

# ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



## First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

FIRST SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

2 December 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

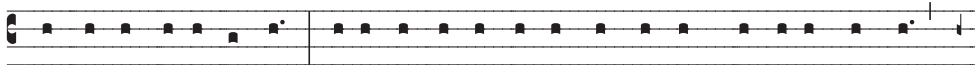
♯



**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

**C** RE-A-TOR of the stars of night, Thy peo-ple's ev-er-last-ing light,

O Je-su, Sa-viour of us all, Re-gard thy servants when they call.

2. Thou camest, Bridegroom of the bride, As drew the world to evening-tide,

Pro-ceed-ing from a vir-gin shrine, The Son of Man, yet Lord di-vine.

3. At thy great name, ex-alt-ed now, All knees must bend, all hearts must bow,

And things in heav'n and earth shall own That thou art Lord and King a-lone.

4. To thee, O ho-ly One, we pray, Our judge in that tre-mend-ous day,

Pre-serve us, while we dwell be-low, From ev-ery on-slaught of the foe.

5. All praise, e-ter-nal Son, to thee, Whose ad-vent sets thy peo-ple free,

Whom with the Fa-ther we a-dore, And Spirit blest, for ev-er-more. A- men.

*All sit.*

# PSALMODY

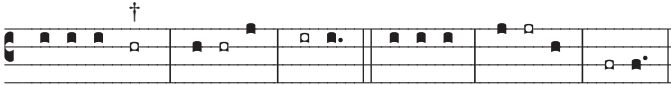
All sing the FIRST ANTIPHON

Mode II\*



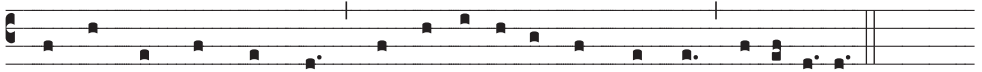
Proclaim it to the peoples: Be-hold, our God will come and save us.

## PSALM 140 (141)



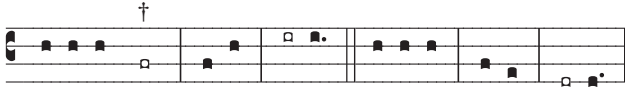
- Cantor* 1 I have called to you, Lord; | hasten to | help me! \*  
Hear my voice when I | cry to | you.
- All* 2 **Let my prayer arise before | you like | incense, \***  
**the raising of my hands like an | evening ob- | lation.**
- 3 Set, O Lord, a guard o- | ver my | mouth; \*  
keep watch, O Lord, at the | door of my | lips!
- 4 **Do not turn my heart to things that are wrong, †**  
**to evil deeds with men | who are | sinners. \***  
**Never allow me to | share in their | feasting.**
- 5 If a good man strikes or reproves me it is kindness †  
but let the oil of the wicked not a- | noint my | head. \*  
Let my prayer be ever a- | gainst their | malice.
- 6 **Their princes were thrown down by the side | of the | rock; \***  
**then they understood that my | words were | kind.**
- 7 As a millstone is shattered to pieces | on the | ground, \*  
so their bones were strewn at the | mouth of the | grave.
- 8 **To you, Lord God, my | eyes are | turned: \***  
**in you I take refuge; | spare my | soul!**
- 9 From the trap they have laid for me | keep me | safe: \*  
keep me from the snares of | those who do | evil.
- 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.



Be-hold the Lord will come, and all his ho-ly ones with him, al-le-lu-ia.

## PSALM 141 (142)



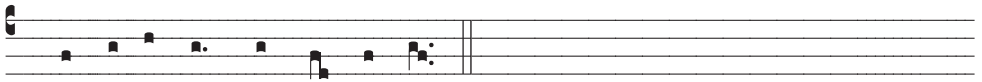
- Cantor* 1 With all my voice I cry to the Lord, †  
with all my voice I en- | treat the | Lord. \*  
I pour out my trou- | ble be- | fore him;
- All* 2 **I tell him all my dis-tress** †  
**while my spirit | faints with- | in me. \***  
**But you, O Lord, | know my | path.**
- 3 On the way where | I shall | walk \*  
they have hidden a snare | to en- | trap me.
- 4 **Look on my | right and | see: \***  
**there is no one who | takes my | part.**
- 5 I have no means | of es- | cape, \*  
not one who cares | for my | soul.
- 6 **I cry to you, O Lord. †**  
**I have said: You | are my | refuge \* \***  
**all I have in the land | of the | living.**
- 7 Listen, then, | to my | cry \*  
for I am in the depths | of dis- | tress.
- 8 **Rescue me from those | who pur- | sue me \* \***  
**for they are strong- | er than | I.**
- 9 Bring my soul out | of this | prison \*  
and then I shall | praise your | name.
- 10 **Around me the just | will as- | semble \* \***  
**because of your good- | ness to | me.**
- 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.*



**M**AY 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.

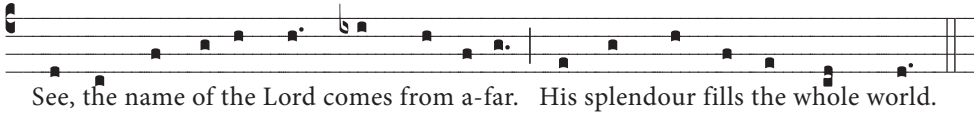


∩ **Show us, O Lord, your steadfast love.**

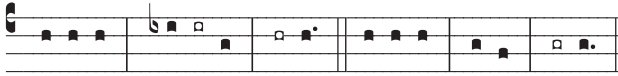
*All stand.*



MODE I



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

The Son of God is coming with great power: all mankind shall see his face and be reborn.

℟: **Come, Lord Jesus: do not delay.**

You will bring us wisdom, fresh understanding and new vision. ℟:

You will bring us good news, and power which will transform our lives. ℟:

You will bring us truth, showing us the way to our Father. ℟:

Born of a woman, you will open in our flesh the way to eternal life and joy. ℟:

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

**G**RANT, almighty Father,  
that when Christ comes again  
we may go out to meet him  
bearing the harvest of good works  
achieved by your grace.

We pray that he will receive us into the company of the saints  
and call us into the kingdom of heaven.

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 pérvia 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*



**nátúra 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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