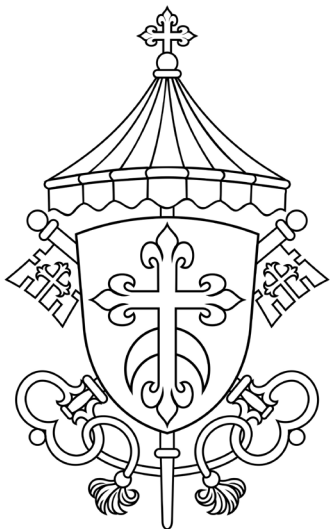


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

SAINT BONIFACE

Thursday
WEEK III

5 June 2025
5.00pm

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 Vespers is a regular part of the life and worship of St Mary's Cathedral.

SAINT BONIFACE

(675? — 754)

For the first forty years of his life Boniface was known as Wynfrith. He was born in Devon and educated at the monastery at Exeter, and then joined the Benedictine abbey at Nursling, near Southampton. He was a teacher and preacher, but he desired to preach the gospel in a foreign land. In 718, Pope Gregory II commissioned him to do so, at the same time changing his name from Wynfrith to Boniface. Boniface left England, never to return, and took the gospel to the heathen tribes of Germany, where he had great success. He himself was created Bishop of Mainz, and he founded or restored dioceses in Bavaria, Thuringia, and Franconia. In his later years he worked with King Pepin the Short to reform the Frankish church, and then, over seventy years old, set out to evangelize Friesland (part of modern Holland) where he was set upon and murdered, on 5 June 754. He is buried at Fulda, near Frankfurt, in the monastery he founded himself, and is honoured as the apostle of Germany.

**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

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| ℣. Deus, in adiutorium meum intende. | <i>O God, come to our aid.</i> |
| ℟. Domine, ad adiuvandum me festina. | <i>O Lord, make haste to help us.</i> |
| Gloria Patri et Filio | <i>Glory be to the Father and to the Son</i> |
| et Spiritui Sancto. | <i>and to the Holy Spirit,</i> |
| Sicut erat in principio | <i>as it was in the beginning,</i> |
| et nunc et semper | <i>is now, and ever shall be,</i> |
| et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. Alleluia. | <i>world without end. Amen. Alleluia.</i> |

OFFICE HYMN

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|---|---|
| Sint tibi laudis, Bonifati, honores, qui doces gentes fideique claros, primus ostendis radios profunda nocte sepultis. | <i>Praise and honour to you, Boniface, who famously taught the people the faith, and showed the first rays of faith to those who were buried in darkness.</i> |
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|---|--|
| Omne curarum genus et laborum sarcinam portas, ad ovile Christi ut deerrantes revocare possis ocius agnos. | <i>You bore all kinds of care and hardships so that you could swiftly call the stray lambs back to the fold of Christ.</i> |
|---|--|

| | |
|--|---|
| Dum pius saevo Frisio salutis tramitem pandis, licet enecatus tu triumphasti proprio decorus sanguine martyr. | <i>Whilst showing the path of salvation to the Frisians, though you were slain, you triumphed, properly decorated with the blood of a martyr.</i> |
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|---|--|
| Nulla prosternat series malorum, nulla nos mergat sceleris procella; da tuo, martyr, potiamur astris robore fulti. | <i>We shall never fall down under any evil, nor be submerged under a storm of guilt, grant, O Martyr, that we may attain the stars supported by your strength.</i> |
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| | |
|---|--|
| Laus Deo summo sit in ore nostro, cuius ardentem famulasti honori, cuius in caelis simul et canemus nomen ovantes. Amen. | <i>Praise to God the Most High be on our lips, whose honour he ardently served, and whose name we will joyously sing together in heaven. Amen.</i> |
|---|--|

All sit.

PSALMODY

FIRST ANTIPHON

DE fructu ventris tui ponam
super sedem tuam.

*Of the fruit of your body I will set
upon your throne.*

PSALM 131 (132) I

Memento, Domine, David
et omnis mansuetudinis eius,

quia iuravit Domino,
votum vovit Potenti Iacob:

«Non introibo in tabernaculum domus meæ,
non ascendam in lectum strati mei,

non dabo somnum oculis meis
et palpebris meis dormitationem,

donec inveniam locum Domino,
tabernaculum Potenti Iacob».

Ecce audivimus eam esse in Ephratha,
invenimus eam in campis Iaar.

Ingrediamur in tabernaculum eius,
adoremus ad scabellum pedum eius.

Surge, Domine, in requiem tuam,
tu et arca fortitudinis tuæ.

Sacerdotes tui induantur iustitiam,
et sancti tui exsultent.

Propter David servum tuum
non avertas faciem christi tui.

Gloria Patri et Filio
et Spiritui Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

*O Lord, remember David
and all the many hardships he endured,
the oath he swore to the Lord,
his vow to the Strong One of Jacob.*

*'I will not enter the house where I live
nor go to the bed where I rest.*

*I will give no sleep to my eyes,
to my eyelids I will give no slumber
till I find a place for the Lord,
a dwelling for the Strong One of Jacob.'*

*At Ephrata we heard of the ark;
we found it in the plains of Yearim.*

*'Let us go to the place of his dwelling;
let us go to kneel at his footstool.'*

*Go up, Lord, to the place of your rest,
you and the ark of your strength.*

*Your priests shall be clothed with holiness;
your faithful shall ring out their joy.*

*For the sake of David your servant
do not reject your anointed.*

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

*as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.*

The Antiphon is repeated.

SECOND ANTIPHON

ELEGIT Dominus Sion in
habitationem sibi.

*The Lord has chosen Sion as his
dwelling-place.*

PSALM 131 (132) II

Iuravit Dominus David veritatem *The Lord swore an oath to David;*
et non recedet ab ea: *he will not go back on this word:*

«De fructu ventris tui *A son, the fruit of your body,*
ponam super sedem tuam. *will I set upon your throne.*

Si custodierint filii tui testamentum meum *If they keep my covenant in truth*
et testimonia mea, quæ docebo eos, *and my laws that I have taught them,*

filii eorum usque in sæculum *their sons also shall rule*
sedebunt super sedem tuam». *on your throne from age to age.'*

Quoniam elegit Dominus Sion, *For the Lord has chosen Zion;*
desideravit eam in habitationem sibi: *he has desired it for his dwelling:*

«Hæc requies mea in sæculum sæculi; *'This is my resting-place for ever;*
hic habitabo, quoniam desideravi eam. *here have I chosen to live.*

Cibaria eius benedicens benedicam, *'I will greatly bless her produce,*
pauperes eius saturabo panibus. *I will fill her poor with bread.*

Sacerdotes eius induam salutari, *I will clothe her priests with salvation*
et sancti eius exsultatione exsultabunt. *and her faithful shall ring out their joy.*

Illic germinare faciam cornu David, *'There David's stock will flower;*
parabo lucernam christo meo. *I will prepare a lamp for my anointed.*

Inimicos eius induam confusione, *I will cover his enemies with shame*
super ipsum autem effloreat diadema eius». *but on him my crown shall shine.'*

Gloria Patri et Filio *Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
et Spiritui Sancto. *and to the Holy Spirit,*

Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper *as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,*
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. *world without end. Amen.*

The Antiphon is repeated.

THIRD ANTIPHON

DEDIT ei Dominus potestatem et honorem et regnum: et omnes populi, tribus et linguae ipsi servant.

The Lord has given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages should serve him.

CANTICLE

Apocalypse 11:17-18,12:10-12

| | |
|--|---|
| Gratias agimus tibi, Domine Deus omnipotens, | <i>We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,</i> |
| qui es et qui eras, quia accepisti virtutem tuam magnam et regnasti. | <i>who are and who were, that you have taken your great power and begun to reign.</i> |
| Et iratae sunt gentes, et advenit ira tua, et tempus mortuorum iudicari, et reddere mercedem servis tuis prophetis et sanctis et timentibus nomen tuum, pusillis et magnis. | <i>The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great.</i> |
| Nunc facta est salus et virtus et regnum Dei nostri et potestas Christi eius, quia proiectus est accusator fratrum nostrorum, qui accusabat illos ante conspectum Dei nostri die ac nocte. | <i>Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.</i> |
| Et ipsi vicerunt illum propter sanguinem Agni et propter verbum testimonii sui; et non dilexerunt animam suam usque ad mortem. | <i>And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.</i> |
| Propterea laetamini, caeli et qui habitatis in eis. | <i>Rejoice, then, O heaven and you that dwell therein.</i> |
| Gloria Patri et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. | <i>Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,</i> |
| Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in saecula saeculorum. Amen. | <i>as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.</i> |

The Antiphon is repeated.

THESE are the people who have come safely through the great persecution. They washed their robes and made them white with the blood of the Lamb. That is why they stand before God's throne and serve him day and night in his temple. He who sits on the throne will protect them with his presence. Never again will they hunger or thirst; neither sun nor any scorching heat will burn them; for the Lamb, who is in the centre of the throne, will be their shepherd, and guide them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

SHORT RESPONSORY

| | |
|---|--|
| Fulgébunt iusti sicut sol in conspectu Dei, | <i>The virtuous will shine before God,</i> |
| Alleluia, alleluia. | <i>Alleluia, alleluia.</i> |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| ℣ Et laetabuntur omnes recti corde. ℟ | <i>The pure of heart will rejoice.</i> |
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| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| ℣ Gloria Patri et Filio | <i>Glory be to the Father and to the Son</i> |
| et Spiritui Sancto. ℟ | <i>and to the Holy Spirit.</i> |

All stand.

MAGNIFICAT ANTIPHON

SANCTI Evangelii codicem barbarorum furor gladio penetravit, ut ad pectus perveniret martyr, qui occidi potuit, at non vinci, alleluia.

The book of the Holy Gospels slew the raging barbarians like a sword, so that martyrdom came to their breast who were killed but not conquered, alleluia.

MAGNIFICAT

Magnificat *My soul*
anima mea Dominum, *glorifies the Lord,*

et exsultavit spiritus meus *my spirit rejoices*
in Deo salutari meo, *in God, my Saviour.*

quia respexit humilitatem ancillæ suæ. *He looks on his servant in her lowliness;*
Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent *henceforth all ages*
omnes generationes, *will call me blessed.*

quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est, *The Almighty works marvels for me.*
et sanctum nomen eius, *Holy his name!*

et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies
timentibus eum. *His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.*

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo, *He puts forth his arm in strength*
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui; *and scatters the proud-hearted.*

deposuit potentes de sede; *He casts the mighty from their thrones*
et exaltavit humiles; *and raises the lowly.*

esurientes implevit bonis *He fills the starving with good things,*
et divites dimisit inanes. *sends the rich away empty.*

Suscepit Israel puerum suum,
recordatus misericordiæ suæ,

sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini eius in sæcula.

Gloria Patri et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

The Antiphon is repeated.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us give thanks to the king of martyrs, for this is the hour when he offered himself in the last supper and laid down his life on the cross.

℟. **We praise you, Christ the Lord.**

We praise you, Christ our Saviour, example and strength of the martyrs, because you have loved us to the end; ℟.

Because you have promised repentant sinners the reward of eternal life, ℟.

Because you have called the Church to offer the blood of the new and eternal covenant, the blood shed for the remission of sins, ℟.

Because you have brought us to this day with the gift of faith intact, ℟.

Because of the many brothers and sisters who today have come to share in your saving death, ℟.

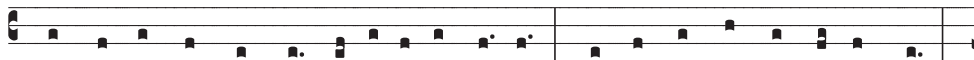
At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All sing

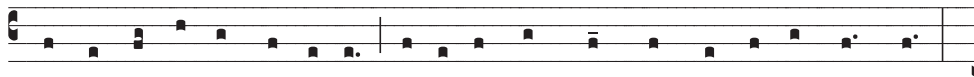
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UR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come,



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

ALMIGHTY God,
the martyr Saint Boniface
sealed with his blood the faith he preached.
Let him pray
that we may hold fast to the faith
and profess it courageously in our lives.
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

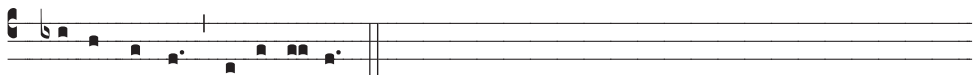
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E-gí-na cæ-li, * læ-tá-re, al-le-lú-ia, qui- a quem me-ru- ís- ti
Queen of Heaven, rejoice, for he whom you did merit



portá-re, al-le-lú-ia, re-surréxit sic-ut di-xit, al-le- lú-ia; o-ra pro
to bear, has risen, as he said; pray for



nobis De-um, al-le- lú-ia.
us to God.

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