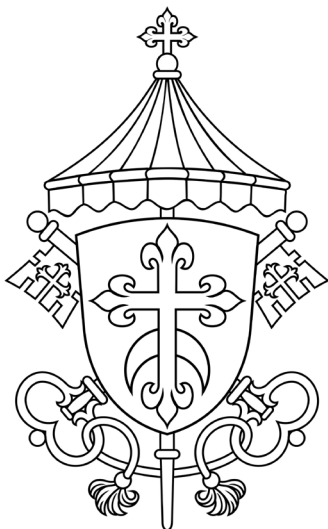


# ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



## First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

THE EPIPHANY  
OF THE LORD

6 January 2024  
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.

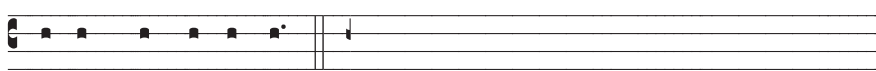
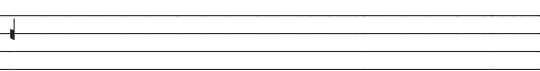
The Liturgy of the Hours includes several specified times of prayer. The most important times are Morning Prayer: Lauds (which takes place upon rising) and Evening Prayer: Vespers (which takes place as dusk begins to fall). The Office of Vespers gives thanks for the day just past and makes an evening sacrifice of praise to God.

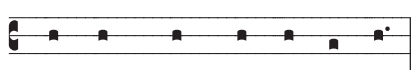
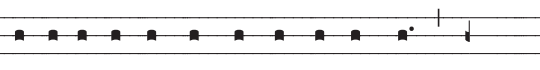
Bishops, priests, deacons, and many men and women in consecrated life pray the Liturgy of the Hours each day. Their work is organised around this prayer, keeping God always at the centre of their days. Lay people are encouraged to pray the Liturgy of the Hours as well, especially Morning and Evening Prayer. The public singing of Lauds and Vespers is a regular part of the life and worship of St Mary's Cathedral.

## ORDER OF VESPERS

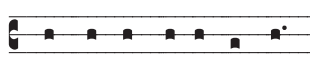
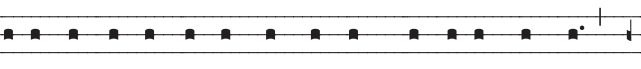
*At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.*

### INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFICE

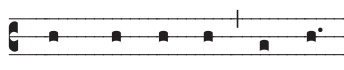
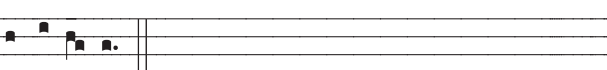
**O**  ||   
God, come to our aid.

 || 

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

 | 

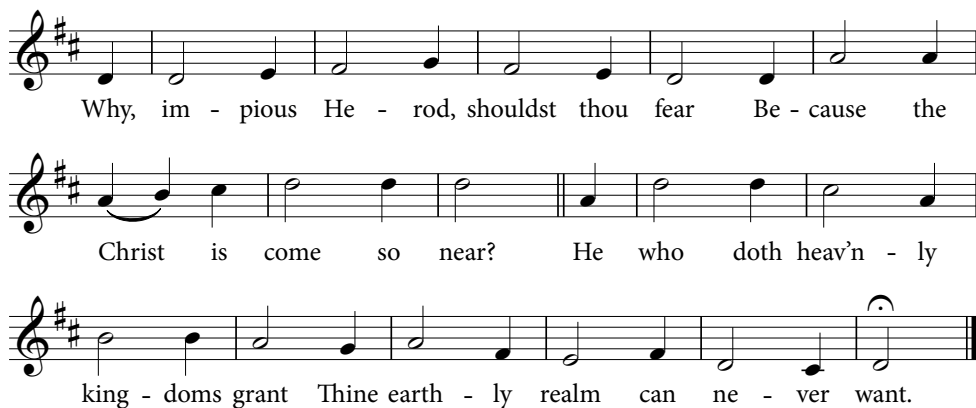
**and to the Holy Spi-rit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,**

 | 

**world without end. A-men. Al-le-lu-ia.**

All sing

## THE OFFICE HYMN



Why, im - pious He - rod, shouldst thou fear Be - cause the  
Christ is come so near? He who doth heav'n - ly  
king - doms grant Thine earth - ly realm can ne - ver want.

Lo, sages from the East are gone  
To where the star hath newly shone:  
Led on by light to Light they press,  
And by their gifts their God confess.

The Lamb of God is manifest  
Again in Jordan's water blest,  
And he who sin had never known  
By washing hath our sins undone.

Yet he that ruleth everything  
Can change the nature of the spring,  
And gives at Cana this for sign—  
The water reddens into wine.

Then glory, Lord, to thee we pay  
For thine Epiphany today;  
All glory through eternity  
To Father, Son, and Spirit be.

*Puer nobis nascitur*  
Melody adapted by Michael Praetorius (1571–1621)

*Hostis Herodes impie*  
Caelius Sedulius (c 450)  
tr. Percy Dearmer (1867–1936)

All sit.

# PSALMODY

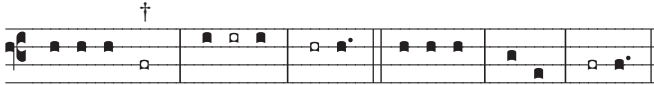
All sing the FIRST ANTIPHON

Mode II



Begotten before the dawn, today the Lord, our Saviour, was born of the Virgin.

## PSALM 134 (135) I



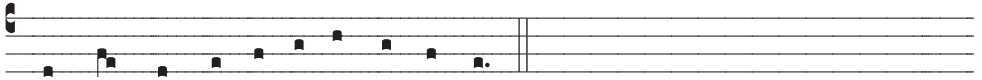
- Cantor* 1 Praise the | name of the | Lord, \*  
praise him, servants | of the | Lord,
- All* 2 **who stand in the | house of the | Lord \*  
in the courts of the house | of our | God.**
- 3 Praise the Lord for the | Lord is | good. \*  
Sing a psalm to his name for | he is | loving.
- 4 **For the Lord has chosen Jacob | for him- | self \*  
and Israel for his | own pos- | session.**
- 5 For I know the | Lord is | great, \*  
that our Lord is high a- | bove all | gods.
- 6 **The Lord does what- | ever he | wills, \*  
in heaven, on earth, | in the | seas.**
- 7 He summons clouds from the ends of the earth; †  
makes lightning pro- | duce the | rain; \*  
from his treasures he sends | forth the | wind.
- 8 **The first-born of the E- | gyptians he | smote, \*  
of man and | beast a- | like.**
- 9 Signs and wonders he worked †  
in the midst of your | land, O | Egypt, \*  
against Pharaoh and | all his | servants.
- 10 **Nations in their | greatness he | struck \*  
and kings in their splen- | dour he | slew.**
- 11 Sihon, king of the Amorites, †  
Og, the | king of | Bashan, \*  
and all the king- | doms of | Canaan.

- 12 **He let Israel in- | herit their | land; \***  
**on his people their land | he be- | stowed.**
- 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.*

*All sing the SECOND ANTIPHON*

*Mode IV*



The Lord, our God, is greater than all gods.

PSALM 134 (135) II

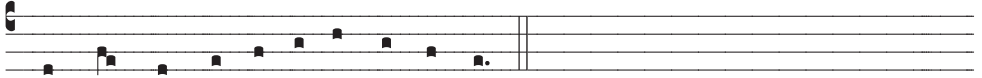


- Cantor* 1 Lord, your name | stands for | ever, \*  
unforgotten from | age to | age,
- All* 2 **for the Lord does justice | for his | people; \***  
**the Lord takes pity | on his | servants.**
- 3 Pagan idols are sil- | ver and | gold, \*  
the work of | human | hands.
- 4 **They have mouths but they | cannot | speak; \***  
**they have eyes but they | cannot | see.**
- 5 They have ears but they | cannot | hear; \*  
there is never a breath | on their | lips.
- 6 **Their makers will come to | be like | them \***  
**and so will all who | trust in | them!**
- 7 Sons of Israel, | bless the | Lord! \*  
Sons of Aaron, | bless the | Lord!
- 8 **Sons of Levi, | bless the | Lord! \***  
**You who fear him, | bless the | Lord!**
- 9 From Zion may the | Lord be | blessed, \*  
he who dwells | in Je- | rusalem!

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.

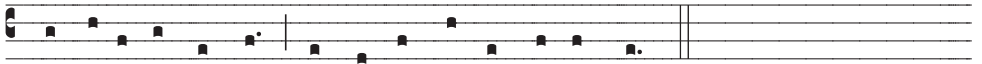
*All repeat the Antiphon.*



The Lord, our God, is greater than all gods.

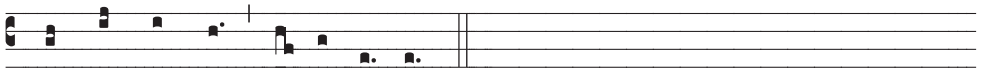
*All sing the THIRD ANTIPHON*

*Mode VII*



The Magi saw the star and offered presents to the King.

**CANTICLE**  
1 Timothy 3:16



℞: O praise the Lord, all you nations! *All repeat.*



*Cantor* 1 He was manifested | in the | flesh, \*  
vindicated | in the | Spirit.

*All* ℞: **O praise the Lord, all you nations!**

*Cantor* 2 He was | seen by | angels, \*  
preached a- | mong the | nations.

*All* ℞: **O praise the Lord, all you nations!**

*Cantor* 3 He was believed on | in the | world, \*  
taken | up in | glory.

*All* ℞ **O praise the Lord, all you nations!**

*Cantor* 4 Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son \*  
and to the | Holy | Spirit,

*All* ℞ **O praise the Lord, all you nations!**

*Cantor* 5 as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, \*  
world without | end. A- | men.

*All repeat the Antiphon.*



The Magi saw the star and offered presents to the King.

**I**T is God who brought us salvation and called us to a dedicated life, not for any merit of ours but of his own purpose and his own grace, which was granted to us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, but has now at length been brought fully into view by the appearance on earth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. For he has broken the power of death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel.

THE SHORT RESPONSORY



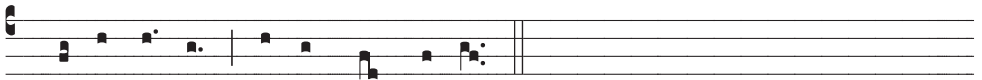
All the peoples will be blessed in him.



∩ All nations will praise him. ∩ **Will be blessed in him.**



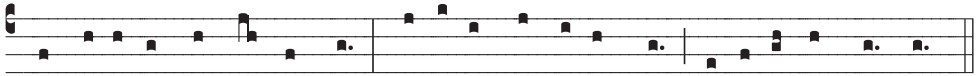
∩ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit.



∩ **All the peoples will be blessed in him.**

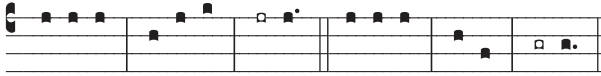
*All stand.*





The Magi saw the star and said: This is the sign of the King; let us go and seek him.

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

Today the Magi knelt before our Saviour. Let us also worship him with great joy, and pray:

℟. **Lord, save us in our need.**

King of nations, the wise men came from the East to worship you: grant us the true spirit of adoration and submission. ℟.

King of glory, your people look to you for judgement: grant an abundance of peace to our world. ℟.

King of ages, your word is ever powerful: may it penetrate our hearts and lives today. ℟.

King of justice, show your love for the poor and the powerless; strengthen those who are suffering. ℟.

King of heaven, hope of all who trust in you; give to the faithful departed the wonders of your salvation. ℟.

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

**O**N this day, Lord God,  
by a guiding star you revealed your Only-Begotten Son  
to all the peoples of the world.  
Lead us from the faith by which we know you now  
to the vision of your glory, face to face.  
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.**

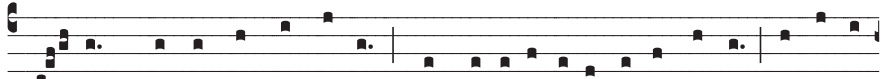
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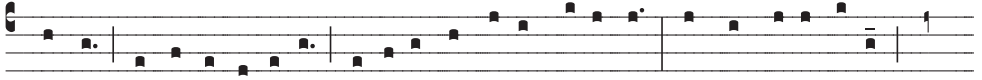
All sing

## THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**A**



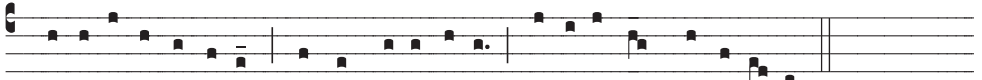
**LMA \* Redemptó-ris Mater, quæ pérvia cæli porta manes, et stella**  
*Loving mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star*



**ma-ris, succurre 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*



**nátura 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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