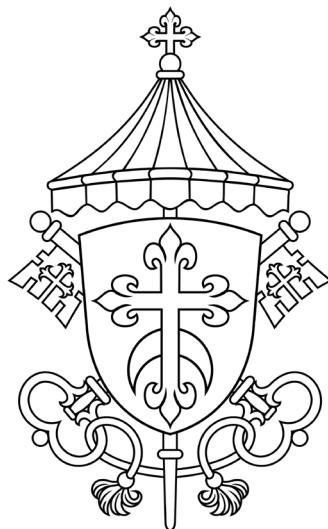


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

Third Sunday
of the Year

WEEK III

24 January 2026
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



God, come to our aid.

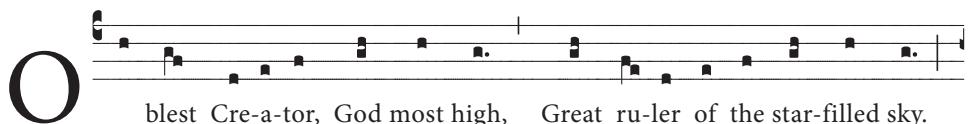
℟. O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy 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

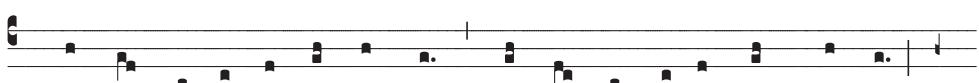
THE OFFICE HYMN



blest Cre-a-tor, God most high, Great ru-ler of the star-filled sky.



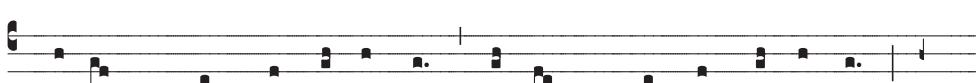
You clothe the day with ra-diant light, In sha-dows dark en-fold the night.



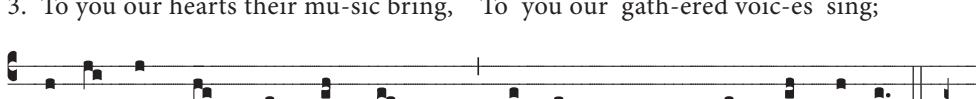
2. We thank you for this day now gone; And pray you, as the night draws on,



Help us, your child-ren, thus to raise Our eve-ning of-fer-ing of praise.



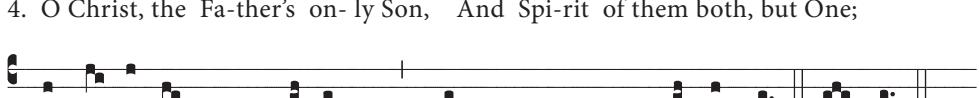
3. To you our hearts their mu-sic bring, To you our gath-ered voic-es sing;



To you our hearts' deep long-ings soar, And you our chast-en ed souls ad-ore.



4. O Christ, the Fa-ther's on- ly Son, And Spi-rit of them both, but One;



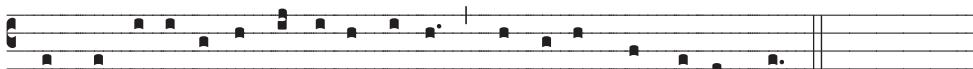
God ov- er all, whom all o- bey, Shield us, great Tri-ni-ty, we pray. A- men.

All sit.

PSALMODY

All sing the FIRST ANTIphon

Mode VII



From the rising of the sun to its setting, great is the name of the Lord.

PSALM 112 (113)



Cantor 1 Praise, O servants | of the | Lord, *
praise the | name of the | Lord!

All 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 compa- | ny 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,

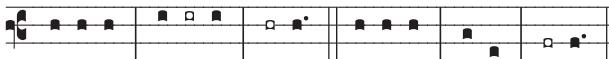
11 as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, *
world without | end. A- | men.

All repeat the Antiphon.



The chalice of sal-vation I will take, I will call on the name of the Lord.

PSALM 115 (116B)



Cantor 1 I trusted, even | when I | said: *
I am sore- | ly af- | flicted,

All 2 **and when I said in | my a- | larm: ***
No man | can be | trusted.

3 How can I re- | pay the | Lord *
for his good- | ness to | me?

4 **The cup of salvation | I will | raise; ***
I will call | on the | Lord's name.

5 My vows to the Lord I | will ful- | fill *
before | all his | people.

6 **O precious in the | eyes of the | Lord ***
is the death | of his | faithful.

7 Your servant, Lord, your | servant am | I; *
you have loo- | sened my | bonds.

8 **A thanksgiving sacri- | fice I | make; ***
I will call | on the | Lord's name.

9 My vows to the Lord I | will ful- | fill *
before | all his | people,

10 **in the courts of the | house of the | Lord, ***
in your midst, | O Je- | rusalem.

11 Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son *
and to the | Holy | Spirit,

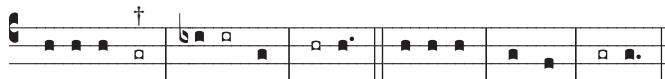
12 **as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, ***
world without | end. A- | men.

All repeat the Antiphon.



The Lord Je-sus humbled himself, but God ex-al-ted him on high for ev-er.

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 | grapsed.

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 | highly 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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 13:20-21

I PRAY that the God of peace, who brought our Lord Jesus back from the dead to become the great Shepherd of the sheep by the blood that sealed an eternal covenant, may make you ready to do his will in any kind of good action; and turn us all into whatever is acceptable to himself through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever, Amen.

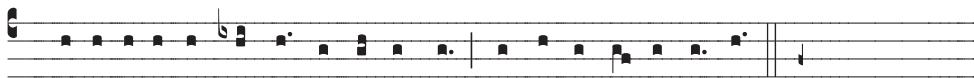
THE SHORT RESPONSORY



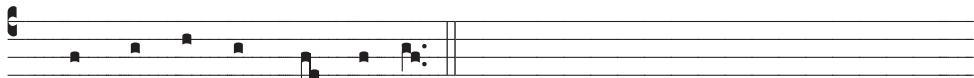
How great are your works, O Lord.



℣. In wisdom you have made them all. ℥. How great are your works, O Lord.



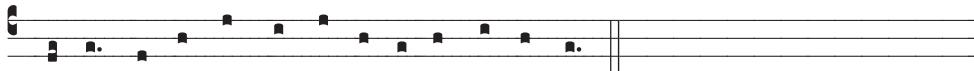
℣. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit.



℟. How great are your works, O Lord.

All stand.

MODE VIII



Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

MAGNIFICAT



Cantor 1 My soul proclaims the great- | ness 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 | blessed.

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 migh- | ty 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

Christ our Lord is mindful of all who need him, and does great things for love of them. Let us not be afraid to ask him for all our needs.

R. Show us your loving kindness.

Lord, we know that the good things we have received today have come as a gift from you: may we receive them with thankfulness and learn how to give. R.

Saviour and light of all people, keep missionaries in your special care: may the light of your Spirit burn strongly in them. R.

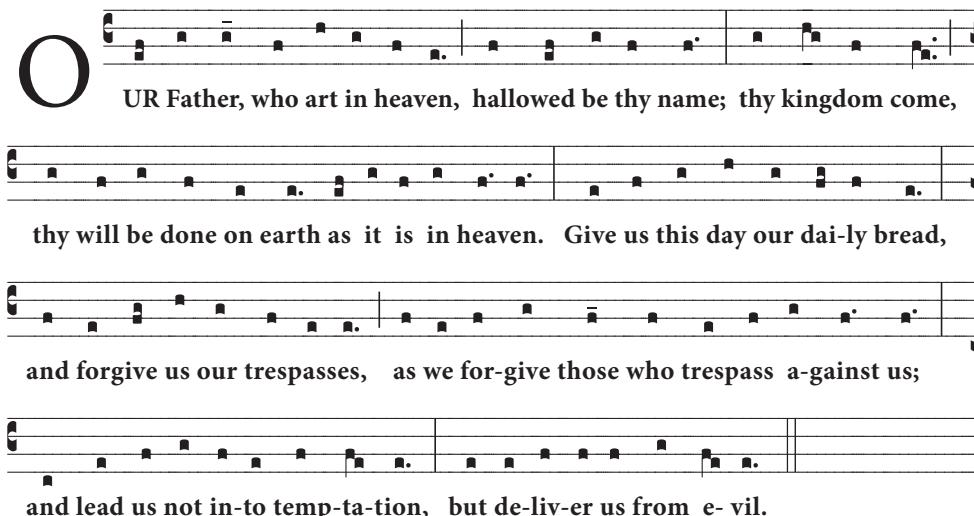
Grant that the world may be filled with the knowledge of your truth; help us to carry out all you have called us to do. R.

You healed the sickness and pain of your brothers: and sisters Bring healing and comfort to the spirit of all. R.

Give rest to the faithful departed; and bring them to praise you in eternity. 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-against us;
and lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but de-liv-er us from e- vil.

COLLECT

ALL-POWERFUL, ever-living God, direct our steps in the way of your love, so that our whole life may be fragrant with all we do in the name of Jesus, your beloved Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R: **Amen.**

CONCLUSION OF THE OFFICE

The Lord be with you.

R: **And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R: **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

R: **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.

R: **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

R: **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, ex-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-trá, il-los tu-os mi-se-ri-córdes ó-cu-los ad nos con-vér-te. Et Ie-sum,
advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; And show

be-ne-dictum 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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