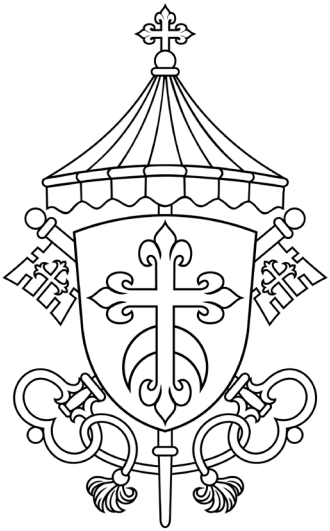
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

Third Sunday
of Easter

18 April 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

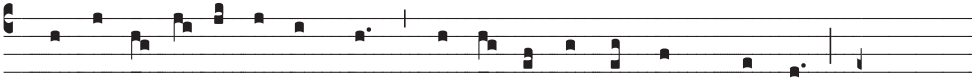
℣. O God, come to our aid.

℟. **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. Al-le-lu-ia.**

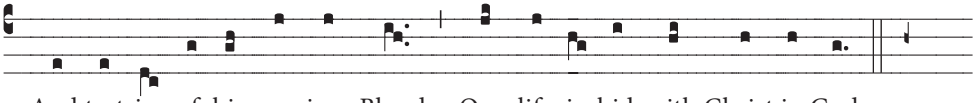
All sing

THE OFFICE HYMN

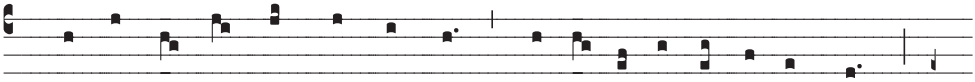
THE Lamb's high banquet we a-wait In snow white robes of roy-al state,
And now, the Red Sea's channel past, To Christ our Prince we sing at last.



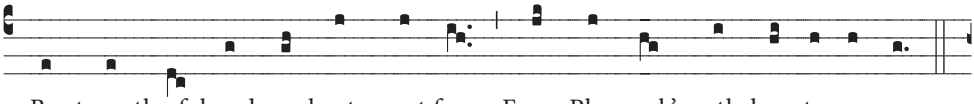
2. Up-on the al-tar of the Cross His Bo-dy has re-deemed our loss,



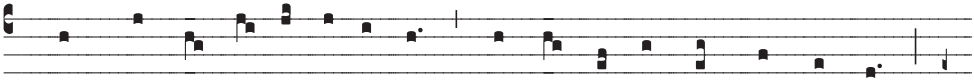
And tast-ing of his precious Blood, Our life is hid with Christ in God.



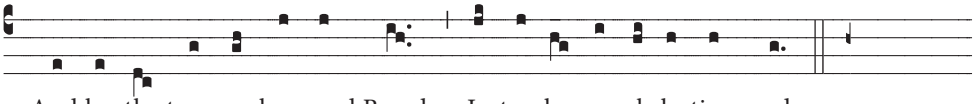
3. That Pas-chal eve God's arm was bared, The de-vas-tat-ing an-gel spared;



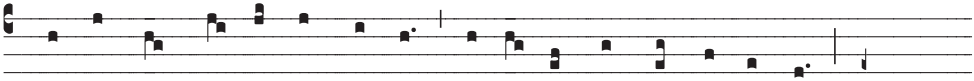
By strength of hand our hosts went free From Pha-roah's ruth-less ty-ran-ny.



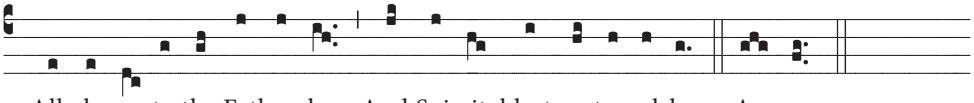
4. Now Christ our Pas-so-ver is slain, The Lamb of God that knows no stain,



And he, the true un-leavened Bread, Is tru-ly our ob-la-tion made.



5. To thee who, dead, a-gain dost live, All glo-ry, Lord, thy peo-ple give,

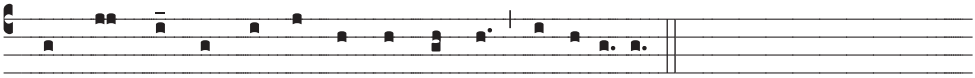


All glo-ry to the Father be And Spi-rit blest, e-ternal-ly. A- men.

All sit.

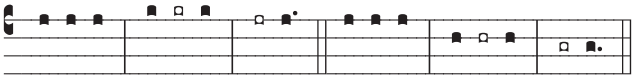
PSALMODY

All sing the First Antiphon *Mode VIII*



The Lord God is high a-bove the heavens, al- le-lu-ia.

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

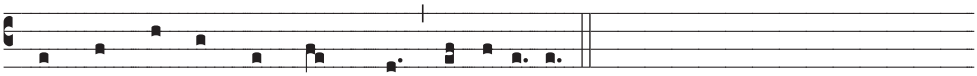
8 **to set him in the compa- | ny of | princes, ***
yes, with the princes | of his | people.

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,

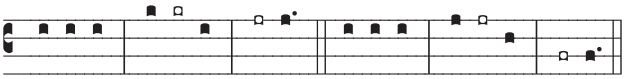
11 as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, *
world without | end. A- | men.

All repeat the Antiphon.



You have loosened my bonds, Lord: al- le-lu-ia.

PSALM 115 (116B)



Cantor 1 I trusted, even | when I | said: *
I am | sorely 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 | goodness 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 | loosened 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.

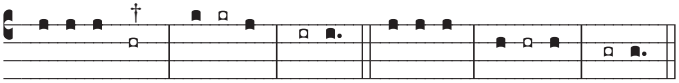
All repeat the Antiphon.

All sing the Third Antiphon *Mode VIII*

The Son of God learned to ob-ey through suffering, al- le-lu-ia.

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-<u>self</u> †**
taking the | form of a | servant, *
being born in the like- | ness of | men.

3 And being found in human <u>form</u>, †
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,

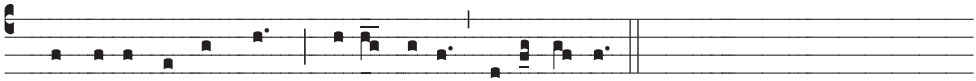
8 **as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, ***
world without | end. A- | men.

All repeat the Antiphon.

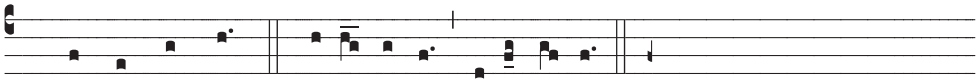
Scripture Reading 1 Peter 2:9-10

YOU are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people at all, and now you are the people of God; once you were outside the mercy and now you have been given mercy.

THE SHORT RESPONSORY

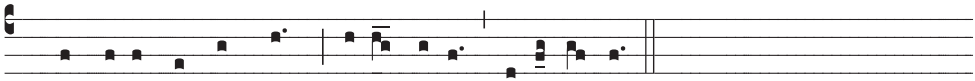


The disci-ples re-joiced, al-le- lu-ia, al-le- lu- ia.



℣. They saw the Lord. ℟. **Al-le- lu- ia, al-le- lu- ia.**

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



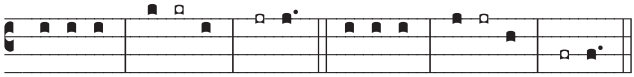
℟. **The disci-ples re-joiced, al-le- lu-ia, al-le- lu- ia.**

All stand.

MODE VII

Stay with us, Lord, for the day is almost ov-er, 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 a-way | empty.

8 **He has come to the help of his | servant | Israel ***
for he has remembered his | promise of | mercy,

9 the promise he | made to our | fathers, *
to Abraham and his | children 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

Let us pray to Christ, our life and our resurrection.

℟ **Son of the living God, protect your people.**

We pray for your Catholic Church: may she reveal among the nations your kingdom of justice and holiness. ℟

We pray for the sick, the sorrowful, captives and exiles: show them your power and compassion. ℟

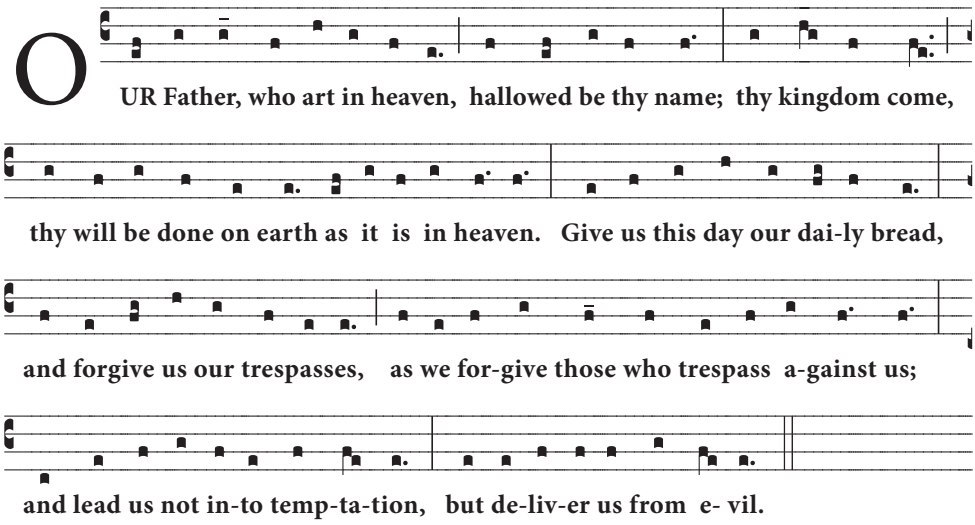
We pray for those who have lost you in the maze of life: let them know once more the joy of coming home. ℟

Crucified and risen Saviour, you will come again in judgement: be merciful to us sinners. ℟

We pray for all the living, and for those who have left this world in the hope of the resurrection. ℟

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

All sing



COLLECT

LORD God,
grant your people constant joy
in the renewed vigour of their souls.
They rejoice because you have restored them
to the glory of your adopted children:
let them look forward gladly
in the certain hope of 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.

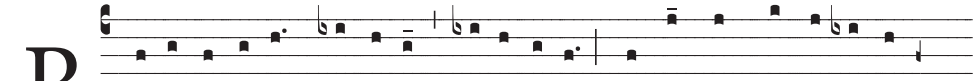
℟ **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

℟ **Thanks be to God.**

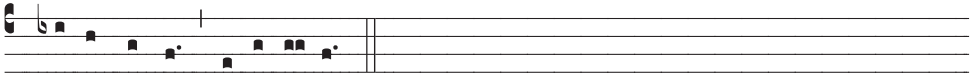
All sing

THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



R E-gí-na cæ-li, * **læ-tá-re, al-le-lú-ia, qui- a quem me-ru- ís- ti**
Queen of Heaven, rejoice, for he whom you did merit

portá-re, al-le-lú-ia, re-surréxit sic-ut di-xit, al-le- lú-ia; o-ra pro
to bear, has risen, as he said; pray for



nobis De-um, al-le- lú-ia.
us to God.

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