

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE

22 November 2025
5.30pm

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.

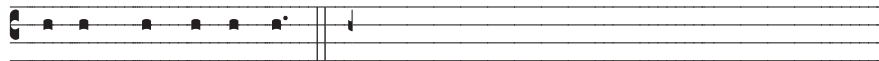
**TO MAINTAIN A SPIRIT OF REVERENCE AND SOLEMNITY,
PLEASE TURN OFF AND REFRAIN FROM USING ALL MOBILE TELEPHONES
AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

ORDER OF VESPERS

At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.

INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFICE

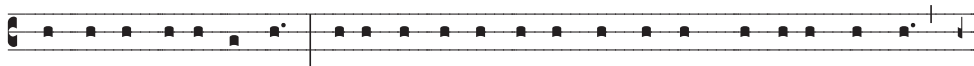
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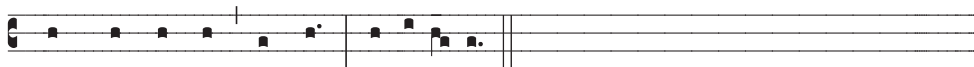
God, come to our aid.



Ⲙ 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 HYMN

Crown him with ma - ny crowns, The Lamb up - on his throne;
Hark! how the heav-enly an - tem drowns All mu - sic but its own:
A - wake, my soul, and sing Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy match-less King Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Crown him the Lord of peace,
Whose power a sceptre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
Absorbed in prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end,
And round his piercèd feet
Fair flowers of Paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years,
The Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.
Glassed in a sea of light,
Where everlasting waves
Reflect his throne—the Infinite!
Who lives—and loves—and saves.

Diademata
George Elvey (1816–1893)

Matthew Bridges (1800–1894)

All sit.

PSALMODY

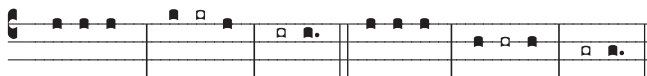
All sing the FIRST ANTIPHON

Mode VIII



He will be called the Peacemaker, and his throne will stand firm for ever.

PSALM 112 (113)



- | | | |
|---------------|----|--|
| <i>Cantor</i> | 1 | Praise, O servants of the Lord, * |
| | | praise the name of the Lord! |
| <i>All</i> | 2 | May the name of the Lord be blessed * |
| | | both now and for ever- more! |
| | 3 | From the rising of the sun to its setting * |
| | | praised be the name of the Lord! |
| | 4 | High above all nations is the Lord, * |
| | | above the heavens his glory. |
| | 5 | Who is like the Lord, our God, * |
| | | who has risen on high to his throne |
| | 6 | yet stoops from the heights to look down, * |
| | | to look down upon heaven and earth? |
| | 7 | From the dust he lifts up the lowly, * |
| | | from his misery he raises the poor |
| | 8 | to set him in the company of princes, * |
| | | yes, with the princes of his people. |
| | 9 | To the childless wife he gives a home * |
| | | and gladdens her heart with children. |
| | 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.



His kingdom is an ev-er-lasting kingdom; all kings will serve him and o-bey him.

PSALM 116 (117)



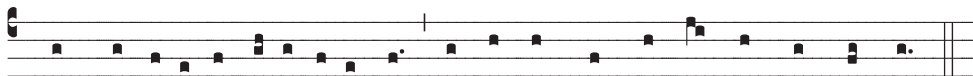
Cantor 1 O praise the Lord, | all you | nations, *
acclaim him | all you | peoples!

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 without | end. A- | men.

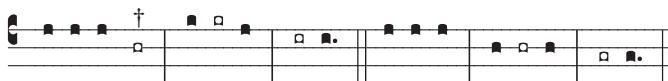
All repeat the Antiphon.



Christ was given the glory of a king; all peoples, tribes and na-tions will serve him.

CANTICLE

Apocalypse 4:11,5:9,10,12

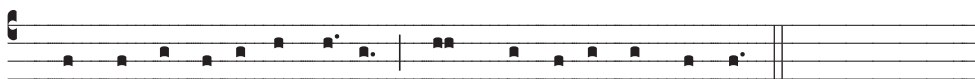


- Cantor* 1 Worthy are you, our | Lord and | God, *
to receive glory and | honour and | power,
- All* 2 **for you cre- | ated all | things, ***
and by your will they existed and | were cre- | ated.
- 3 Worthy are | you, O | Lord, *
to take the scroll and | open its | seals,
- 4 **for you were slain, †**
and by your blood you ransomed | men for | God *
from every tribe and tongue and | people and | nation.
- 5 You have made us a kingdom and | priests to our | God, *
and we shall | reign on | earth.
- 6 **Worthy is the | Lamb who was | slain ***
to receive | power and | wealth
- 7 and | wisdom and | might *
and honour and | glory and | blessing.
- 8 **Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son ***
and to the | Holy | Spirit,
- 9 as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, *
world without | end. A- | men.

All repeat the Antiphon.

GOD raised Christ from the dead, and enthroned him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all government and authority, all power and dominion, and any title of sovereignty that can be named, not only in this age but in the age to come. He put everything in subjection beneath his feet, and appointed him as supreme head to the church, which is his body and as such holds within it the fulness of him who himself receives the entire fulness of God.

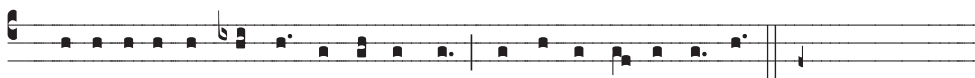
THE SHORT RESPONSORY



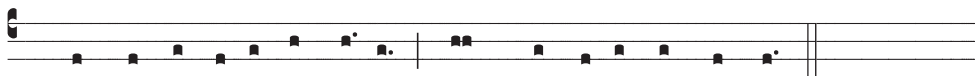
Yours are ma-jes-ty and power; yours, Lord, is the sovereignty.



℣ You are ru-ler of all. ℟ **Yours, Lord, is the sovereignty.**

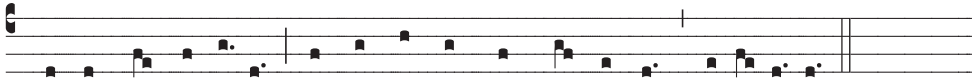


℣ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit.



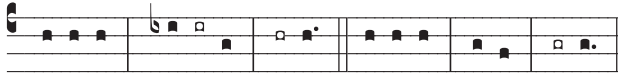
℟ **Yours are ma-jes-ty and power; yours, Lord, is the sovereignty.**

All stand.



He will reign for ev-er and his kingdom will know no end, al-le- lu- ia.

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

To Christ our King, who is first in all things and in whom all things exist, let us confidently pray:

℟. **Lord, may your kingdom come.**

Lord Jesus Christ, our king and our shepherd, gather your flock from every corner of the earth: set it to graze it in your fresh and fertile pastures. ℟.

Jesus, our leader and Saviour, make all people your own; heal the sick, seek out the lost, preserve the strong: bring back the strayed, reunite those who are scattered and give new hope to the downhearted. ℟.

Jesus, eternal judge, when you hand over your kingdom to your Father, seat us at your right hand; and let us take possession of the kingdom prepared for us since the foundation of the world. ℟.

Jesus, prince of peace, destroy the weapons of war: speak words of peace to your people. ℟.

Jesus, heir of all nations, bring all mankind into the kingdom of your Church, which was entrusted to you by the Father: so that all may acknowledge you as the Head in the unity of the Holy Spirit. ℟.

Jesus, firstborn of the dead and first-fruits of those who sleep, bring all who have died to the glory of 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

ALMIGHTY, ever-living God,
it is your will to unite the entire universe under your beloved Son,
Jesus Christ, the King of heaven and earth.
Grant freedom to the whole of creation,
and let it praise and serve your majesty for ever.
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.



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