

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

9 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

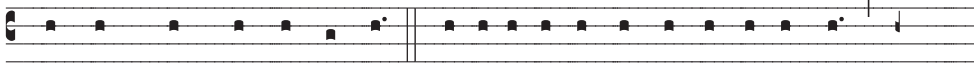
At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.

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 VI



Re-joyce and be glad. See how humbly our Sa-viour will come to you.

PSALM 118 (119): 105-112



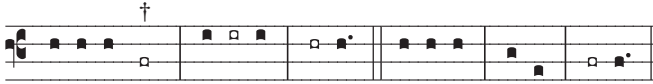
- Cantor* 1 Your word is a lamp | for my | steps. *
and a | light for my | path.
- All* 2 **I have sworn and have | made up my | mind *
to o- | bey your de- | crees.**
- 3 Lord, I am | deeply af- | flicted: *
by your | word give me | life.
- 4 **Accept, Lord, the homage | of my | lips *
and teach | me your de- | crees.**
- 5 Though I carry my life | in my | hands, *
I re- | member your | law.
- 6 **Though the wicked | try to en- | snare me *
I do not | stray from your | precepts.**
- 7 Your will is my | heritage for | ever, *
the | joy of my | heart.
- 8 **I set myself to carry | out your | will *
in | fulness for- | ever.**
- 9 Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son *
and to | the Holy | Spirit,
- 10 **as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, *
world with- | out end. A- | men.**

All repeat the Antiphon.



Be-hold, our God will come and he will save us, al-le- lu-ia.

PSALM 15 (16)



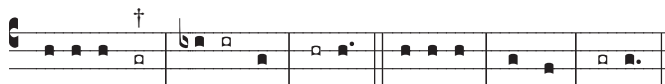
- Cantor* 1 Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you, †
I say to the Lord: | ‘You are my | God. *
My happiness lies in | you a- | lone.’
- All* 2 **He has put into my heart a | marvellous | love *
for the faithful ones who dwell | in his | land.**
- 3 Those who choose other gods increase their sorrows. †
Never will I offer their | offerings of | blood. *
Never will I take their name u- | pon my | lips.
- 4 **O Lord, it is you who are my | portion and | cup; *
It is you yourself who | are my | prize.**
- 5 The lot marked out for me is | my de- | light; *
welcome indeed the heritage that | falls to | me.
- 6 **I will bless the Lord who | gives me | counsel, *
who even at night di- | rects my | heart.**
- 7 I keep the Lord ever | in my | sight: *
since he is at my right hand, I | shall stand | firm.
- 8 **And so my heart rejoices, my | soul is | glad; *
even my body shall | rest in | safety.**
- 9 For you will not leave my soul a- | mong the | dead, *
nor let your beloved | know de- | cay.
- 10 **You will show me the path of life, †
the fulness of | joy in your | presence, *
at your right hand happi- | ness for- | ever.**
- 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.



Grace and truth have come through Je-sus Christ.

CANTICLE
Philippians 2:6-11

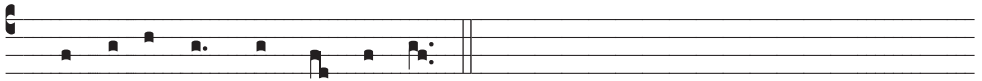


- Cantor* 1 Though he was in the | form of | God, *
 Jesus did not count equality with God a thing | to be | grasped.
- All* 2 **He emptied him-self †**
taking the | form of a | servant, *
being born in the like- | ness of | men.
- 3 And being found in human form, †
 he humbled himself and became obedient | unto | death, *
 even death | on a | cross.
- 4 **Therefore God has | highly 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 un- | der 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



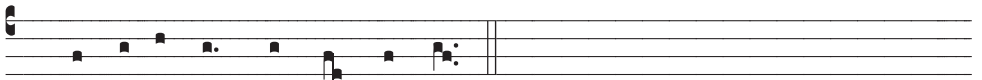
Show us, O Lord, your steadfast love.



∇ 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 VIII



Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.

MAGNIFICAT



- Cantor* 1 My soul proclaims the great- | ness 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 migh- | ty 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

Before time began, the Word was with the Father; in the fulness of time he came to us through the Virgin Mary.

℟. **Come today through the Church, Lord Jesus.**

All that came to be was alive with his life: may our lives be a light for all people. ℟.

The Word dwells with God: may we dwell with him in the Father's love. ℟.

The Word entered his own realm, and his own would not receive him. By responding to those who demand our care, may we welcome him into our hearts. ℟.

The Word came among us, full of grace and truth; may all the dead be counted as children of God. ℟.

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

ALMIGHTY and merciful God,
let neither our daily work nor the cares of this life
prevent us from hastening to meet your Son.
Enlighten us with your wisdom
and lead us into his company.
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.**

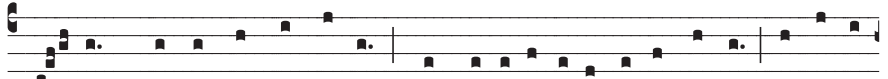
Let us bless the Lord.

℟: **Thanks be to God.**

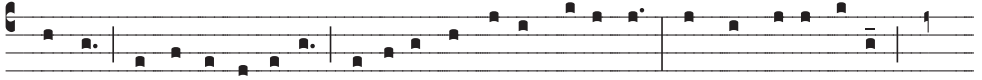
All sing

THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

A



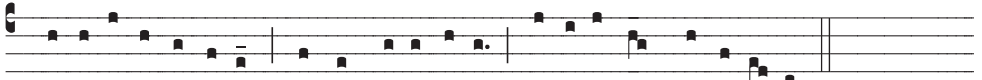
LMA * Redemptó-ris Mater, quæ pérvia cæli porta manes, et stella
Loving mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star



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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