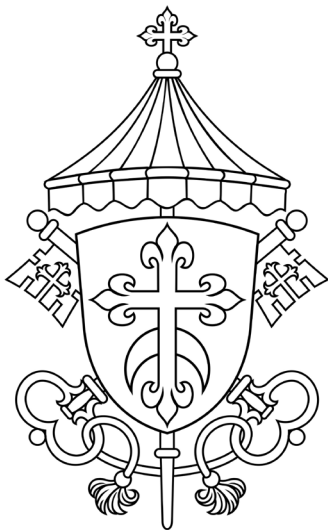


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

Fourth Sunday
of Easter

25 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.

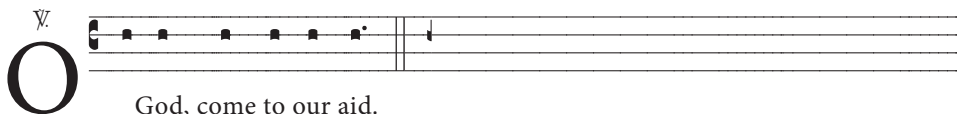
Bishops, priests, deacons, and many men and women in consecrated life pray the Liturgy of the Hours each day. Their work is organised around this prayer, keeping God always at the centre of their days. Lay people are encouraged to pray the Liturgy of the Hours as well, especially Morning and Evening Prayer. The public singing of Lauds and Vespers is a regular part of the life and worship of St Mary's Cathedral.

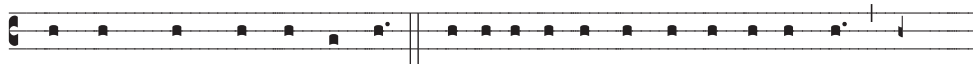
**TO MAINTAIN A SPIRIT OF REVERENCE AND SOLEMNITY,
PLEASE TURN OFF AND REFRAIN FROM USING ALL MOBILE TELEPHONES
AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

ORDER OF VESPERS

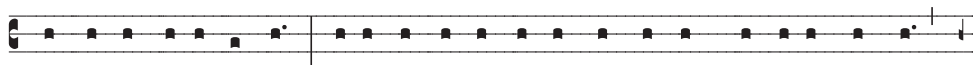
At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.

INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFICE

O  God, come to our aid.



O Lord, make haste to help us. **G**lory be to the Father and to the Son



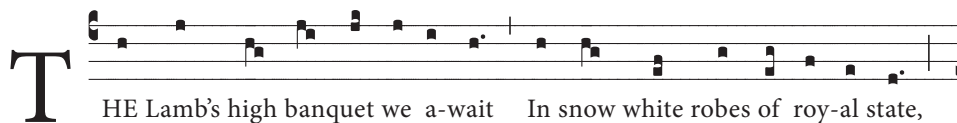
and to the Holy Spi-rit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,



world without end. A-men. Al-le-lu-ia.

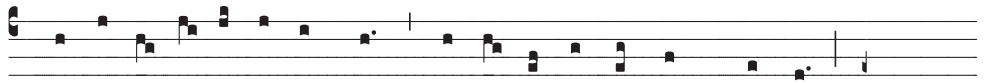
All sing

THE OFFICE HYMN

T  HE Lamb's high banquet we a-wait In snow white robes of roy-al state,



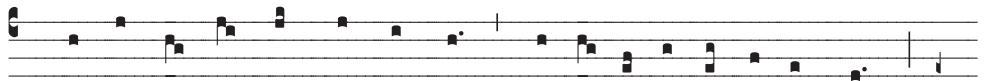
And now, the Red Sea's channel past, To Christ our Prince we sing at last.



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



And tast-ing of his pre-cious 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-ter-nal-ly. A-men.

All sit.

PSALMODY

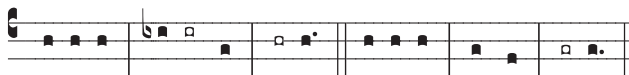
All sing the FIRST ANTIPHON

Mode I



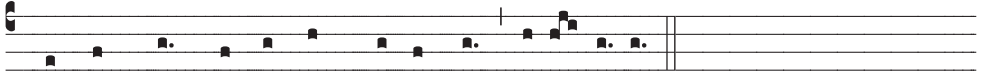
May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, al-le- lu-ia.

PSALM 121 (122)



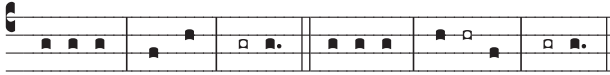
- Cantor* 1 I rejoiced when I | heard them | say: *
Let us go | to God's | house.
- All* 2 **And now our | feet are | standing *
within your gates, | O Je- | rusalem.**
- 3 Jerusalem is | built as a | city *
strong- | ly com- | pact.
- 4 **It is there that the | tribes go | up, *
the tribes | of the | Lord.**
- 5 For Israel's | law it | is, *
there to praise | the Lord's | name.
- 6 **There were set the | thrones of | judgment *
of the | house of | David.**
- 7 For the peace of Je- | rusalem | pray: *
Peace be | to your | homes!
- 8 **May peace | reign in your | walls, *
in your pa- | laces, | peace!**
- 9 For love of my | brethren and | friends *
I say: | Peace up- | on you.
- 10 **For love of the | house of the | Lord *
I will ask | for your | good.**
- 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.



In your blood, you redeemed us for God, al-le- lu-ia.

PSALM 129 (130)



- Cantor* 1 Out of the depths I cry to | you, O | Lord, *
Lord, | hear my | voice!
- All* 2 **O let your ears | be at- | tentive *
to the | voice of my | pleading.**
- 3 If you, O Lord, should | mark our | guilt, *
Lord, who | would sur- | vive?
- 4 **But with you is | found for- | giveness: *
for | this we re- | vere you.**
- 5 My soul is waiting | for the | Lord. *
I | count on his | word.
- 6 **My soul is longing | for the | Lord *
more than | watchman for | daybreak.**
- 7 Let the watchman | count on | daybreak *
and Israel | on the | Lord.
- 8 **Because with the Lord | there is | mercy *
and fullness | of re- | demption,**
- 9 Israel indeed he | will re- | deem *
from | all its in- | iquity.
- 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 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.



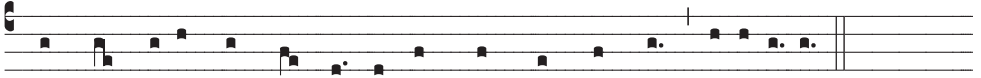
∇ Glory be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spi- rit.



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

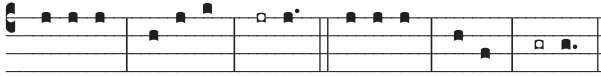
All stand.

MODE VIII



The sheep follow the shepherd because they know his voice. Al-le-lu-ia.

MAGNIFICAT

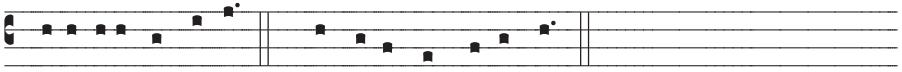


- Cantor* 1 My soul proclaims the great- | ness of the | Lord, *
my spirit rejoices in | God my | Saviour;
- All* 2 **for he has looked with favour on | his lowly | servant, ***
and from this day all generations will | call me | blessèd.
- 3 The Almighty has done | great things for | me, *
holy | is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

Let us pray to Christ, who rose from the dead to restore our life.



℣ Exaudire digneris. ℟ **Te, rogamus, audi nos.**

Jesus, you are the stone rejected by the builders but you have proved to be the keystone of God's house; make us living stones in the temple of your Church. ℟

You are the faithful and true witness, the first-born from the dead; may the Church never cease to proclaim you to the world. ℟

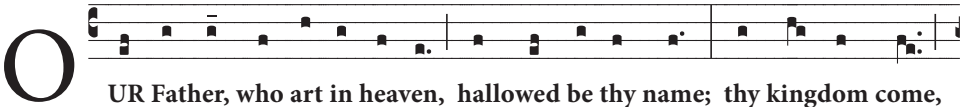
Through your death and resurrection you took the Church to yourself as a bride: cherish her, and keep her faithful, and prepare her for the day of your coming. ℟

You are the first and the last, you were dead and now you are alive; may all the baptized be faithful unto death and gain the crown of glory. ℟

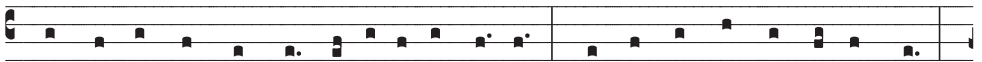
You are the light and joy of the city of God; shine on the faithful departed that they may reign for ever. ℟

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

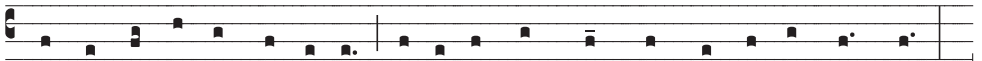
All sing



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-ta-tion, but de-liv-er us from e- vil.

COLLECT

ALMIGHTY, ever-living God,
bring us to the joy of your heavenly city:
so that we, your little flock,
may follow where Christ, our Good Shepherd,
has gone before us by the power of his resurrection.
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.**

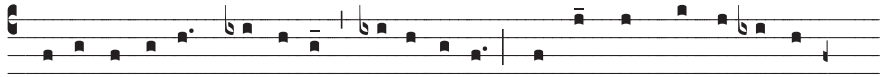
Let us bless the Lord.

℟: **Thanks be to God.**

All sing

THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

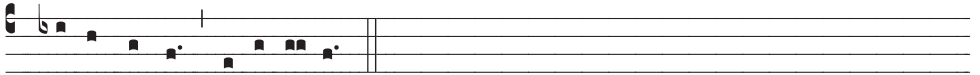
R



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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