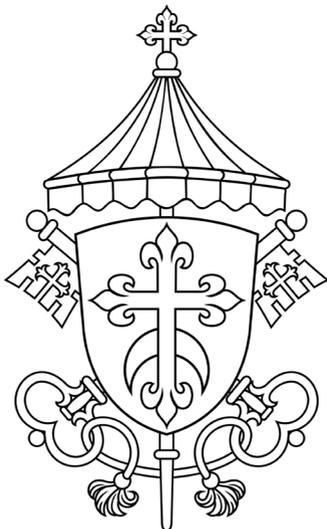


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

PALM SUNDAY
OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

28 March 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.

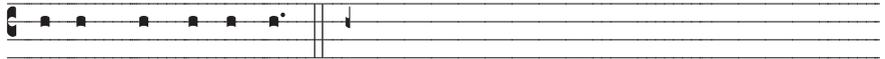
Bishops, priests, deacons, and many men and women in consecrated life pray the Liturgy of the Hours each day. Their work is organised around this prayer, keeping God always at the centre of their days. Lay people are encouraged to pray the Liturgy of the Hours as well, especially Morning and Evening 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.**

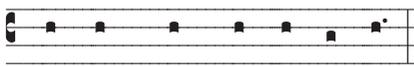
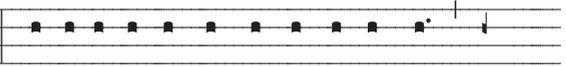
ORDER OF VESPERS

At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.

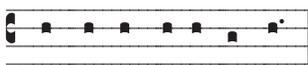
INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFICE

♯
O  || 

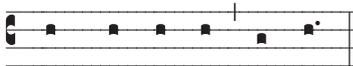
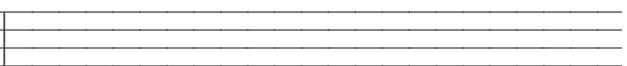
God, come to our aid.

 || 

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

 | 

and to the Holy Spi-rit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

 || 

world without end. A-men.

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!

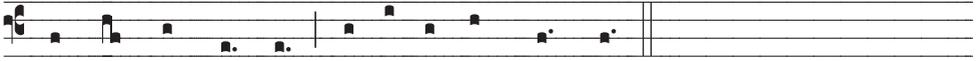
4. On whose dear arms, so wide-ly flung, The weight of this world's ransom hung,

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:

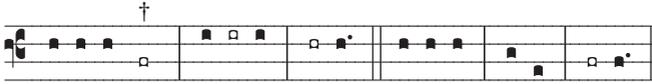
Whom by thy Cross thou dost restore, Preserve and govern ev-er-more. A- men.

All sit.



The Lord God helps me, no in-sult can wound me.

PSALM 15 (16)



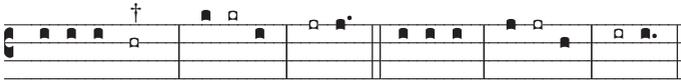
- Cantor* 1 Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you, †
I say to the Lord: | ‘You are my | God. *
My happiness lies in | you a- | lone.’
- All* 2 **He has put into my heart a | marvellous | love *
for the faithful ones who dwell | in his | land.**
- 3 Those who choose other gods increase their sorrows. †
Never will I offer their | offerings of | blood. *
Never will I take their name u- | pon my | lips.
- 4 **O Lord, it is you who are my | portion and | cup; *
It is you yourself who | are my | prize.**
- 5 The lot marked out for me is | my de- | light; *
welcome indeed the heritage that | falls to | me.
- 6 **I will bless the Lord who | gives me | counsel, *
who even at night di- | rects my | heart.**
- 7 I keep the Lord ever | in my | sight: *
since he is at my right hand, I | shall stand | firm.
- 8 **And so my heart rejoices, my | soul is | glad; *
even my body shall | rest in | safety.**
- 9 For you will not leave my soul a- | mong the | dead, *
nor let your beloved | know de- | cay.
- 10 **You will show me the path of life, †
the fulness of | joy in your | presence, *
at your right hand happi- | ness for- | ever.**
- 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 and became o-bedient to death, death on a cross.

CANTICLE
Philippians 2:6-11

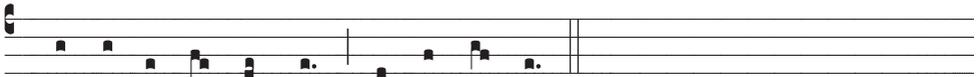


- Cantor* 1 Though he was in the | form of | God, *
 Jesus did not count equality with God a | thing to be | grasped.
- All* 2 **He emptied him-self †**
 taking the | form of a | servant, *
 being born in the | likeness of | men.
- 3 And being found in human form, †
 he humbled himself and became obedient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

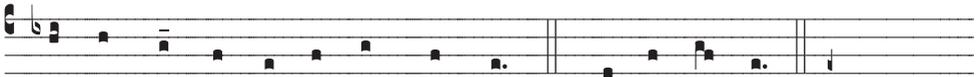
All repeat the Antiphon.

REMEMBER, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

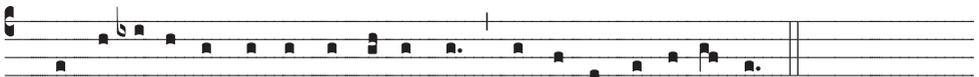
THE SHORT RESPNSORY



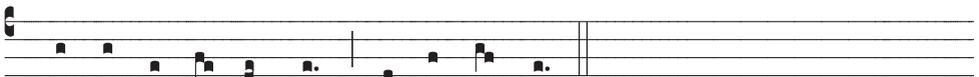
℞: We worship you, O Christ, and we bless you.



℣: By your cross you have redeemed the world. ℞: **And we bless you.**

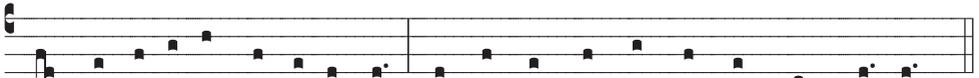


℣: Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit.



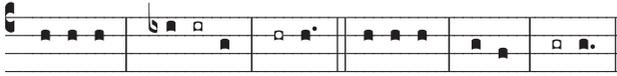
℞: **We worship you, O Christ, and we bless you.**

All stand.



Hail, Son of David, our redeemer! The prophets foretold that you would save us.

MAGNIFICAT

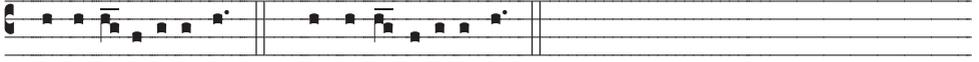


- Cantor* 1 My soul proclaims the greatness | of the | Lord, *
my spirit rejoices in | God my | Saviour;
- All* 2 **for he has looked with favour on his | lowly | servant, ***
and from this day all generations will | call me | blessèd.
- 3 The Almighty has done | great things for | me, *
holy | is his | 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

As his passion drew near, Christ looked on Jerusalem and wept, because it did not recognize that God's salvation had come. Let us pray in faith and repentance.



✠ Ky-ri-e e-lé-i-son. ✠ **Ky-ri-e e-lé-i-son.**

Lord, you longed to gather the children of Jerusalem as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings; help all people to recognize that their moment of salvation has come. ✠

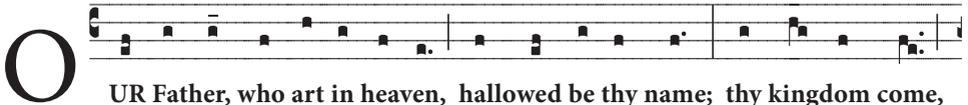
Do not abandon your faithful, even when they desert you; restore us to yourself, Lord Jesus, and we shall be restored. ✠

Through your suffering help us to mortify our bodies that we may be ready to celebrate your rising from the dead. ✠

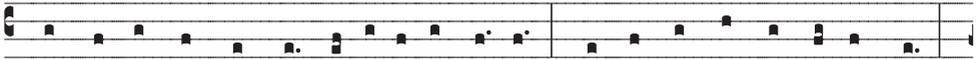
You are reigning now in the glory of the Father; remember those who have died today. ✠

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

All sing



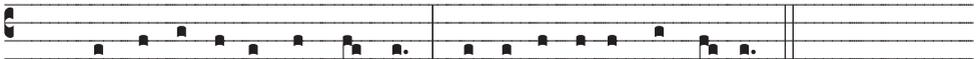
OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come,



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-tation, but de-liv-er us from e- vil.

COLLECT

ALMIGHTY, ever-living God,
you gave our Saviour the command
to become man and undergo the cross
as an example of humility for all men to follow.
We have the lessons of his sufferings:
give us also the fellowship of his resurrection.
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

A -ve, Re-gí-na cæ-ló-rum, * **ave, Dómi-na ange-lórum, salve, ra-dix,**
Hail, Queen of Heaven, beyond compare, to whom the angels homage pay; Hail, Root of

salve, porta, ex qua mundo lux est orta. Gaude, Virgo glo-ri- ó-sa, su-per
Jesse, Gate of Light, that opened for the world's new Day. Rejoice, O Virgin unsurpassed, in whom

omnes spe-ci- ó-sa; va-le, o valde de-có-ra, et pro no-bis Christum exó- ra.
our ransom was begun, for all your loving children pray to Christ, our Saviour, and your Son.

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