

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Solemn Vespers and Benediction

The Office of Evening Prayer

CORPUS CHRISTI

22 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.**

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.

As the Blessed Sacrament is brought to the altar all kneel and sing:



O sa - lu - tá - ris Hó - sti - a, Quae cae - li pan - dis ós - ti - um,
O saving Victim, opening wide the gate of Heaven to man below;



Bel - la pre - munt ho - stí - li - a, Da ro - bur, fer au - xí - li - um.
Our foes press hard on every side; thine aid supply; thy strength bestow.



U - ni tri - nó - que Dó - mi - no Sit sem - pi - tér - na gló - ri - a,
All praise and thanks to thee ascend, for ever more, blest one in three.



Qui vi - tam si - ne tér - mi - no No - bis do - net in pá - tri - a.
O grant us life that shall not end, in our true native land with thee.



A - men.

ORDER OF VESPERS

INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFICE

℣ Deus, in adiutorium meum intende.

O God, come to our aid.

℟ Domine, ad adiuvandum me festina.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Gloria Patri et Filio
et Spiritui Sancto.

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

Sicut erat in principio

as it was in the beginning,

et nunc et semper

is now, and ever shall be,

et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. Alleluia.

world without end. Amen. Alleluia.

OFFICE HYMN

Pange, lingua, gloriosi corporis mysterium, sanguinisque pretiosi, quem in mundi pretium fructus ventris generosi Rex effudit gentium.	<i>Of the glorious Body telling, O my tongue, its mysteries sing, And the Blood, all price excelling, Which the world's eternal King, In a noble womb once dwelling, Shed for this world's ransoming.</i>
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Nobis datus, nobis natus ex intacta Virgine, et in mundo conversatus, sparsio verbi semine, sui moras incolatus miro clausit ordine.	<i>Given for us, for us descending, Of a Virgin to proceed, Man with man in converse blending, Scattered he the Gospel seed, Till his sojourn drew to ending Which he closed in wondrous deed.</i>
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In supremæ nocte cenæ recumbens cum fratribus, observata lege plene cibus in legalibus, cibum turbæ duodenæ se dat suis manibus.	<i>At the last great Supper lying Circled by his brethren's band, Meekly with the law complying, First he finished its command, Then, immortal Food supplying, Gave himself with his own hand.</i>
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Verbum caro panem verum verbo carnem efficit, fitque sanguis Christi merum, et, si sensus deficit, ad firmandum cor sincerum sola fides sufficit.	<i>Word made Flesh, by word he maketh Very bread his Flesh to be; Man in wine Christ's Blood partaketh: And if senses fail to see, Faith alone the true heart waketh To behold the mystery.</i>
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Tantum ergo sacramentum veneremur cernui, et antiquum documentum novo cedat ritui; præstet fides supplementum sensuum defectui.	<i>Humbly we, before him bending, This great Sacrament revere; Types and shadows have their ending, For the newer rite is here; Faith, our outward sense befriending, Makes the inward vision clear.</i>
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Genitori Genitoque laus et iubilatio, salus, honor, virtus quoque sit et benedictio; procedenti ab utroque compar sit laudatio. Amen.	<i>Glory let us give, and blessing To the Father and the Son; Honour, might and praise addressing, While eternal ages run; Ever too his love confessing, Who, from both, with both is one.</i>
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PSALMODY

FIRST ANTIPHON

SACERDOS in æternum Christus Dominus secundum
ordinem Melchisedech, panem et vinum obtulit.

*Christ the Lord is a priest for ever. Like Melchizedek he
made an offering of bread and wine.*

PSALM 109 (110)

Dixit Dominus Domino meo: *The Lord's revelation to my Master:*
«Sede a dextris meis, *'Sit on my right:*

donec ponam inimicos tuos: *your foes I will put*
scabellum pedum tuorum». *beneath your feet.'*

Virgam potentiæ tuæ emittet Dominus ex Sion: *The Lord will wield from Zion your sceptre of power:*
dominare in medio inimicorum tuorum. *rule in the midst of all your foes.*

Tecum principatus in die virtutis tuæ, *A prince from the day of your birth*
in splendoribus sanctis: *on the holy mountains;*
ex utero ante luciferum genui te. *from the womb before the dawn I begot you.*

Iuravit Dominus et non pænitebit eum: *The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change.*
«Tu es sacerdos in æternum secundum *'You are a priest for ever,*
ordinem Melchisedech». *a priest like Melchizedek of old.'*

Dominus a dextris tuis: *The Master standing at your right hand*
conquassabit in die iræ suæ reges. *will shatter kings in the day of his wrath.*

De torrente in via bibet: *He shall drink from the stream by the wayside*
propterea exaltabit caput. *and therefore he shall lift up his head.*

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

CALICEM salutaris accipiam et
sacrificabo hostiam laudis.

*I will take the chalice of salvation and
offer a thanksgiving sacrifice.*

PSALM 115 (116B)

Credidi, etiam cum locutus sum: *I trusted even when I said:*
«Ego humiliatus sum nimis». *'I am sorely afflicted,'*

Ego dixi in trepidatione mea: *and when I said in my alarm:*
«Omnis homo mendax». *'No man can be trusted.'*

Quid retribuam Domino *How can I repay the Lord*
pro omnibus, quæ retribuit mihi? *for his goodness to me?*

Calicem salutaris accipiam *The cup of salvation I will raise;*
et nomen Domini invocabo. *I will call on the Lord's name.*

Vota mea Domino reddam *My vows to the Lord I will fulfil*
coram omni populo eius. *before all his people.*

Pretiosa in conspectu Domini *O precious in the eyes of the Lord*
mors sanctorum eius. *is the death of his faithful.*

O Domine, ego servus tuus, *Your servant, Lord, am I;*
ego servus tuus et filius ancillæ tuæ. *your servant and the son of your handmaid.*
Dirupisti vincula mea: *You have loosened my bonds.*

tibi sacrificabo hostiam laudis *A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:*
et nomen Domini invocabo. *I will call on the Lord's name.*

Vota mea Domino reddam *My vows to the Lord I will fulfil*
coram omni populo eius, *before all his people,*

in atriis domus Domini, *in the courts of the house of the Lord,*
in medio tui, Ierusalem. *in your midst, O Jerusalem.*

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

TU es via, tu es veritas, tu es vita
mundi, Domine.

*You are the Way, you are the Truth;
you, Lord, are the life of the world.*

CANTICLE

Apocalypse 19:1-2. 5-7

Salus et gloria et virtus Deo nostro: *Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,*
Alleluia. *Alleluia.*
quia vera et iusta iudicia eius. *his judgements are true and just.*
Alleluia, alleluia. *Alleluia, alleluia.*

Laudem dicite Deo nostro, omnes servi eius: *Praise our God, all you his servants,*
Alleluia. *Alleluia.*
et qui timetis eum, pusilli et magni! *you who fear him, small and great.*
Alleluia, alleluia. *Alleluia, alleluia.*

Quoniam regnavit Dominus, *The Lord our God,*
Deus noster omnipotens: *the Almighty, reigns,*
Alleluia. *Alleluia.*
Gaudeamus et exultemus et demus gloriam ei. *let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.*
Alleluia, alleluia. *Alleluia, alleluia.*

Quia venerunt nuptiæ Agni: *The marriage of the Lamb has come,*
Alleluia. *Alleluia.*
et uxor eius præparavit se. *and his bride has made herself ready.*
Alleluia, alleluia. *Alleluia, alleluia.*

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

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

The Antiphon is repeated.

THIS is what I received from the Lord, and in turn passed on to you: that on the same night that he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and thanked God for it and broke it, and he said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; do this as a memorial of me.’ In the same way he took the cup after supper, and said, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me.’

SHORT RESPONSORY

Panem cæli dedit eis, *He gave them the bread of heaven to eat,*
Alleluia, alleluia. *alleluia, alleluia.*

℣ Panem angelorum manducavit homo. ℞ *Man has tasted the food of angels.*

℣ 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

OSACRUM convivium, in quo Christus sumitur: recolitur memoria passionis eius, mens impletur gratia et futuræ gloriæ nobis pignus datur, alleluia.

O sacred feast, in which we partake of Christ: his sufferings are remembered, our minds are filled with his grace and we receive a pledge of the glory that is to be ours, alleluia.

MAGNIFICAT

Quinti toni

Diego Ortiz (c.1510–c.1570)

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 *His mercy is from age to age,*
timentibus eum. *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, *the mercy promised to our fathers,*
Abraham et semini eius in sæcula. *to Abraham and his sons for ever.*

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.

INTERCESSIONS

At the supper to which all are invited, Christ gives his body and blood for the life of the world. Earnestly we beseech him, saying:

℟. **Lord Jesus Christ, give us the bread of eternal life.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, you have commanded us to celebrate the eucharistic meal in remembrance of you: enrich your Church with the worthy celebration of these mysteries. ℟.

Lord Jesus Christ, eternal high priest, you have committed to your priests the ministration of your sacraments: help them to do their part in your work with the unfailing gladness of genuine charity. ℟.

Lord Jesus Christ, manna from heaven, you make into one all who share the one bread: grant peace and concord to all who believe in you. ℟.

Lord Jesus Christ, heavenly physician, you give an eternal remedy and a pledge of resurrection to those who eat your bread: grant health to the ailing and a real hope to sinners. ℟.

Lord Jesus Christ, king who is to come, we know that whenever we celebrate these mysteries, we proclaim your death until you come again: bring all those who have died in you to share your resurrection. ℟.

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 Jesus Christ,
you gave your Church an admirable sacrament
as the abiding memorial of your passion.
Teach us so to worship the sacred mystery of your Body and Blood
that its redeeming power may sanctify us always.
Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

✠ **Amen.**

The Choir sings

THE MOTET

Osalutaris hostia, quæ cæli pandis ostium, bella premunt hostilia, da robur, fer
auxilium. Uni trinoque Domino sit sempiterna gloria, qui vitam sine termino
nobis donet in patria. Amen.

*O saving victim, opening the gate of heaven; hostile wars press on, give strength, bring us
help. To the Lord, the One in Three, be everlasting glory, that he may give us life without
end in our native land. Amen.*

William Byrd (c.1540–1623)

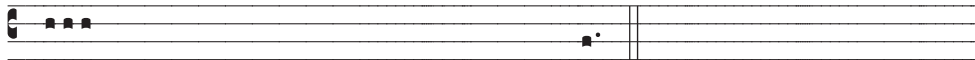
The Choir sings

Tantum ergo sacramentum	<i>Humbly we, before him bending,</i>
veneremur cernui,	<i>This great Sacrament revere;</i>
et antiquum documentum	<i>Types and shadows have their ending,</i>
novo cedat ritui;	<i>For the newer rite is here;</i>
præstet fides supplementum	<i>Faith, our outward sense befriending,</i>
sensuum defectui.	<i>Makes the inward vision clear.</i>

Genitori Genitoque	<i>Glory let us give, and blessing</i>
laus et iubilatio,	<i>To the Father and the Son;</i>
salus, honor, virtus quoque	<i>Honour, might and praise addressing,</i>
sit et benedictio;	<i>While eternal ages run;</i>
procedenti ab utroque	<i>Ever too his love confessing,</i>
compar sit laudatio. Amen.	<i>Who, from both, with both is one.</i>



¶ Panem de cælo præstitisti eis, allelú- ia.
You gave them bread from heaven.



¶ **Omne delectaméntum in se habéntem, allelú- ia.**
Containing in itself all sweetness.

Oremus.

Let us pray.

DEUS, qui nobis sub sacramento
mirabili passionis tuæ memoriam
reliquisti: tribue quæsumus, ita nos corporis
et sanguinis tui sacra mysteria venerari; ut
redemptionis tuæ fructum in nobis iugiter
sentiamus. Qui vivis et regnas in sæcula
sæculorum.

*O God, who in a wonderful Sacrament
has left us a memorial of your passion:
grant us so to venerate the sacred
mysterries of your Body and Blood, that
we may perceive within ourselves the fruit
of thy redemption; who lives and reigns
for ever and ever.*

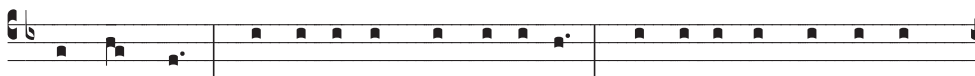
¶ **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *is given.*

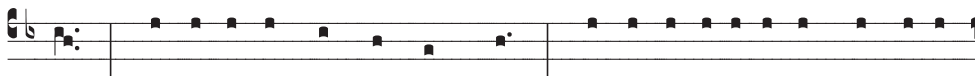
THE DIVINE PRAISES



Blessèd be God. Blessèd be his Holy Name. Blessèd be Jesus Christ, true God



and true Man. Blessèd be the Name of Je-sus. Blessèd be his Most Sacred



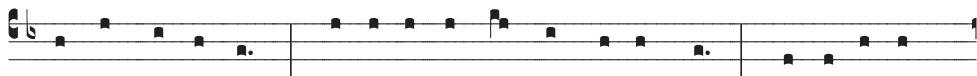
Heart. Blessèd be his Most Precious Blood. Blessèd be Jesus in the Most Holy



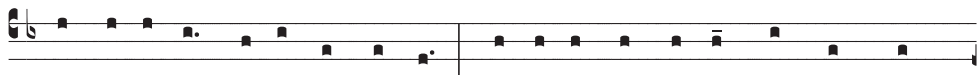
Sacrament of the Al-tar. Blessèd be the Holy Spi-rit, the Pa-raclete. Blessèd be



the great Mother of God, Ma-ry most Ho-ly. Blessèd be her Holy and Imma-



cu-late Conception. Blessèd be her Glorious Assumption. Blessèd be the

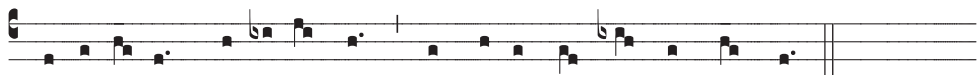


name of Ma-ry, Virgin and Mother. Blessèd be Saint Joseph, her most chaste



spouse. Blessèd be God in his Angels and in his Saints.

As the Blessed Sacrament is reposed, all sing



A-do-ré-mus * in æ-tér-num Sanc-tís-si-mum Sa-cra-mén-tum.

Let us adore for ever the most Holy Sacrament.

Laudate Dominum omnes gentes:
laudate eum omnes populi.

*O praise the Lord, all you nations,
acclaim his all you peoples!*

Quoniam confirmata est super nos
misericordia eius:
et veritas Domini manet in æternum.

*Strong is his
love for us;
he is faithful for ever.*

Gloria Patri, et Filio:
et Spiritui Sancto,

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

sicut erat in principio, et nunc et semper:
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

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



A-do-ré-mus * in æ-tér-num Sanc-tís-si-mum Sa-cra-mén-tum.

Let us adore for ever the most Holy Sacrament.

All sing

THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

S Al- ve, * Re-gi- na, ma-ter mi-se-ri-córdi- ae: Vi- ta, dulcé- do,
Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness

et spes nostra, sal- ve. Ad te clamá- mus, éxsu-les, fí- li- i Hevae. Ad te
and our hope, hail. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee

suspi- rá- mus, geméntes et flen- tes in hac la-cri- má- rum val- le. E- ia ergo,
do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then,

advoca- ta nostra, il- los tu- os mi-se-ri-cór- des ó- cu- los ad nos convér- te.
most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us;

Et Ie- sum, bene- díc- tum fructum ventris tu- i, no- bis post hoc ex- sí- li- um
And show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, after this our exile.

os- ténde. O cle- mens : O pi- a : O dul- cis Virgo Ma- rí- a.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Festal Hymn on 'Lauda Sion'

Edward Shippen Barnes (1887–1958)

St Mary's Cathedral

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