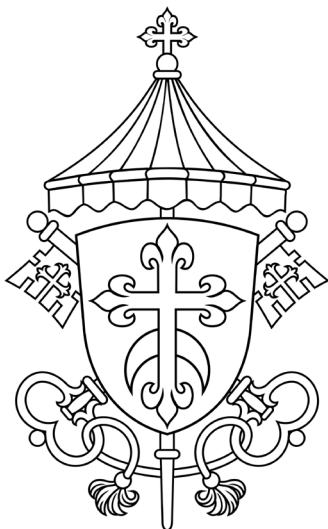


# ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



## First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

16 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 Vespers is a regular part of the life and worship of St Mary's Cathedral.

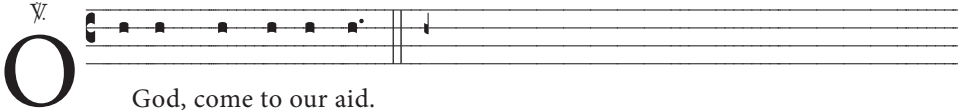
**TO MAINTAIN A SPIRIT OF REVERENCE AND SOLEMNITY,  
PLEASE TURN OFF AND REFRAIN FROM USING ALL MOBILE TELEPHONES  
AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

# 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

O Je-sus, our re - dee-ming Lord, our grea-test love and all de - sire,  
true God, Cre - a - tor of all things, true Man be - yond the end of time,

What loving mercy mastered you,  
that you should bear our grievous sins  
and suffer cruel and bitter death  
to rescue us from death's domain?

For us you breached the walls of hell  
and ransomed all your captives there;  
as victor at the Father's right,  
in noble triumph you preside.

May this same love compel you still  
to overcome our evil deeds,  
to pardon us and grant that we  
may gaze in wonder at your face.

Lord Jesus, be all joy for us,  
for you shall be our great reward;  
may all our glory be in you  
through endless ages evermore.

A - - - men.

*Gonfalon Royal*  
*Percy Buck (1841–1947)*

*Iesu nostra redemptio*

All sit.

# PSALMODY

All sing the FIRST ANTIPHON

Mode VIII



I came from the Father and now I leave the world to go to my Fa-ther, al-le-lu-ia.

## PSALM 112 (113)

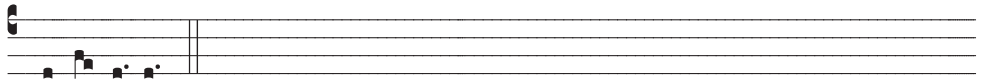


- Cantor* 1 Praise, O servants | of the | Lord, \*  
praise the | name of the | Lord!
- All* 2 **May the name of the | Lord be | blessed \*  
both now and for | ever- | more!**
- 3 From the rising of the | sun to its | setting \*  
praised be the | name of the | Lord!
- 4 **High above all nations | is 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.

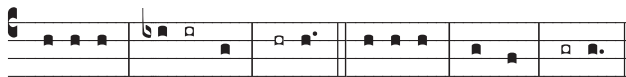


Je-sus the Lord as-cended to heav'n and sits at the right hand of the Father,



al-le- lu-ia.

PSALM 112 (113)



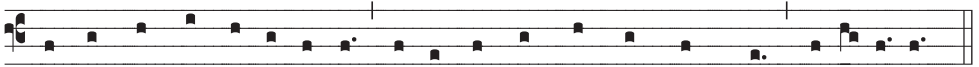
*Cantor* 1 O praise the Lord, | all you | nations, \*  
acclaim him | all you | peoples!

*All* 2 **Strong is his | love for | us; \***  
**he is faith- | ful for | ever.**

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

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

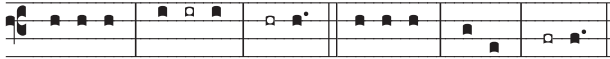
*All repeat the Antiphon.*



No one has gone up to heaven except the one who first came down, al-le- lu-ia.

CANTICLE

Apocalypse 11:17-18,12:10-12



- Cantor* 1 We give thanks to you, Lord | God Al- | mighty, \*  
who are | and who | were,
- All* 2 **that you have taken | your great | power \*  
and be- | gun to | reign.**
- 3 The | nations | raged, \*  
but your wrath came, and the time for the dead | to be | judged,
- 4 **for rewarding your servants, the | prophets and | saints, \*  
and those who fear your name, both | small and | great.**
- 5 Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom | of our | God \*  
and the authority of his | Christ have | come,
- 6 **for the accuser of our brethren has | been thrown | down, \*  
who accuses them day and night be- | fore our | God.**
- 7 And they have conquered him by the | blood of the | Lamb \*  
and by the word | of their | testimony,
- 8 **for they | loved not their | lives \*  
even | unto | death.**
- 9 Re- | joice, then, O | heaven, \*  
and you that | dwell there- | in.
- 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.

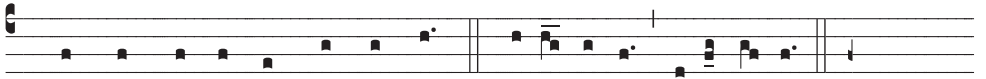
All repeat the Antiphon.

**G**OD'S mercy is so abundant, and his love for us is so great, that while we were spiritually dead in our disobedience he brought us to life with Christ; it is by God's grace that you have been saved. In our union with Christ Jesus he raised us up with him to rule with him in the heavenly world.

THE SHORT RESPNSORY



God ascends with shouts of joy, al-le- lu-ia, al-le- lu- ia.



∇ The Lord goes up with trumpet blast. **℞ 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.



℞ **God ascends with shouts of joy, al-le- lu-ia, al-le- lu- ia.**

*All stand.*



Fa-ther, I pray for those you gave me since I am coming to you, al-le- lu-ia.

MAGNIFICAT

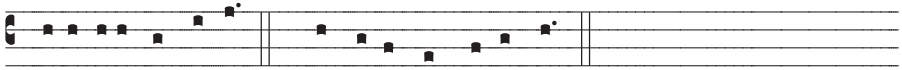


- Cantor* 1 My soul proclaims the greatness | of the | Lord, \*  
my spirit rejoices | in God my | Saviour;
- All* 2 **for he has looked with favour on his | lowly | servant, \***  
**and from this day all generations | will call me | blessèd.**
- 3 The Almighty has done | great things for | me, \*  
ho- | ly is his | Name.
- 4 **He has mercy on | those who | fear him \*  
in ev- | ery 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 lift- | ed 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 | 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 with- | out end. A- | men.

All repeat the Antiphon.

## INTERCESSIONS

Rejoicing, let us pray to Christ who is seated at the right hand of the Father.



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

King of glory, in you our mortal flesh has been lifted to the heights: deliver us from the corruption of sin and restore us to immortal life. ✠

Following the path of love, you came down to us from heaven: let us follow that same path in our ascent to you. ✠

You promised to draw all people to yourself: do not let any of us be separated from your body. ✠

You have ascended into heaven: let us be there with you in our minds and hearts. ✠

We await your coming in majesty on the great day of judgement: may we then gaze upon your glory, with all the faithful departed. ✠

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

## COLLECT

**A**LMIGHTY God,  
fill us with a holy joy;  
teach us how to thank you with reverence and love  
on account of the ascension of Christ your Son.  
You have raised us up with him:  
where he, the head, has preceded us in glory,  
there we, the body, are called in hope.  
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.**

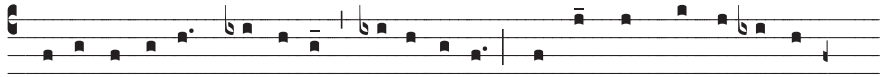
Let us bless the Lord.

℟: **Thanks be to God.**

All sing

## THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

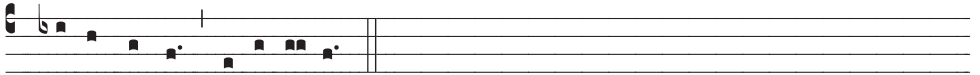
**R**



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.*

**St Mary's Cathedral**  
St Mary's Road  
Sydney NSW 2000  
[www.stmaryscathedral.org.au](http://www.stmaryscathedral.org.au)



**General enquiries**  
Tel: (02) 9220 0400  
Fax: (02) 9223 5208  
Email: [info@stmaryscathedral.org.au](mailto:info@stmaryscathedral.org.au)