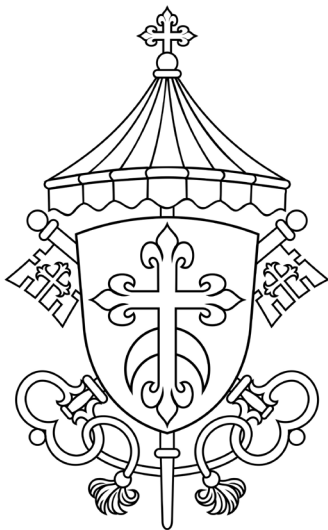


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

16 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

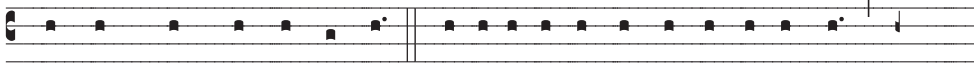
At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.

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 VII



Rejoice, Je-ru-sa-lem, for your Saviour will come to you, al- le- lu- ia.

PSALM 112 (113)



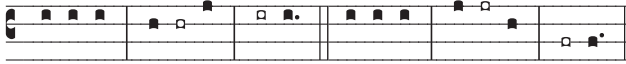
- Cantor* 1 Praise, O servants | of the | Lord, *
praise the | name of the | Lord!
- All* 2 **May the name of the | Lord be | blessed *
both now and for | ever- | more!**
- 3 From the rising of the sun | to its | setting *
praised be the | name of the | Lord!
- 4 **High above all nations | is the | Lord, *
above the | heavens 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 | heaven and | earth?**
- 7 From the dust he | lifts up the | lowly, *
from his misery he | raises 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.



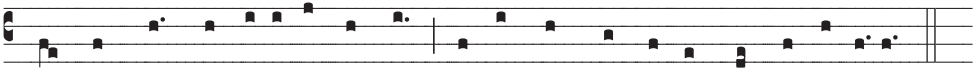
I, the Lord, am al-ready near, my sav-ing act will not be de-layed.

PSALM 115 (116B)



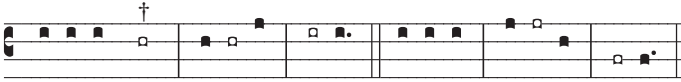
- Cantor* 1 I trusted, even | when I | said: *
I am | sorely af- | flicted,
- All* 2 **and when I said in | my a- | larm: ***
No | man can be | trusted.
- 3 How can I re- | pay the | Lord *
for his | goodness to | me?
- 4 **The cup of salvation | I will | raise; ***
I will | call on the | Lord's name.
- 5 My vows to the Lord I | will ful- | fill *
before | all his | people.
- 6 **O precious in the eyes | of the | Lord ***
is the | death of his | faithful.
- 7 Your servant, Lord, your ser- | vant am | I; *
you have | loosened my | bonds.
- 8 **A thanksgiving sacri- | fice I | make; ***
I will | call on the | Lord's name.
- 9 My vows to the Lord I | will ful- | fill *
before | all his | people,
- 10 **in the courts of the house | of the | Lord, ***
in your midst, | O Je- | rusalem.
- 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.



Send the Lamb, the ruler of the earth, to the mountain of the daughter of Sion.

CANTICLE
Philippians 2:6-11

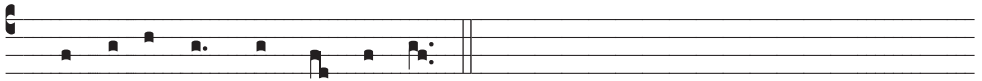


- Cantor* 1 Though he was in the | form of | God, *
 Jesus did not count equality with God a | thing to be | grasped.
- All* 2 **He emptied him-self** †
 taking the form | of a | servant, *
 being born in the | likeness of | men.
- 3 And being found in human form, †
 he humbled himself and became obedient | 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 | under 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



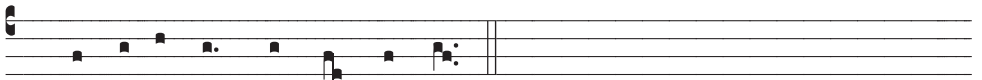
Show us, O Lord, your steadfast love.



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



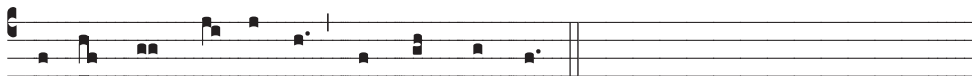
∇ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit.



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

All stand.

MODE V



A man came, sent by God. His name was John.

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

GRANT, almighty God,
that looking forward in faith
to the feast of our Lord's birth,
we may feel all the happiness our Saviour brings
and celebrate his coming with unfailing joy.
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 **L**MA * **R**edemptó-ris Mater, **q**uæ **p**érvi-a **c**æli porta manes, **e**t **s**tella
Loving mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star

ma-ris, **s**uccúrre **cad**énti, **s**úrgere qui curat, **p**ópu-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 **sum**ens illud **A**-ve, **peccat**ó-rum **mi**-se-ré-re.
You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting, have pity on us poor sinners.

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