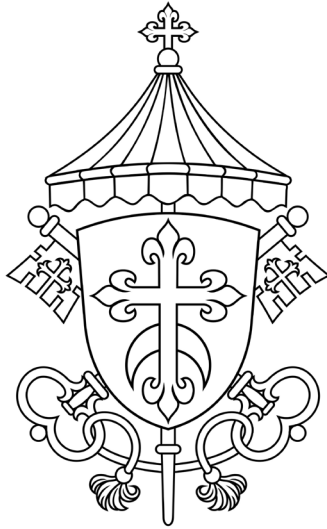


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

THE EXALTATION
OF THE HOLY CROSS

Saturday 13 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.

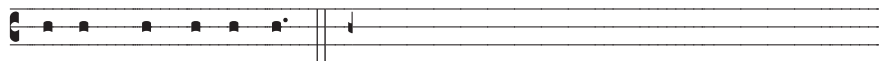
**TO MAINTAIN A SPIRIT OF REVERENCE AND SOLEMNITY,
PLEASE TURN OFF AND REFRAIN FROM USING ALL MOBILE TELEPHONES
AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

ORDER OF VESPERS

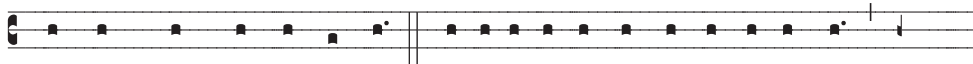
At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.

INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFICE

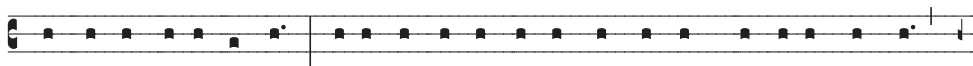
Ψ
O



God, come to our aid.



Ⲛ 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

THE roy-al banners forward go, The Cross shines forth in mystic glow;

Where he in flesh, our flesh who made, Our sen- tence bore, our ransom paid.

2. Where deep for us the spear was dyed, Life's torrent rushing from his side,

To wash us in that precious flood, Where min- gled wa-ter flowed, and blood.

3. O Tree of beauty, Tree of light, O Tree with roy-al purple dight!

Elect on whose tri-umphal breast Those ho- ly limbs should find their rest!

4. On whose dear arms, so wide-ly flung, The weight of this world's ransom hung,

The price of humankind to pay And spoil the spoil-er of his prey.

5. To thee, e- ter- nal Three in One, Let homage meet by all be done:

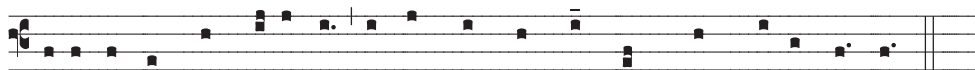
Whom by thy Cross thou dost restore, Preserve and govern ev-er-more. A- men.

All sit.

PSALMODY

All sing the FIRST ANTIPHON

Mode II

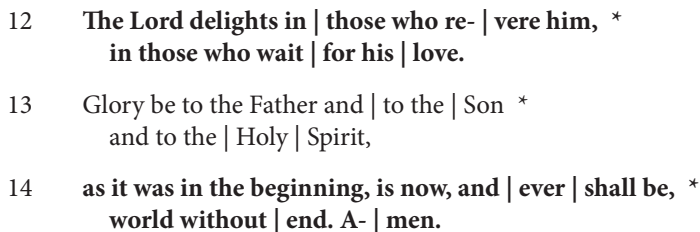


After he had been crucified he rose from the dead and brought us redemption.

PSALM 146 (147)



- Cantor* 1 Praise the Lord for he is good; †
sing to our God for | he is | loving: *
to him our | praise is | due.
- All* 2 **The Lord | builds up Je- | rusalem ***
and brings back | Israel's | exiles,
- 3 he heals the | broken- | hearted, *
he binds up | all their | wounds.
- 4 **He fixes the number | of the | stars; ***
he calls each one | by its | name.
- 5 Our Lord is | great and al- | mighty; *
his wisdom can ne- | ver be | measured.
- 6 **The Lord | raises the | lowly; ***
he humbles the wicked | to the | dust.
- 7 O sing to the | Lord giving | thanks; *
sing psalms to our God | with the | harp.
- 8 **He covers the | heavens with | clouds; ***
he prepares the rain | for the | earth,
- 9 making mountains | sprout with | grass *
and with plants to | serve man's | needs.
- 10 **He provides the | beasts with their | food ***
and young ravens that | call up- | on him.
- 11 His delight is | not in | horses *
nor his pleasure in | warriors' | strength.



Mode VIII



<i>Cantor</i>	1	O praise the Lord, Je- rusalem! *
		Zion, praise your God!
<i>All</i>	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.

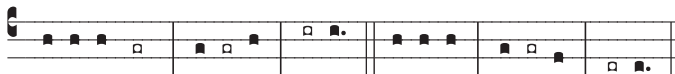
All sing the THIRD ANTIPHON

Mode IV

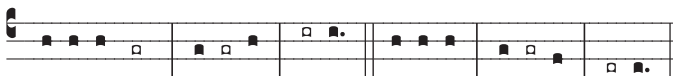


It is right for us to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

CANTICLE Philippians 2:6-11

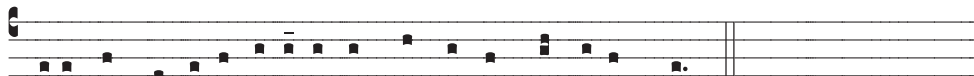


- Cantor* 1 Though he was in the | form of | God, *
 Jesus did not count equality with God a thing | to be | grasped.
- All* 2 **He emptied him-self †**
 taking the form | of a | servant, *
 being born in the like- | ness of | men.
- 3 And being found in human form, †
 he humbled himself and became obedient | unto | death, *
 even death | on a | cross.



- 4 **Therefore God has high- | ly ex- | alted him ***
 and bestowed on him the name which is above | every | name.
- 5 That at the name of Jesus every | knee should | bow, *
 in heaven and on earth and un- | der the | earth,
- 6 **And every tongue confess that Jesus | Christ is | Lord, ***
 to the glory of | God the | Father.
- 7 Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son *
 and to the | Holy | Spirit,
- 8 **as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, ***
 world without | end. A- | men.

All repeat the antiphon.



It is right for us to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

WE proclaim Christ—yes, Christ nailed to the cross: and though it is a stumbling-block to Jews and folly to Greeks, yet to those who have heard his call, Jews and Greeks alike, he is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

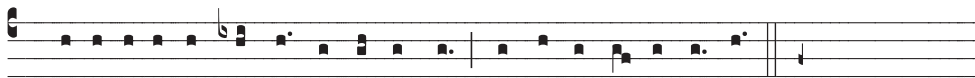
THE SHORT RESPONSORY



This sign will appear in heaven * when the Lord comes.



℣. Lift up your heads: your salvation is at hand. ℟. **when the Lord comes.**



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



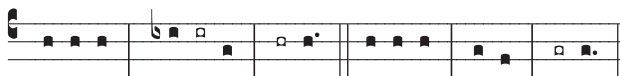
℟. **This sign will appear in heaven * when the Lord comes.**

All stand.



It was fitting that Christ should suffer and rise from the dead

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, *
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 mighty | 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 pray to our Redeemer, who went to the cross for our sakes.

R. Lead us into your kingdom through the cross.

Lord Jesus, you took the form of a slave and became like us: grant us a share in your humility. **R.**

Lord Jesus, you humbled yourself becoming obedient even unto the death of the cross: let us share your obedience in suffering. **R.**

Lord Jesus, you were raised on high by God, and given a name above every other name: grant us perseverance, and a share in your glory. **R.**

Let every knee bow at the name of Jesus: fire the hearts of all with your love. **R.**

Son of God, grant salvation to those who have called you their Lord: take our deceased brothers and sisters into your kingdom. **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

GOD our Father,
in obedience to your will
your Only-Begotten Son
endured the cross for our salvation.
Grant that as we have come to know
the mystery of the cross here on earth,
we may receive its rewards in heaven.
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-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.



St Mary's Cathedral

St Mary's Road

Sydney NSW 2000

www.stmaryscathedral.org.au

General enquiries

Tel: (02) 9220 0400

Fax: (02) 9223 5208

Email: info@stmaryscathedral.org.au