

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

Friday
EASTER VII

6 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.

**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

Ÿ.
O

God, come to our aid.

R. 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 HYMN

Come down, O Love di - vine, Seek thou this soul of
mine, And vi - sit it with thine own ar - dour glow - ing;
O Com - fort - er, draw near, With - in my heart ap -
pear, And kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till he become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Down Ampney
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

Bianco da Siena (d. 1434)
tr. R F Littledale (1833–1890)

All sit.

PSALMODY

All sing the FIRST ANTIPHON

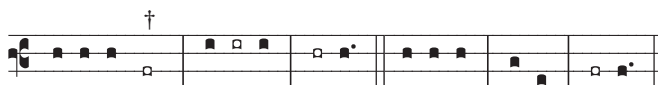
Mode II



I, the Lord, am your Saviour, I am your Redeemer. Al-le- lu-ia.

PSALM 134 (135)

I



- | | | |
|---------------|----|--|
| <i>Cantor</i> | 1 | Praise the name of the Lord, * |
| | | praise him, servants of the Lord, |
| <i>All</i> | 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 <u>earth</u> ; † |
| | | 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 <u>worked</u> † |
| | | 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 A- <u>morites</u> , † |
| | | 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 FIRST ANTIPHON



I, the Lord, am your Saviour, I am your Redeemer. Al-le- lu-ia.

All sing the SECOND ANTIPHON

Mode III



Blessèd is the kingdom of our father David which has come among us. Al-le-lu-ia.

PSALM 134 (135)

II



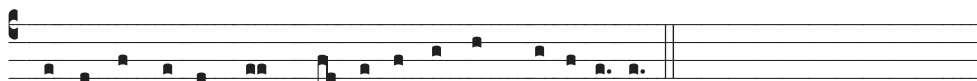
- Cantor* 1 Lord, your name | stands for | ever, *
 unforgotten from | age to | age,
- All* 2 **for the Lord does justice | for his | people; ***
 the Lord takes pity | on his | servants.
- 3 Pagan idols are | silver and | gold, *
 the work of | human | hands.
- 4 **They have mouths but they | cannot | 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 Sion 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.

All sing the THIRD ANTIPHON

Mode IV



Let us sing to the Lord: great is his triumph. Al-le-lu-ia.

CANTICLE

Apocalypse 15:3-4



- Cantor* 1 Great and wonderful | are your | deeds, *
 O Lord God | the Al- | mighty!
- All* 2 **Just and true | are your | ways, ***
 O King | of the | ages!
- 3 Who shall not fear and glorify your | name, O | Lord? *
 For you a- | lone are | holy.
- 4 **All nations shall come and | worship | you, ***
 for your judgements have | been re- | vealed.
- 5 Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son *
 and to the | Holy | Spirit,
- 6 as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, *
 world without | end. A- | men.

All repeat the Antiphon.

LEARN to live and move in the Spirit; then there is no danger of your giving way to the impulses of corrupt nature. The Spirit yields a harvest of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, forbearance, gentleness, faith, courtesy, temperateness, purity. Since we live by the Spirit, let the Spirit be our rule of life.

THE SHORT RESPONSORY



The Holy Spirit is the Advocate, al-le- lu-ia, al-le- lu- ia.



℣ He will teach you everything. ℟ Al-le- lu- ia, al-le- lu- ia.



℣ Glory be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spi- rit.



℟ The Holy Spirit is the Advocate, al-le- lu-ia, al-le- lu- ia.

All stand.



They all persevered together in prayer with Mary, the mother of Je-sus, al-le-lu-ia.

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

Let us bless the Father, who has poured on the nations the grace of the Spirit.

℟. **May the grace of the Spirit spread through the world.**

Father, you gave your beloved Son as a light for all peoples; open the eyes of a blind world to see Christ as the future of humanity. ℟.

You anointed Christ with the power of the Spirit for his ministry of salvation; may he pass once more among us, healing the sick and doing good for everyone. ℟.

Send your Holy Spirit to give rest to the weary and to strengthen our faith; give life and joy to broken hearts. ℟.

Fulfil the hope of the faithful departed; raise them up in glory when Christ comes again. ℟.

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

LORD God,
you opened for us the way to eternal life
when Christ your Son was taken up to glory,
and your Holy Spirit came to enlighten your Church.
Grant that, as we share in so great a gift,
our faith may grow ever stronger,
our service ever more loyal.
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

R 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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