

# ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



## First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

28 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.

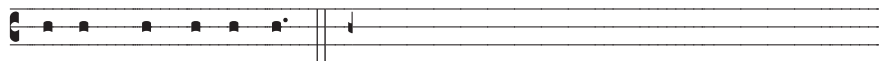
**TO MAINTAIN A SPIRIT OF REVERENCE AND SOLEMNITY,  
PLEASE TURN OFF AND REFRAIN FROM USING ALL MOBILE TELEPHONES  
AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

# ORDER OF VESPERS

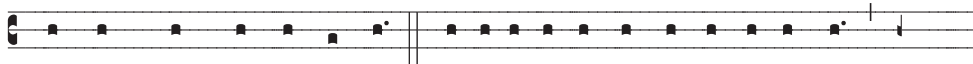
*At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.*

## INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFICE

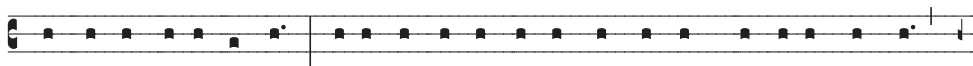
Ψ  
O



God, come to our aid.



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



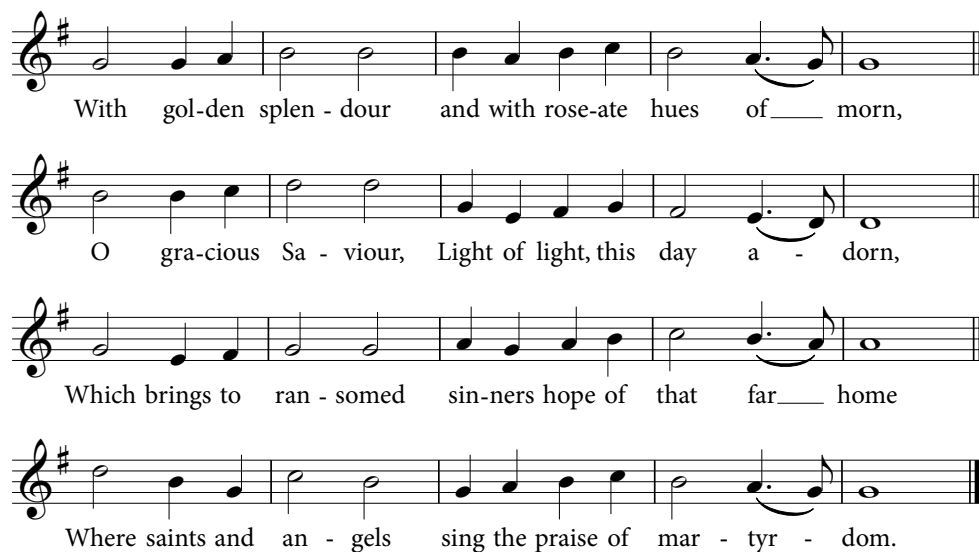
and to the Holy Spi-rit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,



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

*All sing*

## THE OFFICE HYMN



With gol-den splen - dour and with rose-ate hues of \_\_\_\_ morn,  
O gra-cious Sa - viour, Light of light, this day a - dorn,  
Which brings to ran - somed sin-ners hope of that far \_\_\_\_ home  
Where saints and an - gels sing the praise of mar - tyr - dom.

**Peter Keybearer, Paul the Teacher of mankind,  
Lights of the world and judges sent to loose and bind,  
Alike triumphant or by cross and sword-stroke found,  
In life's high senate stand with victor's laurel crowned.**

**Good Shepherd, Peter, unto who the charge was given  
To close or open ways of pilgrimage to heaven,  
In sin's hard bondage held may we have grace to know  
The full remission thou wast granted to bestow.**

**O noble Teacher, Paul, we trust to learn of thee  
Both earthly converse and the flight of ecstasy;  
Till from the fading truths that now we know in part  
We pass to fullness of delight for mind and heart.**

**Now to the glorious Trinity be duly paid  
Worship and honour, praise and service unafraid,  
Who in unchanging Unity, one Lord sublime,  
Hath ever lived as now and to unending time. Amen.**

*Annue Christe  
Melody from La Feillée's Méthode du plain-chant 1782*

*Aurea luce et decore roseo  
tr. T. A. Lacey (1853–1931)*

*All sit.*

# PSALMODY

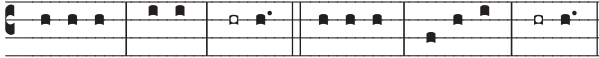
*All sing the* FIRST ANTIPHON

*Mode VIII*



‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ ‘Blessèd are you, Simon Bar-Jona!’

## PSALM 115 (116B)



- Cantor*    1    O praise the Lord, | all you | nations, \*  
                      acclaim | him all you | peoples!
- All*            2    **Strong is his | love for | us; \***  
                      **he is | faithful for | ever.**
- 3    Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son \*  
                      and to | the Holy | Spirit,
- 4    **as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, \***  
                      **world with- | out end. A- | men.**

*All repeat the Antiphon.*



You are Peter, and upon this Rock I will build my Church.

PSALM 147 (147B)



- Cantor* 1 O praise the | Lord, Je- | rusalem! \*  
Zion, | praise your | God!
- All* 2 **He has strengthened the | bars of your | gates \***  
**he has blessed the | children with- | in you.**
- 3 He established | peace on your | borders, \*  
he feeds you with | finest | wheat.
- 4 **He sends out his | word to the | earth \***  
**and swiftly runs | his com- | mand.**
- 5 He showers down snow | white as | wool, \*  
he scatters | hoarfrost like | ashes.
- 6 **He hurls down | hailstones like | crumbs. \***  
**The waters are frozen | at his | touch;**
- 7 he sends forth his word | and it | melts them: \*  
at the breath of his mouth the | waters | flow.
- 8 **He makes his word | known to | Jacob, \***  
**to Israel his | laws and de- | crees.**
- 9 He has not dealt thus with | other | nations; \*  
he has not taught them | his de- | crees.
- 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.

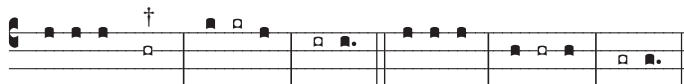
*All repeat the Antiphon.*



You were chosen by God, Saint Paul, the apostle, preacher of truth in all the world.

# CANTICLE

Ephesians 1:3-10



- Cantor* 1 Blessed be the | God and | Father \*  
of our Lord | Jesus | Christ,
- All* 2 **who has | blessed us in | Christ \***  
**with every spiritual blessing in the | heavenly | places.**
- 3 He chose | us in | him \*  
before the foundation | of the | world,
- 4 **that we | should be | holy \***  
**and blame- | less be- | fore him.**
- 5 He destined us in love †  
to be his sons through | Jesus | Christ, \*  
according to the purpose | of his | will,
- 6 **to the praise of his | glorious | grace \***  
**which he freely bestowed on us in | the Be- | loved.**
- 7 In him we have redemption | through his | blood, \*  
the forgiveness | of our | trespasses,
- 8 **according to the riches | of his | grace \***  
**which he la- | vished up- | on us.**
- 9 He has made known to us †  
in all | wisdom and | insight \*  
the mystery | of his | will,
- 10 **according | to his | purpose \***  
**which he set | forth in | Christ.**
- 11 His purpose he set | forth in | Christ \*  
as a plan for the full- | ness of | time,
- 12 **to unite all | things in | him, \***  
**things in heaven and | things on | earth.**



- 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.**

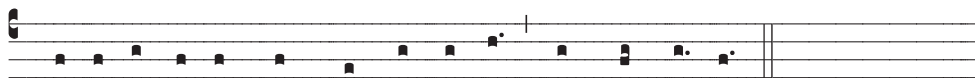
*All repeat the Antiphon.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 1:1-3,7

**P**AUL, servant of Christ Jesus, apostle by God's call, set apart for the service of the gospel. This gospel God announced beforehand in sacred scriptures through his prophets. It is about his Son. I send greetings to all of you in Rome whom God loves and has called to be his dedicated people. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

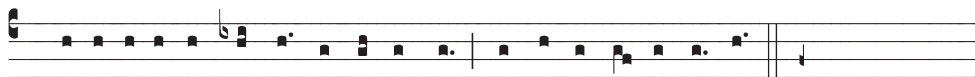
## THE SHORT RESPONSORY



The a-postles proclaimed the word of God \* and feared no one.



℣ They gave tes- ti-mony to the re-surrection of Jesus Christ. ℟ **And feared no one.**



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



℟ **The a-postles proclaimed the word of God and feared no one.**

*All stand.*





Glorious are Christ's apostles; they loved each other in life; they are not parted in death.

## MAGNIFICAT



- Cantor* 1 My soul proclaims the greatness | 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, \*  
ho- | ly is his | Name.
- 4 **He has mercy on | those who | fear him \***  
**in ev- | ery 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 mighty | from their | thrones, \***  
**and has lift- | ed 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 | promise of | mercy,**
- 9 the promise he | made to our | fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his | children 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 with- | out end. A- | men.

*All repeat the Antiphon.*

## INTERCESSIONS

We pray to Christ who built his Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.

**R. Lord, be with your people.**

Simon the fisherman was called by you to be a fisher of men: call others today to share in his task. **R.**

When the disciples feared that the ship was sinking, you commanded the sea and there was calm: protect your Church in the midst of trouble, and give her the peace that the world cannot give. **R.**

After your resurrection you gathered your Church around Peter: gather all your people now into the unity for which you prayed. **R.**

You sent Paul as an apostle to all people: let your good news be preached today through all creation. **R.**

You entrusted the keys of your kingdom to your Church: open the gates of life to the dead who put their trust in you. **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-against us;

and lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but de-liv-er us from e- vil.

## COLLECT

**L**ORD our God,  
may the blessed apostles Peter and Paul  
support us by their prayers.  
Through them you first taught your Church  
the Christian faith.  
Provide us now, by their intercession,  
with help for our eternal salvation.  
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

**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-loss 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.*



**St Mary's Cathedral**

St Mary's Road

Sydney NSW 2000

[www.stmaryscathedral.org.au](http://www.stmaryscathedral.org.au)

**General enquiries**

Tel: (02) 9220 0400

Fax: (02) 9223 5208

Email: [info@stmaryscathedral.org.au](mailto:info@stmaryscathedral.org.au)