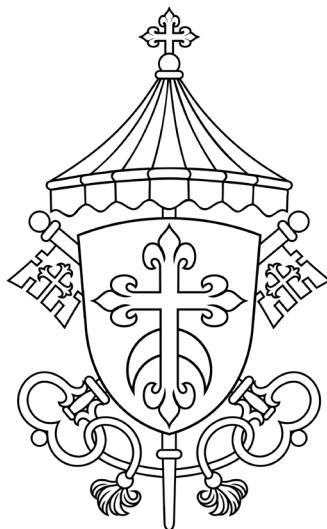


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Solemn Vespers and Benediction

The Office of Evening Prayer

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE

23 November 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;



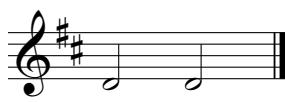
Bel - la pre-munt ho - stí - li - a, Da ro - bur, fer au - xí - li - um.
Our foes press hard on every side; thine aid supply; thy strength bestow.



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



Qui vi - tam si - ne té - 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.
℟. Domine, ad adiuvandum me festina.
Gloria Patri et Filio
et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio
et nunc et semper
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen. Alleluia.

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

OFFICE HYMN

Te saeculorum principem,
Te, Christe, Regem gentium,
Te mentium, te cordium
Unum fatemur arbitrum.

Quem prona adorant agmina
Hymnisque laudant cælitum,
Te nos ovantes omnium
Regem supremum dicimus.

O Christe, princeps pacifer,
Mentes rebelles subice:
Tuoque amore devios
Ovile in unum congrega.

Ad hoc cruenta ab arbore
Pendes apertis brachiis,
Diraque fossum cuspide
Cor igne flagrans exhibes.

Ad hoc in aris abderis
Vini dapisque imagine,
Fundens salutem filiis
Transverberato pectore.

Iesu, tibi sit gloria,
Qui sceptra mundi temperas,
Cum Patre et almo Spiritu,
In sempiterna saecula. Amen.

*Ruler of all from heaven's high throne,
O Christ, our King ere time began,
We kneel before thee Lord, to own
Thy empire o'er the heart of man.*

*The heavenly cohorts adoring kneel,
And raise hymns in thy praise,
As we, in prayer, confess thee
Sovereign King of all.*

*O Prince of Peace, O Christ, subdue
Those rebel hearts, thy peace restore;
Into thy sheep-fold lead anew
Thy scattered sheep, to stray no more.*

*For this upon the tree of shame
Thy body hung, with arms spread wide,
The spear revealed the heart of flame
That burned within thy sacred side.*

*For this our altars here are spread
With mystic feast of bread and wine;
Still thy redeeming blood is shed
From that sore-stricken heart of thine.*

*Jesus, to thee be honour done,
who rulest all in equity.
With Father, Spirit, ever one,
From age to age eternally. Amen.*

All sit.

PSALMODY

FIRST ANTIPHON

SUPER solium David et super regnum
eius sedebit in æternum, alleluia.

*He will sit on the throne of David and will
rule his kingdom for ever, alleluia.*

PSALM 109 (110)

Dixit Dominus Domino meo:
«Sede a dextris meis,

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

donec ponam inimicos tuos:
scabellum pedum tuorum».

*your foes I will put
beneath your feet.'*

Virgam potentiae tuæ emittet Dominus ex Sion:
dominare in medio inimicorum tuorum.

*The Lord will wield from Zion your sceptre of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes.*

Tecum principatus in die virtutis tuæ,
in splendoribus sanctis:
ex utero ante luciferum genui te.

*A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before the dawn I begot you.*

Iuravit Dominus et non pænititbit eum:
«Tu es sacerdos in æternum secundum
ordinem Melchisedech».

*The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change.
'You are a priest for ever,
a priest like Melchizedek of old.'*

Dominus a dextris tuis:
conquassabit in die iræ suæ reges.

*The Master standing at your right hand
will shatter kings in the day of his wrath.*

De torrente in via bibet:
propterea exaltabit caput.

*He shall drink from the stream by the wayside
and therefore he shall lift up his head.*

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.*

The Antiphon is repeated.

SECOND ANTIPHON

REGNUM tuum, regnum omnium sæculorum, et dominatio tua in omnem generationem et generationem.

Yours is an everlasting kingdom; Lord your rule lasts from age to age.

PSALM 144 (145)

Exaltabo te, Deus meus rex, *
et benedicam nomini tuo
in sæculum et in sæculum sæculi.

Per singulos dies benedicam tibi, *
et laudabo nomen tuum
in sæculum et in sæculum sæculi.

Magnus Dominus et laudabilis nimis, *
et magnitudinis eius non est investigatio.

Generatio generationi laudabit opera tua, *
et potentiam tuam pronuntiabunt.

Magnificentiam gloriae maiestatis tuæ loquentur, *
et mirabilia tua enarrabunt.

Et virtutem terribilium tuorum dicent, *
et magnitudinem tuam narrabunt.

Memoriam abundantiæ suavitatis tuæ eructabunt, *
et iustitia tua exsultabunt.

Miserator et misericors Dominus, *
longanimes et multæ misericordiæ.

Suavis Dominus universis, *
et miserationes eius super omnia opera eius.

Confiteantur tibi, Domine, omnia opera tua; *
et sancti tui benedicant tibi.

Gloriam regni tui dicant, *
et potentiam tuam loquuntur,

ut notas faciant filiis hominum potentias tuas, *
et gloriam magnificentiæ regni tui.

Regnum tuum regnum omnium sæculorum, *
et dominatio tua in omnem generationem
et generationem.

Gloria Patri...

*I will give you glory, O God my king,
I will bless your name
for ever.*

*I will bless you day after day
and praise your name
for ever.*

*The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured.*

*Age to age shall proclaim your works,
shall declare your mighty deeds,*

*shall speak of your splendour and glory,
tell the tale of your wonderful works.*

*They will speak of your terrible deeds,
recount your greatness and might.*

*They will recall your abundant goodness;
age to age shall ring out your justice.*

*The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.*

*How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.*

*All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.*

*They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God,*

*to make known to men your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendour of your reign.*

*Yours is an everlasting kingdom;
your rule lasts from age
to age.*

Glory be to the Father...

The Antiphon is repeated.

THIRD ANTIphon

HABET in vestimento et in femore suo scriptum: Rex regum et Dominus dominantium. Ipsi gloria et imperium in sacerdola sacerdolorum.

On his cloak and on his thigh there was a name written: The King of kings and the Lord of lords. To him be glory and honour for ever and ever.

CANTICLE Apocalypse 19:1-2. 5-7

Salus et gloria et virtus Deo nostro:
Alleluia.
quia vera et iusta iudicia eius.
Alleluia, alleluia.

*Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,
Alleluia.
his judgements are true and just.
Alleluia, alleluia.*

Laudem dicite Deo nostro, omnes servi eius:
Alleluia.
et qui timetis eum, pusilli et magni!
Alleluia, alleluia.

*Praise our God, all you his servants,
Alleluia.
you who fear him, small and great.
Alleluia, alleluia.*

Quoniam regnavit Dominus,
Deus noster omnipotens:
Alleluia.

*The Lord our God,
the Almighty, reigns,
Alleluia.*

Gaudemus et exsultemus et demus gloriam ei.
Alleluia, alleluia.

*let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.
Alleluia, alleluia.*

Quia venerunt nuptiae Agni:
Alleluia.
et uxor eius præparavit se.
Alleluia, alleluia.

*The marriage of the Lamb has come,
Alleluia.
and his bride has made herself ready.
Alleluia, alleluia.*

Gloria Patri et Filio:
Alleluia.
et Spiritui Sancto.
Alleluia, alleluia.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son
Alleluia.
and to the Holy Spirit,
Alleluia, alleluia.*

Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper
Alleluia.
et in sacerdola sacerdolorum. Amen.
Alleluia, alleluia.

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

The Antiphon is repeated.

HE must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet, and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet. Though when it is said that everything is subjected, this clearly cannot include the One who subjected everything to him. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

SHORT RESPONSORY

Sedes tua, Deus, In sæculum sæculi.	<i>Your throne, O God, shall stand for ever and ever.</i>
¶ Sceptrum æquitatis, sceptrum regni tui. R.	<i>The sceptre of your kingdom is a sceptre of justice.</i>
¶ Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto. R.	<i>Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.</i>

All stand.

MAGNIFICAT ANTIPHON

DATA est mihi omnis potestas
 in cælo et in terra, alleluia.

*All authority in heaven and on
 earth has been given to me, alleluia.*

MAGNIFICAT

Octavi toni

Cristóbal de Morales (c.1500–1553)

	Magnificat anima mea Dominum,	<i>My soul glorifies the Lord,</i>
	et exsultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo,	<i>my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.</i>
quia respexit humilitatem ancillæ suæ. Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes,		<i>He looks on his servant in her lowliness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed.</i>
quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est, et sanctum nomen eius,		<i>The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!</i>
et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies timentibus eum.		<i>His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him.</i>
Fecit potentiam in brachio suo, dispersit superbos mente cordis sui;		<i>He puts forth his arm in strength and scatters the proud-hearted.</i>
depositus potentes de sede; et exaltavit humiles;		<i>He casts the mighty from their thrones and raises the lowly.</i>
esurientes implevit bonis et divites dimisit inanes.		<i>He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty.</i>
Suscepit Israel puerum suum, recordatus misericordiæ suæ,		<i>He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy,</i>
sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et semini eius in sæcula.		<i>the mercy promised to our fathers, to Abraham and his sons for ever.</i>
Gloria Patri et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.		<i>Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,</i>
Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.		<i>as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.</i>

The Antiphon is repeated.

INTERCESSIONS

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

R: **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. R:

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. R:

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. R:

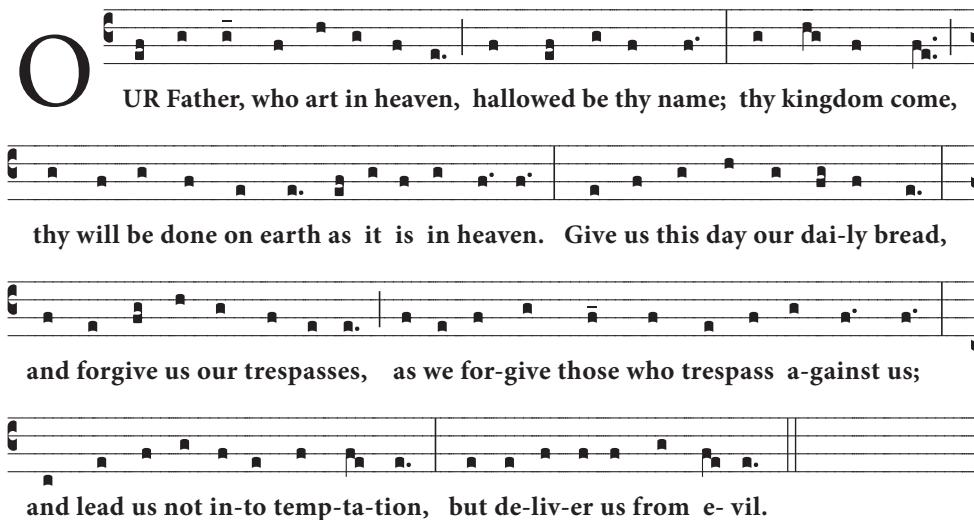
Jesus, prince of peace, destroy the weapons of war: speak words of peace to your people. R:

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. R:

Jesus, firstborn of the dead and first-fruits of those who sleep, bring all who have died to the glory of your resurrection. R:

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All sing



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.

R: **Amen.**

The Choir sings

THE MOTET

LAUDIBUS in sanctis Dominum celebrate supremum: firmamenta sonent inclyta facta Dei; inclyta facta Dei cantate, sacraque potentis voce potestatem sæpe sonate manus. Magnificum Domini cantet tuba martia nomen: pieria Domino concelebrate lyra. Laude Dei resonent resonantia tympana summi: Alta sacri resonent organa laude Dei. Hunc arguta canant tenui psalteria corda, hunc agili laudet læta chorea pede. Concava divinas effundant cymbala laudes, cymbala dulcesona laude repleta Dei. Omne quod æthereis in mundo vescitur auris. Alleluia canat, tempus in omne Deo.

Praise the Lord most high with praises in his sanctuary: let the firmament resound the celebrated works of God. Sing the celebrated works of God, and in a voice of holy might sound forth often the power of his hand. Let the martial trumpet sing the Lord's splendid name: together praise the Lord with the Pierian lyre. Let resounding drums sound to the praise of God most high: let high organs sound to the praise of God most holy to whom skilful psalteries sing with subtle string, to whom let joyful dance give praise with nimble foot. Hollow cymbals pour out divine praises, sweet-sounding cymbals full of the praise of God. All on earth that is fed by the air of heaven sings halleluya in eternity to God.

William Byrd (c.1540–1623)

All sing

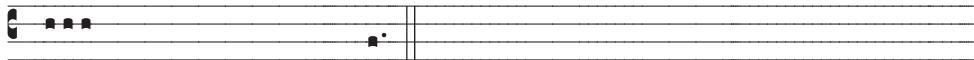
TANTUM er-go Sa-craméntum * Vene-rémur cérnui : et an-tí-quum
Therefore we, before him bending, this great Sacrament revere; types and shadows

do-cuméntum No-vo ce-dat rí-tu-i : præstet fi-des suppléméntum
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 caelo præstitisti e- is.

You gave them bread from heaven.



¶ Omne delectaméntum in se habén- tem.

Containing in itself all sweetness.

Oremus.

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.

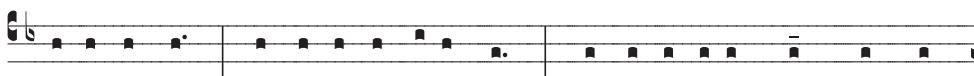
¶ Amen.

Let us pray.

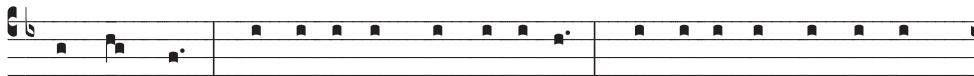
O God, who in a wonderful Sacrament has left us a memorial of your passion: grant us so to venerate the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood, that we may perceive within ourselves the fruit of thy redemption; who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

BENEDICTION *is given.*

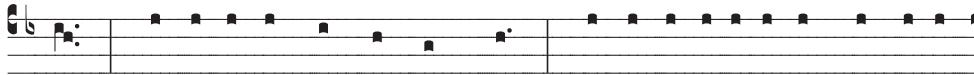
THE DIVINE PRAISES



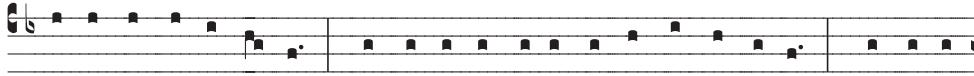
Blessèd be God. Blessèd be his Holy Name. Blessèd be Jesus Christ, true God



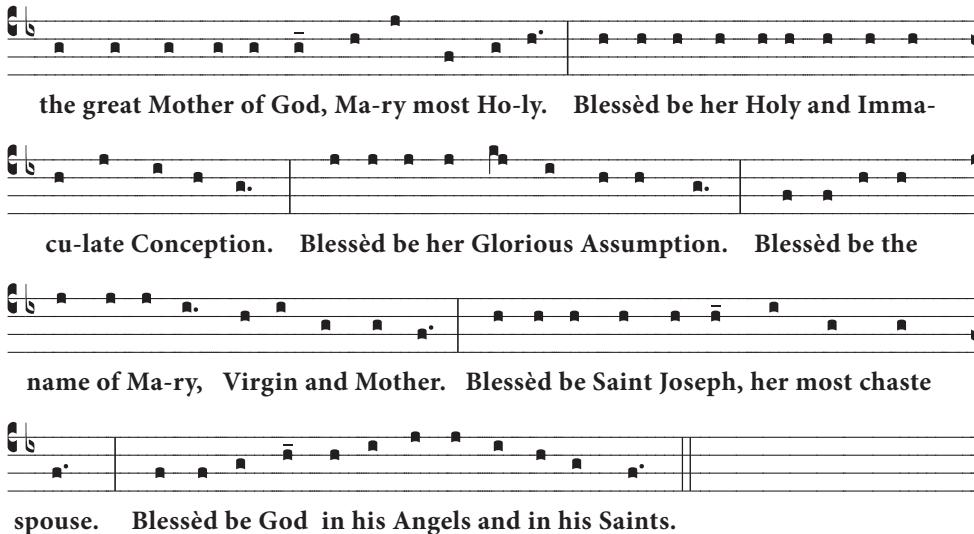
and true Man. Blessèd be the Name of Je-sus. Blessèd be his Most Sacred



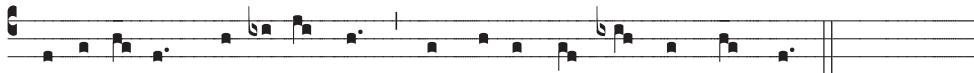
Heart. Blessèd be his Most Precious Blood. Blessèd be Jesus in the Most Holy



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



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.

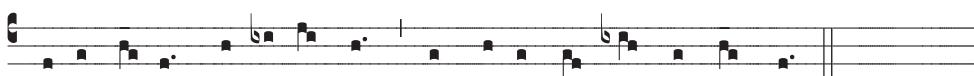
Quoniam confirmata est super nos
 misericordia eius:
 et veritas Domini manet in æternum.

Gloria Patri, et Filio:
 et Spiritui Sancto,
 sicut erat in principio, et nunc et semper:
 et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

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

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

*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.*



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-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-ri- a.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Motet: Deus, tibi laus et honor (adapted from K345)

Edward John Hopkins (1818–1901)

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