris. *and nations under our feet.*

Elegit nobis hereditatem nostram, *Our inheritance, our glory, is from him,*
gloriam Iacob, quem dilexit. *given to Jacob out of love.*

Ascendit Deus in iubilo, *God goes up with shouts of joy;*
et Dominus in voce tubæ. *the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.*

Psallite Deo, psallite; *Sing praise for God, sing praise,*
psallite regi nostro, psallite. *sing praise to our king, sing praise.*

Quoniam rex omnis terræ Deus, *God is king of all the earth,*
psallite sapienter. *sing praise with all your skill.*

Regnavit Deus super gentes, *God is king over the nations;*
Deus sedet super sedem sanctam suam. *God reigns on his holy throne.*

Principes populorum congregati sunt *The princes of the people are assembled*
cum populo Dei Abraham, *with the people of Abraham's God.*

quoniam Dei sunt scuta terræ: *The rulers of the earth belong to God,*
vehementer elevatus est. *to God who reigns over all.*

Gloria Patri et Filio *Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
et Spiritui Sancto. *and to the Holy Spirit,*

Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper *as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,*
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. *world without end. Amen.*

The Antiphon is repeated.

THIRD ANTIPHON

CLARIFICATUS est Filius hominis, et Deus
clarificatus est in eo, alleluia.

*Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and in
him God has been glorified, alleluia.*

CANTICLE

Apocalypse 1:17-18,12:10-12

Gratias agimus tibi, Domine Deus omnipotens,	<i>We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,</i>
qui es et qui eras, quia accepisti virtutem tuam magnam et regnasti.	<i>who are and who were, that you have taken your great power and begun to reign.</i>
Et iratæ sunt gentes, et advenit ira tua, et tempus mortuorum iudicari, et reddere mercedem servis tuis prophetis et sanctis et timentibus nomen tuum, pusillis et magnis.	<i>The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great.</i>
Nunc facta est salus et virtus et regnum Dei nostri et potestas Christi eius, quia proiectus est accusator fratrum nostrorum, qui accusabat illos ante conspectum Dei nostri die ac nocte.	<i>Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.</i>
Et ipsi vicerunt illum propter sanguinem Agni et propter verbum testimonii sui; et non dilexerunt animam suam usque ad mortem.	<i>And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.</i>
Propterea lætamini, cæli et qui habitatis in eis.	<i>Rejoice, then, O heaven and you that dwell therein.</i>
Gloria Patri et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.	<i>Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,</i>
Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.	<i>as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.</i>

The Antiphon is repeated.

CHRISt himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life. He has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

SHORT RESPONSORY

Ascendo ad Patrem meum *I am ascending to my Father*
et Patrem vestrum, Alleluia, alleluia. *and your Father, alleluia, alleluia.*

℣. Deum meum et Deum vestrum. ℟. *I go to my God and your God.*

℣. Gloria Patri et Filio *Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
et Spiritui Sancto. ℟. *and to the Holy Spirit.*

All stand.

MAGNIFICAT ANTIPHON

OREX gloriæ, Domine virtutum, qui triumphator hodie super omnes cælos ascendisti, ne derelinquas nos orphanos; sed mitte promissum Patris in nos, Spiritum veritatis, alleluia.

King of Glory, Lord Almighty, today you have ascended victoriously above the heavens. Do not leave us as orphans without a guide, but send us the one whom you promised, the gift of the Father, the Spirit of Truth. Alleluia.

MAGNIFICAT

Secundi toni

Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548–1611)

Magnificat
anima mea Dominum,
*My soul
glorifies the Lord,*

et exsultavit spiritus meus
in Deo salutari meo,
*my spirit rejoices
in God, my Saviour.*

quia respexit humilitatem ancillæ suæ.
Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent
omnes generationes,
*He looks on his servant in her lowliness;
henceforth all ages
will call me blessed.*

quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est,
et sanctum nomen eius,
*The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!*

et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies
timentibus eum.
*His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.*

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo,
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui;
*He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.*

deposuit potentes de sede;
et exaltavit humiles;
*He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.*

esurientes implevit bonis
et divites dimisit inanes.
*He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.*

Suscepit Israel puerum suum,
recordatus misericordiæ suæ,
*He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,*

sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini eius in sæcula.
*the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.*

Gloria Patri et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto.
*Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,*

Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.
*as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.*

The Antiphon is repeated.

INTERCESSIONS

Rejoicing, let us pray to Christ who is seated at the right hand of the Father.

℟. **You, Christ, are the king of glory.**

King of glory, in you our mortal flesh has been lifted to the heights: deliver us from the corruption of sin and restore us to immortal life. ℟.

Following the path of love, you came down to us from heaven: let us follow that same path in our ascent to you. ℟.

You promised to draw all men to yourself: do not let any of us be separated from your body. ℟.

You have ascended into heaven: let us be there with you in our minds and hearts. ℟.

We await your coming in majesty on the great day of judgement: may we then gaze upon your glory, with all the faithful departed. ℟.

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-tation, but de-liv-er us from e- vil.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a common time signature. The notes are represented by small black squares on a five-line staff. The first staff begins with a large 'O' and contains the first line of text. The second staff contains the second line of text. The third staff contains the third line of text. The fourth staff contains the fourth line of text and ends with a double bar line.

COLLECT

ALMIGHTY God,
fill us with a holy joy;
teach us how to thank you with reverence and love
on account of the ascension of Christ your Son.
You have raised us up with him:
where he, the head, has preceded us in glory,
there we, the body, are called in hope.
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.**

The Choir sings


THE MOTET

ASCENDIT Deus in iubilatione, et Dominus in voce tubæ. Alleluia.

God ascends with shouts of joy. The Lord goes up with trumpet blast, alleluia.

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525–1594)


All sing



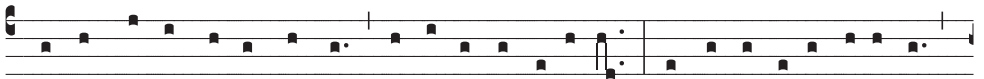
T ANTUM er-go Sa-craméntum * Vene-rémur cérnu-i : et an-tí-quum
Therefore we, before him bending, this great Sacrament revere; types and shadows



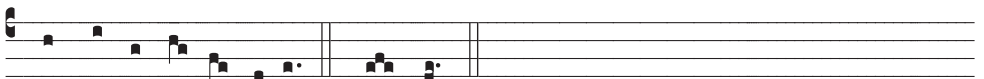
do-cuméntum No-vo ce-dat rí-tu-i : præstet fi-des suppleméntum
have their ending, for the newer rite is here; faith our outward sense befriending,



sénsu-um de-féc-tu-i. Ge-ni-tó-ri, Ge-ni-tó-que laus et iu-bi-la-ti-o,
makes our inward vision clear. Glory let us give and blessing to the Father and the Son,



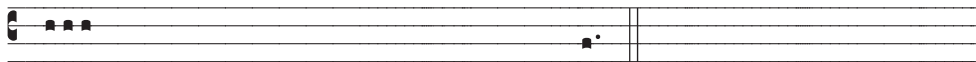
sa-lus, honor, virtus quoque sit et be-ne-dícti-o : pro-ce-dénti ab utró-que
honour, thanks, and praise addressing while eternal ages run; ever too his love confessing,



compar sit lau-dá-ti-o. A-men.
who from both with both is One.



∇ Panem de cælo præstitisti eis, allelú- ia.
You gave them bread from heaven.



⌘ **Omne delectaméntum in se habéntem, allelú- ia.**
Containing in itself all sweetness.

Oremus.

Let us pray.

DEUS, qui nobis sub sacramento mirabili passionis tuæ memoriam reliquisti: tribue quæsumus, ita nos corporis et sanguinis tui sacra mysteria venerari; ut redemptionis tuæ fructum in nobis iugiter sentiamus. Qui vivis et regnas in sæcula sæculorum.

O God, who in a wonderful Sacrament has left us a memorial of your passion: grant us so to venerate the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood, that we may perceive within ourselves the fruit of thy redemption; who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

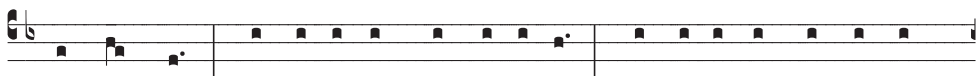
⌘ **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *is given.*

THE DIVINE PRAISES



Blessèd be God. Blessèd be his Holy Name. Blessèd be Jesus Christ, true God



and true Man. Blessèd be the Name of Je-sus. Blessèd be his Most Sacred



Heart. Blessèd be his Most Precious Blood. Blessèd be Jesus in the Most Holy



Sacrament of the Al-tar. Blessèd be the Holy Spi-rit, the Pa-raclete. Blessèd be



the great Mother of God, Ma-ry most Ho-ly. Blessèd be her Holy and Imma-



cu-late Conception. Blessèd be her Glorious Assumption. Blessèd be the



name of Ma-ry, Virgin and Mother. Blessèd be Saint Joseph, her most chaste



spouse. Blessèd be God in his Angels and in his Saints.

As the Blessed Sacrament is reposed, all sing



A-do-rémus * in æ-tér-num Sanc-tís-si-mum Sa-cra-mén-tum.

Let us adore for ever the most Holy Sacrament.

Laudate Dominum omnes gentes: *O praise the Lord, all you nations,*
laudate eum omnes populi. *acclaim his all you peoples!*

Quoniam confirmata est super nos *Strong is his*
misericordia eius: *love for us;*
et veritas Domini manet in æternum. *he is faithful for ever.*

Gloria Patri, et Filio: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
et Spiritui Sancto, *and to the Holy Spirit,*

sicut erat in principio, et nunc et semper: *as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,*
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. *world without end. Amen.*



A-do-rémus * in æ-tér-num Sanc-tís-si-mum Sa-cra-mén-tum.

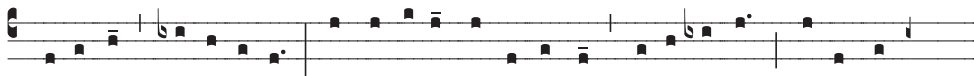
Let us adore for ever the most Holy Sacrament.

All sing

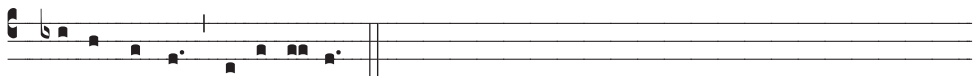
THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



R E-gí-na cæ-li, * læ-tá-re, al-le-lú-ia, qui- a quem me-ru-ís- ti
Queen of Heaven, rejoice, for he whom you did merit



portá-re, al-le-lú-ia, re-surréxit sic-ut di-xit, al-le- lú-ia; o-ra pro
to bear, has risen, as he said; pray for



nobis De-um, al-le- lú-ia.
us to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Allegro Maestoso (Sonata in G) (Op.28.)

Sir Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

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