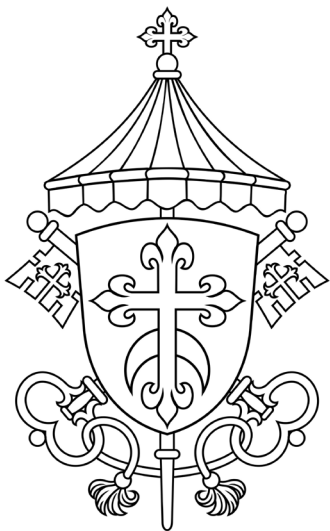


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Solemn Vespers and Benediction

The Office of Evening Prayer

FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

30 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 - 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

Conditor alme siderum, æterna lux credentium, Christe, redemptor omnium, exaudi preces supplicum.	<i>Creator of the stars of night, Thy people's everlasting light, O Christ, thou saviour of us all, We pray thee, hear us when we call.</i>
Qui condolens interitu mortis perire sæculum, salvast mundum languidum, donans reis remedium	<i>To thee the travail deep was known That made the whole creation groan Till thou, Redeemer, shouldst free Thine own in glorious liberty.</i>
Vergente mundi vespere, uti sponsus de thalamo, egressus honestissima Virginis matris clausula.	<i>When the old world drew on toward night, Thou camest, not in splendour bright As monarch, but the humble child Of Mary, blameless mother mild.</i>
Cuius forti potentiae genu curvantur omnia; cælestia, terrestria nutu fatentur subdita.	<i>At thy great name, O Jesu, now All knees must bend, all hearts must bow; And things celestial thee shall own, And things terrestrial, Lord alone.</i>
Te, Sancte, fide quæsumus, venture iudex sæculi, conserva nos in tempore hostis a telo perfidi.	<i>Come in thy holy might, we pray; Redeem us for eternal day From every power of darkness, when Thou judgest all the sons of men.</i>
Sit, Christe, rex piissime, tibi Patrique gloria cum Spiritu Paraclito, in sempiterna sæcula. Amen.	<i>To God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit, Three in One, Laud, honour, might, and glory be From age to age eternally. Amen.</i>

PSALMODY

FIRST ANTIPHON

IUCUNDARE, filia Sion, et exsulta satis, filia
Ierusalem, alleluia.

*Rejoice greatly, daughter of Sion, shout with
gladness, daughter of Jerusalem, alleluia.*

PSALM 109 (110)

Dixit Dominus Domino meo: *The Lord's revelation to my Master:*
«Sede a dextris meis, *'Sit on my right:*

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

REX noster adveniet Christus, quem Ioannes
prædicavit Agnum esse venturum.

*Christ our King will come. He is the Lamb that
John announced.*

PSALM 113A (114)

In exitu Israel de Ægypto, *When Israel came forth from Egypt,*
domus Iacob de populo barbaro, *Jacob's sons from an alien people,*

factus est Iuda sanctuarium eius, *Judah became the Lord's temple,*
Israel potestas eius. *Israel became his kingdom.*

Mare vidit et fugit, *The sea fled at the sight:*
Iordanis conversus est retrorsum; *the Jordan turned back on its course,*

montes saltaverunt ut arietes, *the mountains leapt like rams*
et colles sicut agni ovium. *and the hills like yearling sheep.*

Quid est tibi, mare, quod fugisti? *Why was it, sea, that you fled,*
Et tu, Iordanis, *that you turned back, Jordan,*
quia conversus es retrorsum? *on your course?*

Montes, quod saltastis sicut arietes, *Mountains, that you leapt like rams;*
et colles, sicut agni ovium? *hills, like yearling sheep?*

A facie Domini contremisce, terra, *Tremble, O earth, before the Lord,*
a facie Dei Iacob, *in the presence of the God of Jacob,*

qui convertit petram *who turns the rock*
in stagna aquarum *into a pool*
et silicem in fontes aquarum. *and flint into a spring of water.*

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.

THIRD ANTIPHON

ECCE venio cito, et merces mea mecum est, dicit
Dominus: dare unicuique secundum opera sua.

*Behold I am coming soon to reward every man
according to his deeds, says the Lord.*

CANTICLE

Apocalypse 19:1-2. 5-7

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

The Antiphon is repeated.

REJOICE in the Lord always; again I will say,
Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance.
The Lord is at hand.

SHORT RESPONSORY

Ostende nobis, Domine, *Show us, Lord,*
misericordiam tuam. *your steadfast love.*

℣. Et salutare tuum da nobis. ℟. *And grant us your salvation.*

℣. 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

SPIRITUS Sanctus in te descendet, Maria: ne timeas, habebis
in utero Filium Dei, alleluia.

*Mary, the Holy Spirit will descend on you. Do not fear: you will
carry the Son of God in your womb. Alleluia.*

MAGNIFICAT

Octavi toni

David Bevan (1951-2021)

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>
deposuit 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

We pray to our Lord, who is the way, the truth, and the life.

℟. **Come, and remain with us, Lord.**

Gabriel announced your coming to the Virgin Mary: Son of the most High, come to claim your kingdom. ℟.

John the Baptist rejoiced to see your day: come, bring us your salvation. ℟.

Simeon acknowledged you, Light of the World: bring your light to all men of goodwill. ℟.

We look for you as watchmen look for the dawn: you are the sun that will wake the dead to new life. ℟.

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

GRANT, almighty Father,
that when Christ comes again
we may go out to meet him
bearing the harvest of good works
achieved by your grace.
We pray that he will receive us into the company of the saints
and call us into the kingdom of 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.**

The Choir sings

THE MOTET

VOX dicentis: Clama: et dixi: Quid clamabo? Omnis caro foenum, et omnis gloria eius quasi flos agri. Vere foenum est populus. Exsiccatum est foenum, et cecidit flos: verbum autem Domini nostri manet in aeternum. Super montem excelsum ascende tu, qui evangelizas Sion: exalta in fortitudine vocem tuam, qui evangelizas Jerusalem: exalta, noli timere. Dic civitatibus Judae: Ecce Deus vester. Ecce Dominus Deus in fortitudine veniet, et brachium eius dominabitur: ecce merces eius cum eo, et opus illius coram illo. Sicut pastor gregem suum pascet, in brachio suo congregabit agnos, et in sinu suo levabit, foetas ipse portabit.

A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Isaiah 40: 6-11

Edward Woodall Naylor (1867–1934)

All sing

T



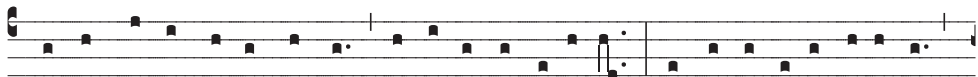
ANTUM er-go Sa-craméntum * Vene-rémur cérnui : et an-tí-quum
Therefore we, before him bending, this great Sacrament revere; types and shadows



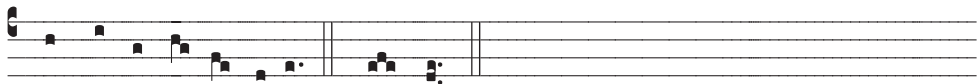
do-cuméntum No-vo ce-dat rí-tu-i : præstet fi-des suppleméntum
have their ending, for the newer rite is here; faith our outward sense befriending,



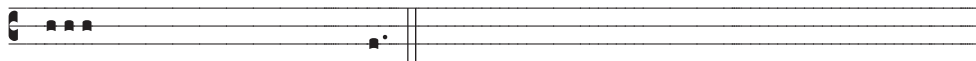
sénsu-um de-féc-tu-i. Ge-ni-tó-ri, Ge-ni-tó-que laus et iu-bi-la-ti-o,
makes our inward vision clear. Glory let us give and blessing to the Father and the Son,



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.*

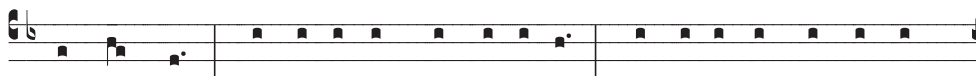
℞ Amen.

BENEDICTION *is given.*

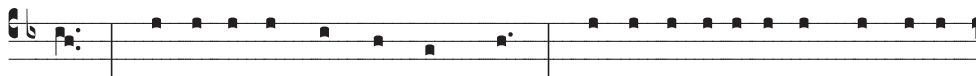
THE DIVINE PRAISES



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



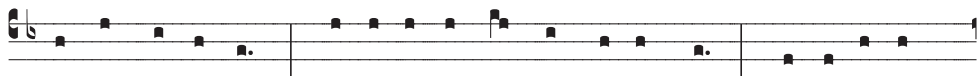
Heart. Blessèd be his Most Precious Blood. Blessèd be Jesus in the Most Holy



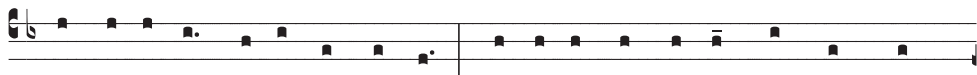
Sacrament of the Al-tar. Blessèd be the Holy Spi-rit, the Pa-raclete. Blessèd be



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

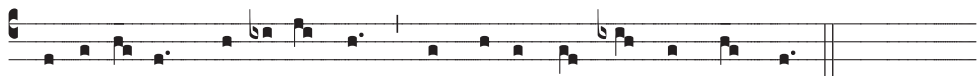


name of Ma-ry, Virgin and Mother. Blessèd be Saint Joseph, her most chaste



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

As the Blessed Sacrament is reposed, all sing



A-do-ré-mus * 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-ré-mus * 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

A



LMA * Redemptó-ris Mater, quæ pérvī-a cæli porta manes, et stella
Loving mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star



ma-ris, succúrre cadénti, súrgere qui curat, pópu-lo; tu quæ genu-ísti,
of the sea, assist your people who have fallen yet strive to rise again, To the



natúra mi-ránte, tu-um sanctum Geni-tó-rem, Virgo pri-us ac posté-ri-us,
wonderment of nature you bore your Creator, yet remained a virgin after as before,



Gabri-é-lis ab o-re sumens illud A-ve, peccató-rum mi-se-ré-re.
You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting, have pity on us poor sinners.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Ricercare on Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

George C. Baker (b. 1951)

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