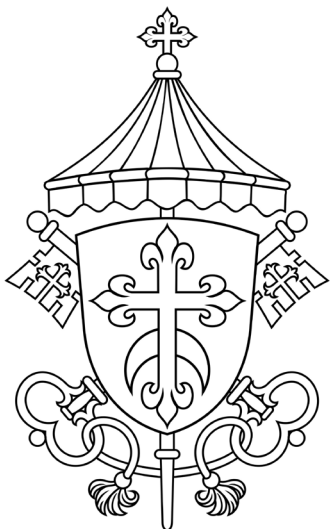


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Solemn Vespers and Benediction

The Office of Evening Prayer

Twenty third Sunday
of the Year

WEEK III

7 September 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.**

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.	<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

Lucis Creator optime,	<i>Blest Creator of the light,</i>
Lucem dierum proferens,	<i>Making day with radiance bright,</i>
Primordiis lucis novæ	<i>Thou didst o'er the forming earth</i>
Mundi parans originem.	<i>Give the golden light its birth.</i>
Qui mane iunctum vesperi	<i>Shade of eve with morning ray</i>
Diem vocari præcipis;	<i>Took from thee the name of day;</i>
Tætrum chaos illabitur;	<i>Darkness now is drawing nigh;</i>
Audi preces cum fletibus.	<i>Listen to our humble cry.</i>
Ne mens gravata crimine,	<i>May we ne'er by guilt depressed</i>
Vitæ sit exsul munere,	<i>Lose the way to endless rest;</i>
Dum nil perenne cogitat,	<i>Nor with idle thoughts and vain</i>
Sesesque culpis illigat.	<i>Bind our souls to earth again.</i>
Cælorum pulset intimum,	<i>Rather may we heavenward rise</i>
Vitale tollat præmium:	<i>Where eternal treasure lies;</i>
Vitemus omne noxium,	<i>Purified by grace within,</i>
Purgemus omne pessimum.	<i>Hating every deed of sin.</i>
Præsta Pater piissime,	<i>Father, what we ask be done</i>
Patrique compar Unice,	<i>Through thy well-beloved Son;</i>
Cum Spiritu Paraclito,	<i>With the Holy Ghost and thee</i>
Regnans per omne sæculum. Amen.	<i>Reigning through eternity. Amen.</i>

All sit.

PSALMODY

FIRST ANTIPHON

DIXIT Dominus Domino meo: Sede a
dextris meis.

*The Lord's revelation to my Master: 'Sit on
my right'.*

PSALM 109 (110)

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

Virgam potentiae tuae 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 tuae, *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 pœnitebit 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

FIDELIA omnia mandata eius, confirmata in
saeculum saeculi..

*His precepts are all of them sure, standing firm for
ever and ever.*

PSALM 110 (111)

Confitebor Domino in toto corde meo,
in consilio iustorum et congregatione.

*I will thank the Lord with all my heart
in the meeting of the just and their assembly.*

Magna opera Domini,
exquirenda omnibus qui cupiunt ea.

*Great are the works of the Lord;
to be pondered by all who love them.*

Decor et magnificentia opus eius,
et iustitia eius manet in saeculum saeculi.

*Majestic and glorious his work,
his justice stands firm for ever.*

Memoriam fecit mirabilium suorum,
misericors et miserator Dominus.

*He makes us remember his wonders.
The Lord is compassion and love.*

Escam dedit timentibus se;
memor erit in saeculum testamenti sui.

*He gives food to those who fear him;
keeps his covenant ever in mind.*

Virtutem operum suorum annuntiavit populo suo,
ut det illis hereditatem gentium;

*He has shown his might to his people
by giving them the lands of the nations.*

opera manuum eius veritas et iudicium.

His works are justice and truth.

Fidelia omnia mandata eius,

His precepts are all of them sure,

confirmata in saeculum saeculi,
facta in veritate et aequitate.

*standing firm for ever and ever:
they are made in uprightness and truth.*

Redemptionem misit populo suo,
mandavit in aeternum testamentum suum.

*He has sent deliverance to his people
and established his covenant for ever.*

Sanctum et terribile nomen eius.

Holy his name, to be feared.

Initium sapientiae timor Domini,
intellectus bonus omnibus facientibus ea;
laudatio eius manet in saeculum saeculi.

*To fear the Lord is the first stage of wisdom;
all who do so prove themselves wise.
His praise shall last 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 saecula saeculorum. Amen.

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

The Antiphon is repeated.

THIRD ANTIPHON

REGNAVIT Dominus Deus noster
Omnipotens, alleluia.

*The Lord is King: our God, the Almighty,
alleluia.*

CANTICLE

Apocalypse 19:1-2. 5-7

Alleluia.	Alleluia.
Salus et gloria et virtus Deo nostro:	<i>Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,</i>
Alleluia.	Alleluia.
quia vera et iusta iudicia eius.	<i>his judgements are true and just.</i>
Alleluia, alleluia.	Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia.	Alleluia.
Laudem dicite Deo nostro, omnes servi eius:	<i>Praise our God, all you his servants,</i>
Alleluia.	Alleluia.
et qui timetis eum, pusilli et magni!	<i>you who fear him, small and great.</i>
Alleluia, alleluia.	Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia.	Alleluia.
Quoniam regnavit Dominus,	<i>The Lord our God,</i>
Deus noster omnipotens:	<i>the Almighty, reigns,</i>
Alleluia.	Alleluia.
Gaudeamus et exsulemus et demus gloriam ei.	<i>let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.</i>
Alleluia, alleluia.	Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia.	Alleluia.
Quia venerunt nuptiæ Agni:	<i>The marriage of the Lamb has come,</i>
Alleluia.	Alleluia.
et uxor eius præparavit se.	<i>and his bride has made herself ready.</i>
Alleluia, alleluia.	Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia.	Alleluia.
Gloria Patri et Filio:	<i>Glory be to the Father and to the Son</i>
Alleluia.	Alleluia.
et Spiritui Sancto.	<i>and to the Holy Spirit,</i>
Alleluia, alleluia.	Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia.	Alleluia.
Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper	<i>as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,</i>
Alleluia.	Alleluia.
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.	<i>world without end. Amen.</i>
Alleluia, alleluia.	Alleluia, alleluia.

The Antiphon is repeated.

BLESSED be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time.

SHORT RESPONSORY

Benedictus es, Domine, *Blessed are you, O Lord,*
in firmamento cæli. *in the vault of heaven.*

℣ Et laudabilis et gloriosus *You are exalted and glorified above all else*
in sæcula. ℟ *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

CHRISTUS nobis dicit in evangelio: Qui non renuntiat
Omni quæ possidet, non potest esse meus discipulus.

*Christ says to us in the Gospel: None of you can be my disciple
unless he gives up all his possessions.*

MAGNIFICAT

Magnificat for Saint Paul's Cathedral

Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

MY soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things;
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Antiphon is repeated.

INTERCESSIONS

God is ever creative. His love renews all things and is the source of our hope. Let us turn to him in confidence:

R. Lord, accept our thanks and our prayers.

We give thanks for the order of created things: – you have blessed us with the resources of the earth and the gift of human life. **R.**

We give thanks for man's share in your continuing work of creation: – we praise you for your gifts to him of inventive skill and creative vision. **R.**

We pray for all the nations of the world: – may those in authority work for peace and goodwill among all. **R.**

We pray for all who are homeless today: – we pray for families searching for a place to live, and for refugees driven from their homeland. **R.**

Life was your first gift to us: – may those who have died come to its fullness 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-gainst us;
and lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but de-liv-er us from e- vil.

COLLECT

SINCE it is from you, God our Father, that redemption comes to us, your adopted children, look with favour on the family you love, give true freedom to us and to all who believe in Christ, and bring us all alike to our eternal heritage. 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.**

The Choir sings

THE MOTET

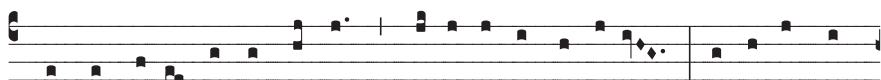
BEATUS vir qui timet Dominum: in mandatis eius volet nimis. Potens in terra erit semen eius; generatio rectorum benedicetur. Gloria et divitiae in domo eius: et iustitia eius manet in saeculum saeculi. Exortum est in tenebris lumen rectis: misericors, et miserator, et iustus. Iucundus homo qui miseretur et commodat; disponet sermones suos in iudicio: quia in aeternum non commovebitur. In memoria aeterna erit iustus; ab auditione mala non timebit. Paratum cor eius sperare in Domino, confirmatum est cor eius; non commovebitur donec despiciat inimicos suos. Dispersit, dedit pauperibus; iustitia eius manet in saeculum saeculi: cornu eius exaltabitur in gloria. Peccator videbit, et irascetur; dentibus suis fremet et tabescet: Desiderium peccatorum peribit. Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Happy the man who fears the Lord, who take delight in all his commands. His sons shall be powerful on earth; the children of the upright are blessed. Riches and wealth are in his house; his justice stands firm for ever. He is a light in the darkness for the upright: he is generous, merciful and just. The good man takes pity and lends, he conducts his affairs with honour. The just man will never waver: he will be remembered for ever. He has no fear of evil news; with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. With a steadfast heart he will not fear; he will see the downfall of his foes. Open-handed, he gives to the poor; his justice stands firm for ever. His head will be raised in glory. The wicked man sees and is angry, grinds his teeth and fades away; the desire of the wicked leads to doom. 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.

Claudio Monteverdi (1567–1643)

All sing

T



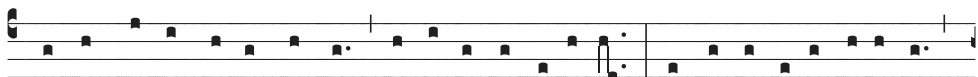
ANTUM er-go Sa-craméntum * Vene-rémur cégnu-i : et an-tí-quum
Therefore we, before him bending, this great Sacrament revere; types and shadows



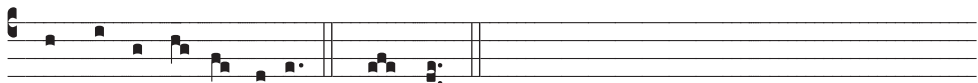
do-cuméntum No-vo ce-dat rí-tu-i : præstet fi-des suppleméntum
have their ending, for the newer rite is here; faith our outward sense befriending,



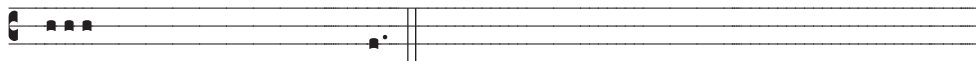
sénsu-um de-féc-tu-i. Ge-ni-tó-ri, Ge-ni-tó-que laus et iu-bi-la-ti-o,
makes our inward vision clear. Glory let us give and blessing to the Father and the Son,



sa-lus, honor, virtus quoque sit et be-ne-dícti-o : pro-ce-dénti ab utró-que
honour, thanks, and praise addressing while eternal ages run; ever too his love confessing,



compar sit lau-dá-ti-o. A- men.
who from both with both is One.



∇ Panem de cælo præstitisti e- is.
You gave them bread from heaven.



℞ **Omne delectaméntum in se habén- tem.**
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.*

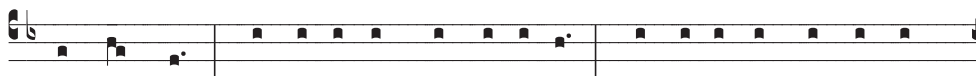
℞ **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *is given.*

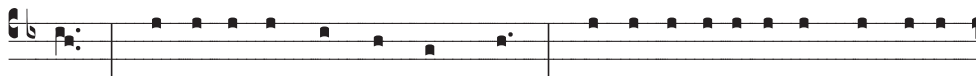
THE DIVINE PRAISES



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



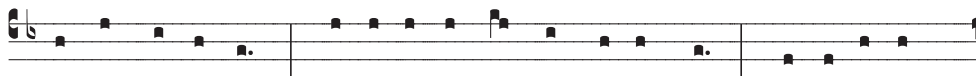
Heart. Blessèd be his Most Precious Blood. Blessèd be Jesus in the Most Holy



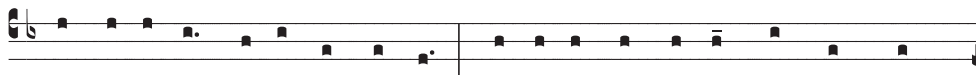
Sacrament of the Al-tar. Blessèd be the Holy Spi-rit, the Pa-raclete. Blessèd be



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

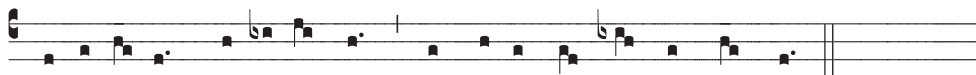


name of Ma-ry, Virgin and Mother. Blessèd be Saint Joseph, her most chaste



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

As the Blessed Sacrament is reposed, all sing



A-do-rémus * 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-rémus * 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-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.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Nuages Ensolleillés sur le Cap Nègre (Promenades en Provence) Eugène Reuchsel (1900–1988)

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