

# ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



## First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

THE MOST  
HOLY TRINITY

3 June 2023  
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

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O

God, come to our aid.

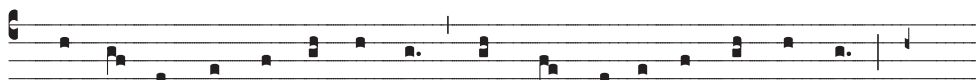
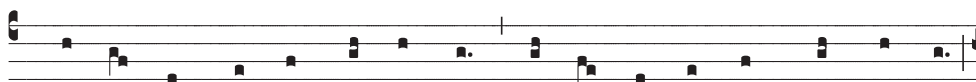
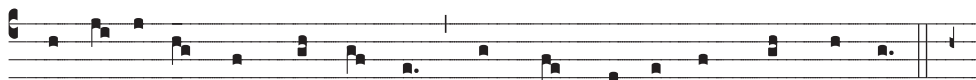
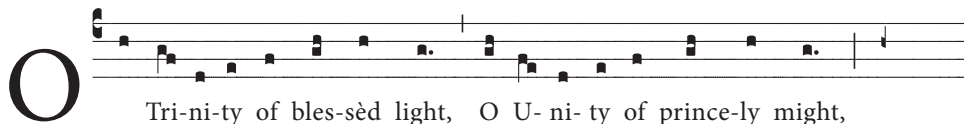
**R. O Lord, make haste to help us.    Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

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

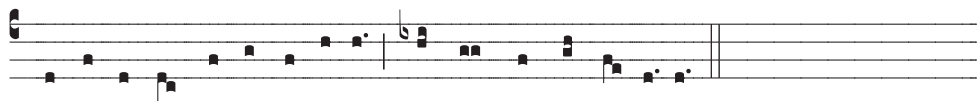


*All sit.*

# PSALMODY

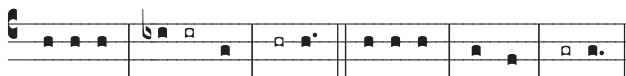
*All sing the FIRST ANTIPHON*

*Mode I*



Glo-ry to you, Ho-ly Tri-ni-ty, one God, be-fore all a-ges.

## PSALM 112 (113)



- Cantor* 1 Praise, O servants | of the | Lord, \*  
praise the name | of the | Lord!
- All* 2 **May the name of the | Lord be | blessed \***  
**both now and for | ever- | more!**
- 3 From the rising of the sun | to its | setting \*  
praised be the name | of the | Lord!
- 4 **High above all nations | is the | Lord, \***  
**above the heav- | ens his | glory.**
- 5 Who is like the | Lord, our | God, \*  
who has risen on high | to his | throne
- 6 **yet stoops from the | heights to look | down, \***  
**to look down upon heav- | en and | earth?**
- 7 From the dust he | lifts up the | lowly, \*  
from his misery he rais- | es the | poor
- 8 **to set him in the | company of | princes, \***  
**yes, with the princes | of his | people.**
- 9 To the childless wife he | gives a | home \*  
and gladdens her | heart with | children.
- 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.*



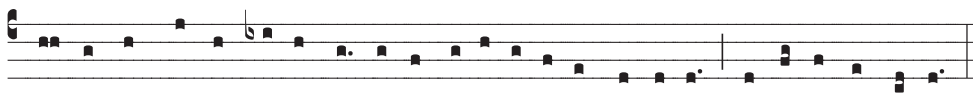
Bless-èd be the Ho-ly Tri-ni-ty; let us give praise to him.

PSALM 147 (147B)



- Cantor* 1 O praise the | Lord, Je- | rusalem! \*  
Zion, | praise your | God!
- All* 2 **He has strengthened the | bars of your | gates \***  
**he has blessed the child- | ren with- | in you.**
- 3 He established | peace on your | borders, \*  
he feeds you with | finest | wheat.
- 4 **He sends out his word | to the | earth \***  
**and swiftly runs | his com- | mand.**
- 5 He showers down snow | white as | wool, \*  
he scatters hoar- | frost like | ashes.
- 6 **He hurls down | hailstones like | crumbs. \***  
**The waters are frozen | at his | touch;**
- 7 he sends forth his word | and it | melts them: \*  
at the breath of his mouth the | waters | flow.
- 8 **He makes his word | known to | Jacob, \***  
**to Israel his laws | and de- | crees.**
- 9 He has not dealt thus with | other | nations; \*  
he has not taught them | his de- | crees.
- 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.

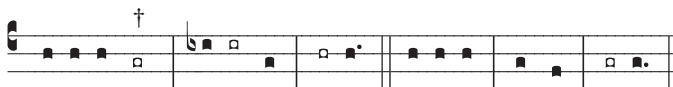
*All repeat the Antiphon.*



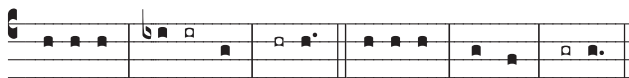
Glo-ry and honour be to God in the u-ni-ty of the Tri-ni-ty, for ev-er and ev-er.

# CANTICLE

Ephesians 1:3-10



- |               |    |  |
|---------------|----|--|
| <i>Cantor</i> | 1  | Blessed be the   God and   Father *                              |
|               |    | of our Lord   Jesus   Christ,                                    |
| <i>All</i>    | 2  | <b>who has   blessed us in   Christ *</b>                        |
|               |    | <b>with every spiritual blessing in the   heavenly   places.</b> |
|               | 3  | He chose   us in   him *   |
|               |    | before the foundation   of the   world,                          |
|               | 4  | <b>that we   should be   holy *</b>                              |
|               |    | <b>and blame-   less be-   fore him.</b>                         |
|               | 5  | He destined us in <u>love</u> †                                  |
|               |    | to be his sons through   Jesus   Christ, *                       |
|               |    | according to the purpose   of his   will,                        |
|               | 6  | <b>to the praise of his   glorious   grace *</b>                 |
|               |    | <b>which he freely bestowed on us in   the Be-   loved.</b>      |
|               | 7  | In him we have redemption   through his   blood, *               |
|               |    | the forgiveness   of our   trespasses,                           |
|               | 8  | <b>according to the riches   of his   grace *</b>                |
|               |    | <b>which he la-   vished up-   on us.</b>                        |
|               | 9  | He has made known to <u>us</u> †                                 |
|               |    | in all   wisdom and   insight *                                  |
|               |    | the mystery   of his   will,                                     |
|               | 10 | <b>according   to his   purpose *</b>                            |
|               |    | <b>which he set   forth in   Christ.</b>                         |
|               | 11 | His purpose he set   forth in   Christ *                         |
|               |    | as a plan for the full-   ness of   time,                        |
|               | 12 | <b>to unite all   things in   him, *</b>                         |
|               |    | <b>things in heaven and   things on   earth.</b>                 |



- 13    Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son \*  
           and to the | Holy | Spirit,
- 14    **as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, \***  
           **world without | end. A- | men.**

*All repeat the ANTIPHON*



Glo-ry and honour be to God in the u-ni-ty of the Tri-ni-ty, for ev-er and ev-er.

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 11:33-36

**H**OW rich are the depths of God—how deep his wisdom and knowledge—and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

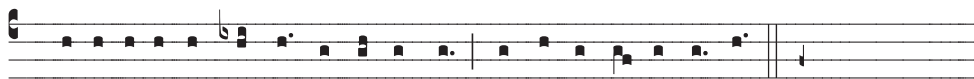
### THE SHORT RESPONSORY



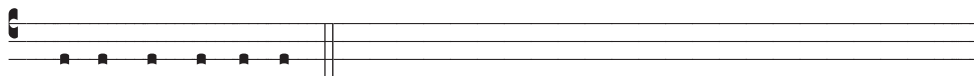
Let us bless the Father and the Son with the Ho-ly Spi-rit. Let us praise



him for ev-er. ♪ To God a-lone be all honour and glo-ry. ♪ **Let us praise him...**



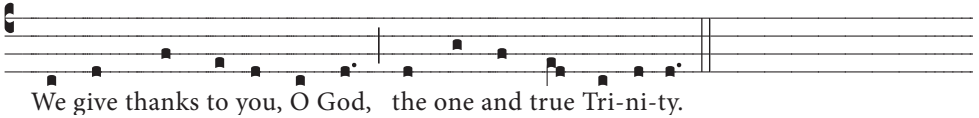
♪ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit.



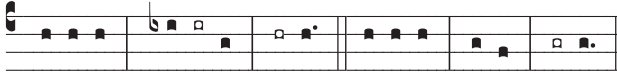
♪ **Let us bless the Father...**

*All stand.*





MAGNIFICAT



- Cantor* 1 My soul proclaims the greatness | of the | Lord, \*  
my spirit rejoices in | God my | Saviour;
- All* 2 **for he has looked with favour on his | lowly | servant, \***  
**and from this day all generations will | call me | blessed.**
- 3 The Almighty has done | great things for | me, \*  
holy | is his | Name.
- 4 **He has mercy on | those who | fear him \***  
**in every | gene- | ration.**
- 5 He has shown the | strength of his | arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in | their con- | ceit.
- 6 **He has cast down the mighty | from their | thrones, \***  
**and has lifted | up the | lowly.**
- 7 He has filled the | hungry with | good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent | away | empty.
- 8 **He has come to the help of his | servant | Israel \***  
**for he has remembered his pro- | mise of | mercy,**
- 9 the promise he | made to our | fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his child- | ren for | ever.
- 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.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Father, through your Holy Spirit you gave Christ your Son to us in the flesh, so that we might have life through him. Filled now with that life, we raise our hearts in praise of the Holy Trinity, saying:

℟. **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

Father almighty, eternal God, in the name of your Son send your Holy Spirit upon the Church: may the Comforter preserve us in unity, harmony and the fulness of truth. ℟.

Lord, send your labourers into the harvest to teach all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: strengthen them all in the faith. ℟.

Lord, support all those who suffer persecution on account of their faith in your Son: give them the Spirit of truth who will, according to his promise, speak through them. ℟.

Father almighty, all acknowledge that you, the Word and the Spirit are one: as we believe in one God, so may we hope in you and love you. ℟.

Father of the living, bring those who have died to share your glory: with your Son and the Holy Spirit may they reign eternally with you in heaven. ℟.

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.

## COLLECT

**G**OD our Father,  
you revealed the great mystery of your godhead to men  
when you sent into the world  
the Word who is Truth  
and the Spirit who makes us holy.  
Help us to believe in you and worship you,  
as the true faith teaches:  
three Persons, eternal in glory,  
one God, infinite in majesty.  
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

**S**

Al-ve, Re-gí-na, \* **ma-ter mi-se-ri-cór-di-ae** : Vi-ta, dul-cé-do, et spes  
*Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and*

nostra, sal-ve. **Ad te clamámus, éx-su-les, fí-li-i Hevae.** **Ad te su-spi-rámus,**  
*our hope, hail. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up*

ge-méntes et flén-tes in hac la-crimárum val-le. **E-ia er-go, Ad-vo-cá-ta**  
*our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious*

nos-tra, il-los tu-os mi-se-ri-cór-des ó-cu-los ad nos con-vér-te. **Et le-sum,**  
*advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; And show*

be-ne-díctum fructum ventris tu-i, no-bis post hoc ex-sí-li-um os-tén-de.  
*unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, after this our exile.*

**O cle-mens : O pi-a : O dul-cis Vir-go Ma-rí-a.**  
*O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.*



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