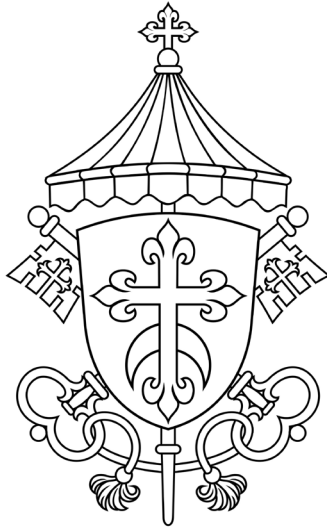


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

THE TRANSFIGURATION
OF THE LORD

5 August 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.

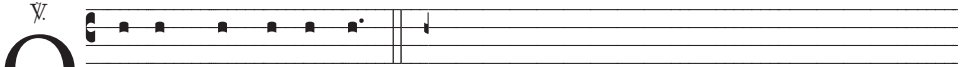
Bishops, priests, deacons, and many men and women in consecrated life pray the Liturgy of the Hours each day. Their work is organised around this prayer, keeping God always at the centre of their days. Lay people are encouraged to pray the Liturgy of the Hours as well, especially Morning and Evening 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


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

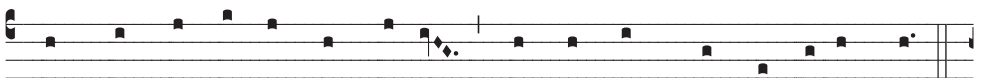

Je-sus, Light of ve-ry Light, Re-deem-er of our fal-len race,



Re-ceive our earn-est prayers and praise, Ex-tend to us your mer-cy's grace.



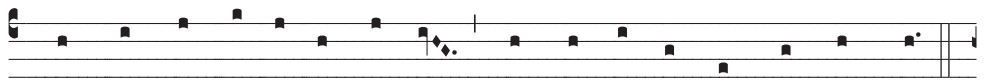
2. You once were seen by cho-sen three Up-on the mount, your face a-glow



With splendour to out-shine the sun, And garments bright as purest snow.



3. The three A-pos-tles grew in faith As this great vi-sion they a-dored,



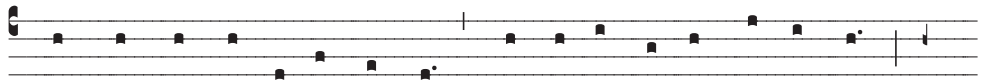
While pro-phets of the an-cient Law Bore wit-ness to their God and Lord.



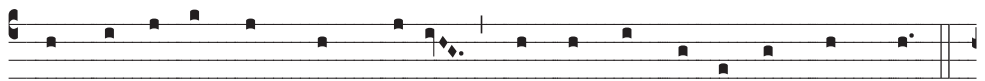
4. And then the Fa-ther's voice on high, Proclaimed you as his Son most dear;



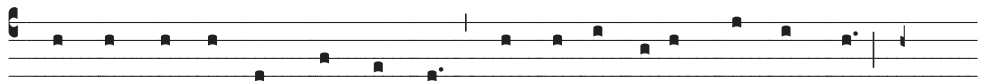
Our grateful hearts acclaim you King, Our minds desire your words to hear.



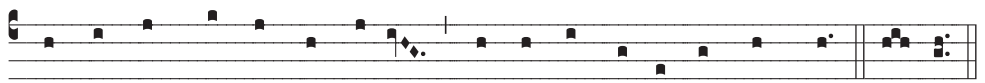
5. You once con-sent-ed for our sake, Our low-ly mor-tal state to bear



To raise us up, con-demned by sin, That we your life di-vine may share.



6. O God our Fa-ther, with the Son And Spi-rit, ev-er reign-ing One,



Be pre-sent with us here be-low That fu-ture glo-ry we may know. A-men.

All sit.

PSALMODY

All sing the FIRST ANTIPHON

Mode II



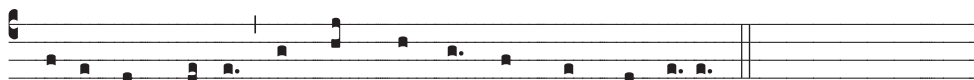
Jesus took his dis-ci-ples up the mountain, where he was transfigured.

PSALM 112 (113)



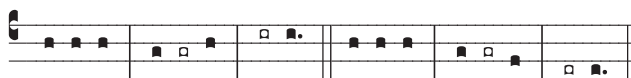
- Cantor* 1 Praise, O servants | of the | Lord, *
praise the name | of the | Lord!
- All* 2 **May the name of the | Lord be | blessed *
both now and for | ever- | more!**
- 3 From the rising of the sun | to its | setting *
praised be the name | of the | Lord!
- 4 **High above all nations | is the | Lord, *
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 compa- | ny 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.



Moses and E- li-jah ap-peared to them and spoke with Jesus.

PSALM 116 (117)



Cantor 1 O praise the Lord, | all you | nations, *
acclaim him | all you | peoples!

All 2 **Strong is his | love for | us; *
he is faith- | ful for | ever.**

3 Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son *
and to the | Holy | Spirit,

4 **as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, *
world without | end. A- | men.**

All repeat the Antiphon.



Lord, it is good for us to be here. We will make three holy dwelling-places here.

CANTICLE
Apocalypse 19



Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, $\text{\textcircled{R}}$ **Al-le-lu-ia.** His judgements



are true and just. $\text{\textcircled{R}}$ **Al-le-lu- ia, al-le-lu-ia.** Praise our God, all you his servants,



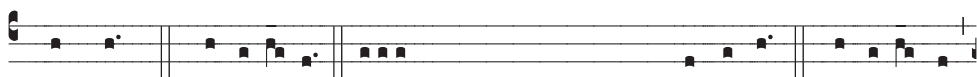
Al-le-lu-ia. You who fear him, small and great. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.



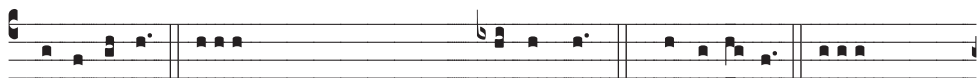
The Lord our God the Al-mighty reigns, Al-le-lu-ia. Let us rejoice and exult



and give him the glo-ry. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. The marriage of the Lamb



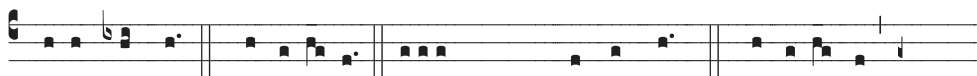
has come. Al-le-lu-ia. And his bride has made her-self ready. Al-le-lu-ia,



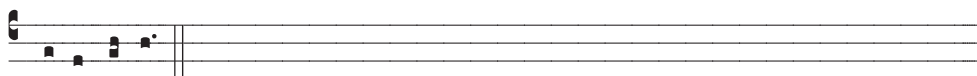
al-le-lu-ia. Glory be to the Father and to the Son, Al-le-lu-ia. and to the



Ho-ly Spi-rit, Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. As it was in the beginning is now and



ever shall be, Al-le-lu-ia. world without end. A-men. Al-le-lu-ia,



al-le-lu-ia.

All repeat the ANTIPHON



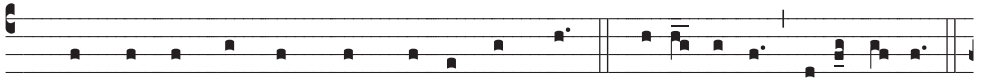
Lord, it is good for us to be here. We will make three holy dwelling-places here.

WE are citizens of heaven, and we eagerly wait for our Saviour to come from heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our weak mortal bodies and make them like his own glorious body, using that power by which he is able to bring all things under his rule.

THE SHORT RESPONSORY



In glory you appeared be-fore the Lord, al-le- lu-ia, al-le- lu- ia.



∇ Therefore the Lord has clothed you in splendour. ☩ Al-le- lu- ia, al-le- lu- ia.



∇ Glory be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spi- rit.



☩ In glory you appeared be-fore the Lord, al-le- lu-ia, al-le- lu- ia.

All stand.



Jesus Christ appeared in glory today on the high mountain.

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 | blessèd.
- 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

On this day we pray to the Son of God, who revealed himself to his friends in the fulness of his glory, and we say:

℟. **Lord, that we may see.**

Bless the Church ever more with your risen life: so that the world may see in her the integrity of your mission. ℟.

You appeared with Elijah and Moses, accepting their homage: may the world accept your word, and live by your law of love. ℟.

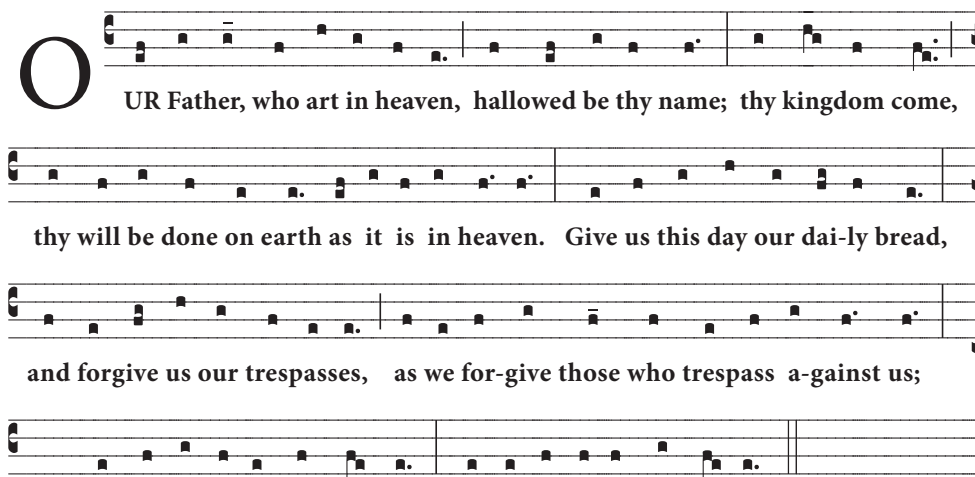
Even before your passion your disciples saw your risen glory: give us the vision to accept both suffering and joy. ℟.

Emptied of glory, you preached the kingdom of God, and your own people did not accept you: help us to find you in the poor and deprived, and to love them in your name. ℟.

You showed to your friends the splendour of the living God: take to yourself those who have died and make them glorious. ℟.

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

FATHER,
at the Transfiguration in glory of your Only-Begotten Son,
you confirmed the mysteries of faith
by the witness to Jesus of the prophets Moses and Elijah.
You foreshadowed there what we shall be
when you bring our sonship to its perfection.
Grant that by listening to the voice of Jesus
we may become heirs with him,
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 Ie-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.

St Mary's Cathedral

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