

# ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



## Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

Tuesday  
WEEK II

10 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 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

℣. 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

Sator princípisque téporum, clarum diem labóribus noctémque qui sopóribus fixo distinguis órdine,	<i>Creator, sovereign Prince of time, who set the hours in fixed array, you mark the light of day for work and grant us night for sleep and rest.</i>
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Mentem tu castam dirige, obsúra ne siléntia ad dira cordis vúlnera telis patéscant invidi.	<i>Direct our hearts and keep them chaste, lest silence shrouded in the night expose us to our jealous foe, who pierces souls with fearful wounds.</i>
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Vacent ardóre péctora, faces nec ullas pérferant, quæ nostro hæréntes sénsui mentis vigórem sáucient.	<i>May hearts be free of vain desire and bear no torch or ire or lust, lest flames that touch and rouse our sense should sap the strength of mind and soul.</i>
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Præsta, Pater piíssime, Patrique compar Unice, Cum Spíritu Paráclito regnans per omne sæculum. Amen.	<i>Most loving Father, hear our prayer, and you, O Christ, co-equal Son, who with the Spirit Paraclete now reign for all eternity. Amen.</i>
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*All sit.*

# PSALMODY

## FIRST ANTIPHON

**A**URIBUS percipite, qui habitatis orbem.  
*Give heed, all who dwell in the world.*

### PSALM 48 (49)

Audíte hæc, omnes gentes, *Hear this, all you peoples,*  
auribus percipite, omnes, qui habitatis orbem: *give heed, all who dwell in the world,*

quique humiles et viri nobiles, *men both low and high,*  
simul in unum dives et pauper! *rich and poor alike!*

Os meum loquétur sapiéntiam *My lips will speak words of wisdom.*  
et meditatio cordis mei prudéntiam. *My heart is full of insight.*

Inclinábo in parábolam aurem meam, *I will turn my mind to a parable,*  
apériam in psaltério ænigma meum. *with the harp I will solve my problem.*

Cur timébo in diébus malis, *Why should I fear in evil days*  
cum iníquitas supplantántium circúmdabit me? *the malice of the foes who surround me,*

Qui confidunt in virtúte sua *men who trust in their wealth,*  
et in multitudíne divitiárum suárum gloriántur. *and boast of the vastness of their riches?*

Etenim seípsum non rédimet homo; *For no man can buy his own ransom,*  
non dabit Deo propitiatiónem suam. *or pay a price to God for his life.*

Nímium est prétium redemptiónis ánimæ eius:† *The ransom of his soul is beyond him.*  
ad últimum deficiet, *He cannot buy life without end,*  
ut vivat usque in finem, nec vídeat intéritum. *nor avoid coming to the grave.*

Et vidébit sapiéntes moriéntes;† *He knows that wise men*  
simul insípiens et stultus períbunt\* *and fools must both perish*  
et relínquent aliénis divítias suas. *and leave their wealth to others.*

Sepúlbra eórum domus illórum in ætérnum;† *Their graves are their homes for ever,*  
tabernácula eórum in progéniem et progéniem, *their dwelling place from age to age, though*  
etsi vocavérunt nomínibus suis terras suas. *their names spread wide through the land.*

Et homo, cum sit in honóre, non permanébit;† *In his riches,*  
comparátus est iumentis, quæ péreunt, *man lacks wisdom;*  
et similis factus est illis. *he is like the beasts that are destroyed.*

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.*

## SECOND ANTIPHON

**E**RUISTI, domine, animam  
meam ne periret.

*We shall sing and praise your  
power, Lord.*

### PSALM 48 (49)

Hæc via illórum, quorum fidúcia in semetípsis, et finis eórum, qui cómplacent in ore suo.	<i>This is the lot of those who trust in them- selves, who have others at their beck and call.</i>
Sicut oves in inférno pósito sunt, mors depáscet eos;	<i>Like sheep they are driven to the grave, where death shall be their shepherd</i>
descéndent præcípites ad sepúlcrum,† et figúra eórum erit in consumptiónem: inférnus habitáculum eórum.	<i>and the just shall become their rulers. With the morning their outward show van- ishes and the grave becomes their home.</i>
Verúmtamen Deus rédimet ánimam meam, de manu ínferi vere suscípíet me.	<i>But God will ransom me from death and take my soul to himself.</i>
Ne timúeris, cum dives factus fúerit homo et cum multiplicáta fúerit glória domus eius,	<i>Then do not fear when a man grows rich, when the glory of his house increases.</i>
quóniam, cum interíerit, non sumet ómnia, neque descéndet cum eo glória eius.	<i>He takes nothing with him when he dies, his glory does not follow him below.</i>
Cum ánimæ suæ in vita ipsíus benedíxerit: «Laudábunt te quod benefecísti tibi»,	<i>Though he flattered himself while he lived: 'Men will praise me for all my success,'</i>
tamen introíbit ad progéníem patrum suórum, qui in ætérnum non vidébunt lumen.	<i>yet he will go to join his fathers, who will never see the light any more.</i>
Homo, cum in honóre esset, non intelléxit;† comparátus est iuméntis, quæ péreunt, et símilis factus est illis.	<i>In his riches, man lacks wisdom; he is like the beasts that are destroyed.</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 sæcula sæculorum. Amen.	<i>as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.</i>

*The Antiphon is repeated.*

### THIRD ANTIPHON

**D**IGNUS est Agnus, qui pro nobis occisus est  
et resurrexit, accipere librum et solvere illum.

*The Lamb, who for us died and rose from the dead,  
is worthy to take the book and to open it.*

### CANTICLE

#### Apocalypse 4, 5

Dignus es, Domine et Deus noster,  
accipere gloriam et honorem et virtutem,

*Worthy are you, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honour and power,*

quia tu creasti omnia,  
et propter voluntatem tuam erant et creata sunt.

*for you created all things,  
and by your will they existed and were created.*

Dignus es, Domine, accipere librum  
et aperire signacula eius,

*Worthy are you, O Lord,  
to take the scroll and open its seals,*

quoniam occisus es  
et redemisti Deo in sanguine tuo  
ex omni tribu et lingua et populo et natione

*for you were slain,  
and by your blood you ransomed men for God  
from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.*

et fecisti eos Deo nostro regnum  
et sacerdotes,  
et regnabunt super terram.

*You have made us a kingdom  
and priests to our God,  
and we shall reign on earth.*

Dignus est Agnus, qui occisus est,  
accipere virtutem et divitias et sapientiam  
et fortitudinem et honorem  
et gloriam et benedictionem.

*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom  
and might and honour  
and glory and blessing.*

Gloria Patri et Filio  
et Spiritui Sancto.  
Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper  
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

*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.*

**A**LL have sinned and forfeited God's glory, and all are justified through the free gift of his grace by being redeemed in Christ Jesus who was appointed by God to sacrifice his life so as to win reconciliation through faith.

## SHORT RESPONSORY

Adimplébis me lætítia      *You will give me the fullness of joy*  
Cum vultu tuo, Dómine.      *in your presence, O Lord.*

℣. Delectatiónes in délixtera tua      *I will find happiness*  
usque in finem.      *at your right hand for ever.*

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

*All stand.*

## MAGNIFICAT ANTIPHON

**R**ESPEXIT Dominus humilitatem meam, et  
fecit in me magna qui potens est.

*The Lord has looked on my humility, and he that is  
mighty has done great things for me.*

## 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,  
et sanctum nomen eius,

*The Almighty works marvels for me.  
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,     *He protects Israel, his servant,*  
recordatus misericordiæ suæ,     *remembering his mercy,*

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

Christ is the shepherd of his flock: he loves and cares for his people. We turn to him in trust and say:

**R. Lord, we need your care.**

Christ our Lord, you are pastor of all the ages, protect our Bishop, N., and all the pastors of your Church. **R.**

Be with those who are persecuted for their faith, and those cut off from the support of the Church: Good Shepherd, in their pain and isolation may they know your care. **R.**

Bring healing to the sick; give nourishment to the hungry. **R.**

We remember those who make our laws and those who apply them: Lord, give them wisdom and discernment. **R.**

Gather the flock for which you laid down your life: bring home to their Father's house all who have died in your peace. **R.**

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

**Y**OURS is the day and yours is the night, Lord God:  
let the Sun of Justice shine so steadily in our hearts  
that we may come at length  
to that light where you dwell eternally.  
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.

R: **Amen.**

## CONCLUSION OF THE OFFICE

The Lord be with you.

R: **And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R: **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

R: **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.

R: **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

R: **Thanks be to God.**

All sing

## THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**S** Al-ve, Re-gí-na, \* **ma-ter mi-se-ri-cór-di-ae** : Vi-ta, dul-cé-do, et spes  
*Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and*

nostra, sal-ve. Ad te clamámus, éx-su-les, fí-li-i Hevae. Ad te su-spi-rámus,  
*our hope, hail. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up*

ge-méntes et flén-tes in hac la-crimárum val-le. E-ia er-go, Ad-vo-cá-ta  
*our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious*

nos-tra, il-los tu-os mi-se-ri-cór-des ó-cu-los ad nos con-vér-te. Et le-sum,  
*advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; And show*

be-ne-díctum fructum ventris tu-i, no-bis post hoc ex-sí-li-um os-tén-de.  
*unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, after this our exile.*

O cle-mens : O pi-a : O dul-cis Vir-go Ma-rí-a.  
*O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.*

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