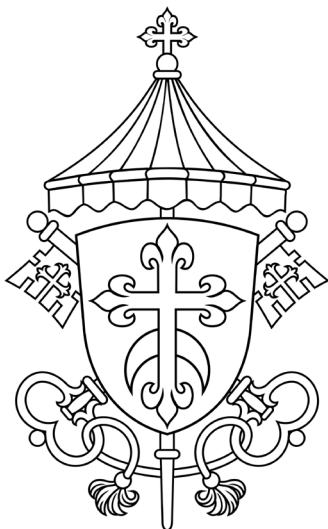


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

Fifth Sunday
of Easter

2 May 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.

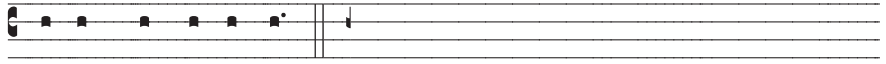
Bishops, priests, deacons, and many men and women in consecrated life pray the Liturgy of the Hours each day. Their work is organised around this prayer, keeping God always at the centre of their days. Lay people are encouraged to pray the Liturgy of the Hours as well, especially Morning and Evening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

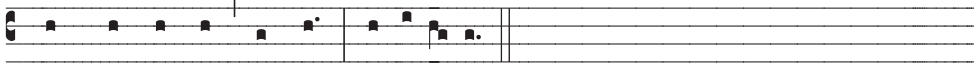
O  God, come to our aid.



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.

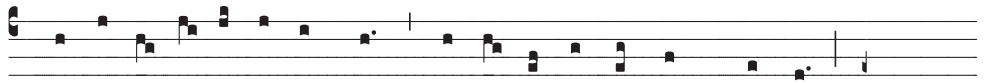
All sing

THE OFFICE HYMN

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



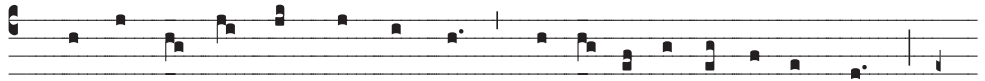
And now, the Red Sea's channel past, To Christ our Prince we sing at last.



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



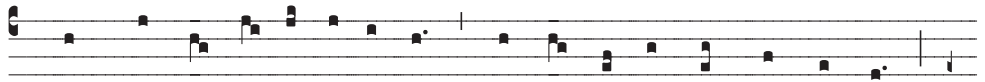
And tast-ing of his pre-cious Blood, Our life is hid with Christ in God.



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

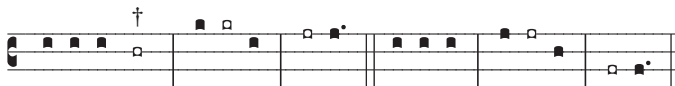
All sing the FIRST ANTIPHON

Mode VII



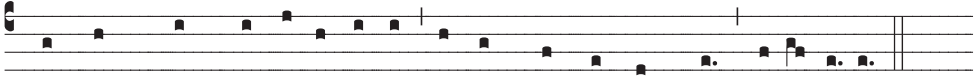
Let the raising of my hands be pleasing to you, al-le-lu-ia.

PSALM 140 (141)



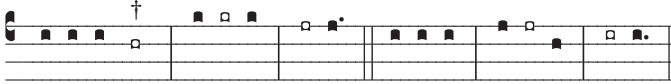
- Cantor* 1 I have called to you, Lord; | hasten to | help me! *
Hear my voice when I | cry to | you.
- All* 2 **Let my prayer arise be- | fore you like | incense, ***
the raising of my hands like an | evening ob- | lation.
- 3 Set, O Lord, a guard | over my | mouth; *
keep watch, O Lord, at the door | of my | lips!
- 4 **Do not turn my heart to things that are wrong, †**
to evil deeds with | men who are | sinners. *
Never allow me to | share in their | feasting.
- 5 If a good man strikes or reproves me it is kindness †
but let the oil of the wicked not a- | noint my | head. *
Let my prayer be ever a- | gainst their | malice.
- 6 **Their princes were thrown down by the | side of the | rock; ***
then they understood that my | words were | kind.
- 7 As a millstone is shattered to pieces | on the | ground, *
so their bones were strewn at the mouth | of the | grave.
- 8 **To you, Lord God, my | eyes are | turned: ***
in you I take refuge; | spare my | soul!
- 9 From the trap they have laid for me | keep me | safe: *
keep me from the snares of | those who do | evil.
- 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.



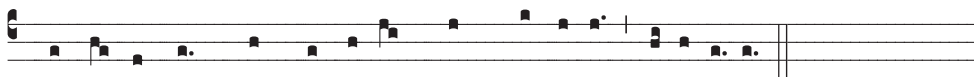
You have brought me out of prison to give praise to your name, al-le-lu-ia.

PSALM 141 (142)



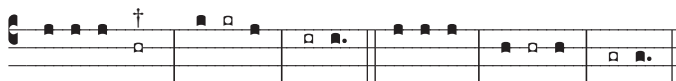
- Cantor* 1 With all my voice I cry to the Lord, †
with all my voice I en- | treat the | Lord. *
I pour out my | trouble be- | fore him;
- All* 2 **I tell him all my dis-tress** †
while my spirit | faints with- | in me. *
But you, O Lord, | know my | path.
- 3 On the way where | I shall | walk *
they have hidden a | snare to en- | trap me.
- 4 **Look on my | right and | see:** *
there is no one who | takes my | part.
- 5 I have no | means of es- | cape, *
not one who | cares for my | soul.
- 6 **I cry to you, O Lord.** †
I have said: | You are my | refuge *
all I have in the | land of the | living.
- 7 Listen, then, | to my | cry *
for I am in the | depths of dis- | tress.
- 8 **Rescue me from | those who pur- | sue me** *
for they are | stronger than | I.
- 9 Bring my soul | out of this | prison *
and then I shall | praise your | name.
- 10 **Around me the | just will as- | semble** *
because of your | goodness to | me.
- 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 Son of God learned to ob-ey through suf-fering, 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-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 | 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.

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



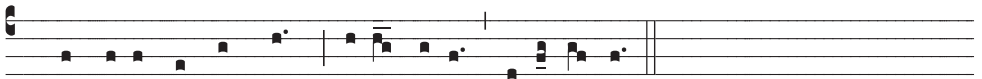
The disci-ples re-joiced, al-le- lu-ia, al-le- lu- ia.



∇ They saw the Lord. ⦿ Al-le- lu- ia, al-le- lu- ia.



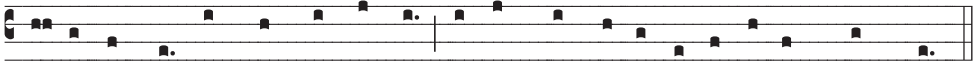
∇ Glory be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spi- rit.



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

All stand.

MODE VIII



I am the Way, the Truth and the Life: no one comes to the Father except through me.

MAGNIFICAT

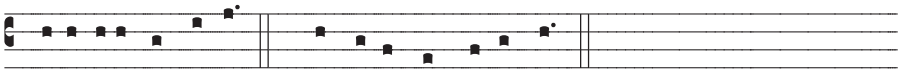


- Cantor* 1 My soul proclaims the great- | ness of the | Lord, *
my spirit rejoices in | God my | Saviour;
- All* 2 **for he has looked with favour on | his lowly | servant, ***
and from this day all generations will | call me | blessèd.
- 3 The Almighty has done | great things for | me, *
holy | is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



✠ Exaudíre di-gnéris. ✠ **Te, rogamus, audi nos.**

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. ✠

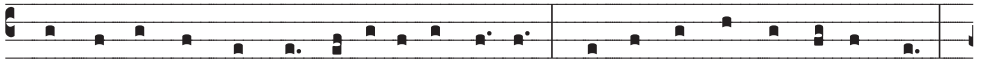
Crucified and risen Saviour, you will come again in judgement: be merciful to us sinners. ✠

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

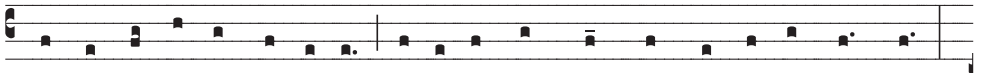
At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All sing

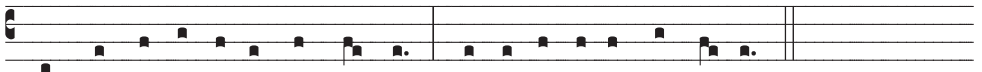
O UR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come,



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

SINCE it is from you, God our Father,
that redemption comes to us, your adopted children,
look with favour on the family you love,
give true freedom to us and to all who believe in Christ,
and bring us all alike to our eternal heritage.
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.**

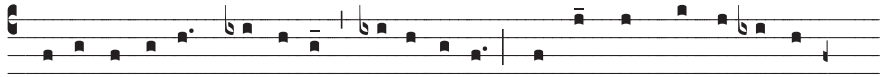
Let us bless the Lord.

℟: **Thanks be to God.**

All sing

THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

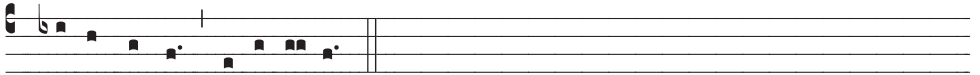
R



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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