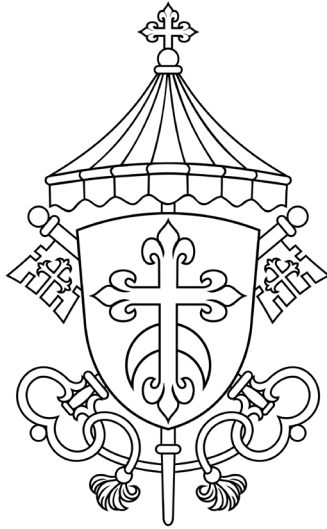


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

CORPUS CHRISTI

6 June 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.

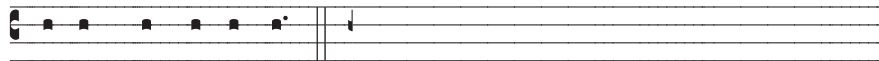
**TO MAINTAIN A SPIRIT OF REVERENCE AND SOLEMNITY,
PLEASE TURN OFF AND REFRAIN FROM USING ALL MOBILE TELEPHONES
AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

ORDER OF VESPERS

At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.

INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFICE

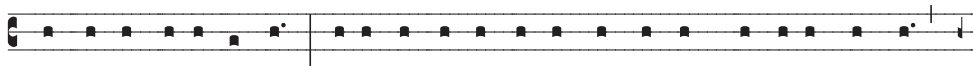
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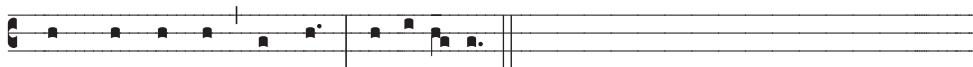
God, come to our aid.



℞ 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



Of the glo-rious Bo - dy tel-ling, O my tongue, its myst-'ries sing,



And the Blood, all price ex - cel-ling, Which the world's e - ter - nal King,



In a no - ble womb once dwell-ing, Shed for this world's ran - som-ing.

2

Giv'n for us, for us descending,
Of a virgin to proceed;
Man with man in converse blending,
Scattered he the gospel seed,
Till his sojourn drew to ending,
Which he closed in wondrous deed.

4

Word-made-flesh, by word he maketh
Bread his very Flesh to be;
Man in wine Christ's Blood partaketh:
And, if senses fail to see,
Faith alone the true heart waketh
To behold the mystery.

3

At the last great supper lying
Circed by his brethren's band,
Meekly with the law complying
First he finished its command;
Then, immortal food supplying,
Gave himself with his own hand.

5

Therefore we, before him bending,
This great Sacrament revere;
Types and shadows have their ending,
For the newer rite is here;
Faith, our outward sense befriending,
Makes the inward vision clear.

6

Glory let us give, and blessing
To the Father and the Son;
Honour, might, and praise addressing,
While eternal ages run;
Ever too his love confessing,
Who from both, with both is one.



A - men.

St Thomas

from John Francis Wade's book c. 1740

Pange lingua gloriosi

St Thomas Aquinas (1227–1274)

tr. John Mason Neale (1818–1866) and others

All sit.

PSALMODY

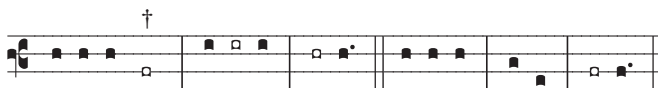
All sing the FIRST ANTIPHON

Mode II



The Lord is mer-ci-ful; he gives food to those who fear him.

PSALM 110 (111)



Cantor 1 I will thank the Lord with | all my | heart *
in the meeting of the just and | their as- | sembly.

All 2 **Great are the | works of the | Lord, ***
to be pondered by | all who | love them.

3 Majestic and | glorious his | work, *
his justice stands | firm for | ever.

4 **He makes us re- | member his | wonders. ***
The Lord is compas- | sion and | love.

5 He gives food to | those who | fear him; *
keeps his covenant ev- | er in | mind.

6 **He has shown his | might to his | people ***
by giving them the lands | of the | nations.

7 His works are | justice and | truth, *
his precepts are all | of them | sure,

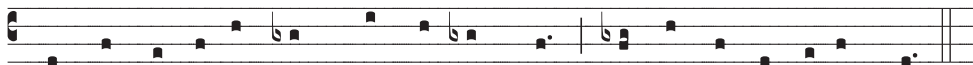
8 **standing firm for | ever and | ever; ***
they are made in upright- | ness and | truth.

9 He has sent deliverance to his people †
and established his | covenant for | ever. *
Holy his name, | to be | feared.

10 **To fear the Lord is the first stage of wisdom; †**
all who do so | prove themselves | wise. *
His praise shall | last for | ever!

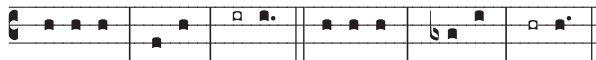
11 Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son *
and to the | Holy | Spirit,

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



The Lord has es-tab-lished peace for his Church, he feeds us with finest wheat.

PSALM 147 (147B)



- Cantor* 1 O praise the | Lord, Je- | rusalem! *
Zion, | praise your | God!
- All* 2 **He has strengthened the bars | of your | gates ***
he has blessed the child- | ren with- | in you.
- 3 He established peace | on your | borders, *
he feeds you with | finest | wheat.
- 4 **He sends out his word | to the | earth ***
and swiftly runs | his com- | mand.
- 5 He showers down snow | white as | wool, *
he scatters hoar- | frost like | ashes.
- 6 **He hurls down hail- | stones like | crumbs. ***
The waters are frozen | at his | touch;
- 7 he sends forth his word | and it | melts them: *
at the breath of his mouth the | waters | flow.
- 8 **He makes his word | known to | Jacob, ***
to Israel his laws | and de- | crees.
- 9 He has not dealt thus with | other | nations; *
he has not taught them | his de- | crees.
- 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.

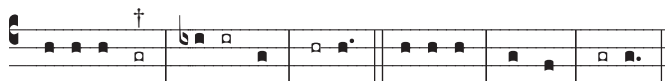
All repeat the Antiphon.



It is my Fa-ther who gives you the true bread from heav'n, al-le- lu- ia.

CANTICLE

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

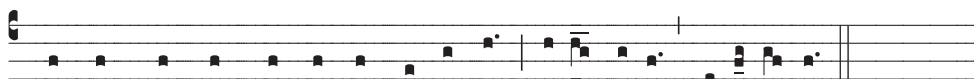


- Cantor* 1 We give thanks to you, Lord | God Al- | mighty, *
- who are | and who | were,
- All* 2 **that you have taken | your great | power ***
- and be- | gun to | reign.**
- 3 The | nations | raged, *
- but | your wrath | came,
- 4 **and the time for the | dead to be | judged, ***
- for rewarding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

THE SHORT RESPONSORY



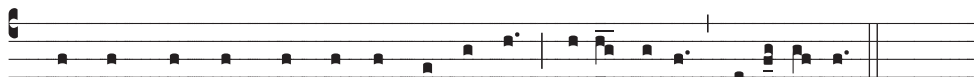
He gave them the bread of heav-en to eat, al-le- lu-ia, al-le-lu- ia.



℣ Man has tasted the food of an-gels. ℟ 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.



℟ He gave them the bread of heav-en to eat, al-le- lu-ia, al-le-lu- ia.

All stand.



You gave them bread from heav'n, filling the hungry with good things.

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

At the supper to which all are invited, Christ gives his body and blood for the life of the world. Earnestly we beseech him, saying:



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

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, you have commanded us to celebrate the eucharistic meal in remembrance of you: enrich your Church with the worthy celebration of these mysteries. ✠

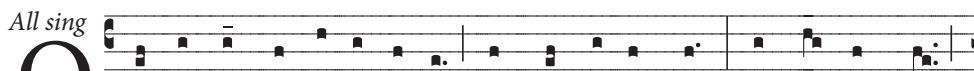
Lord Jesus Christ, eternal high priest, you have committed to your priests the ministration of your sacraments: help them to do their part in your work with the unfailing gladness of genuine charity. ✠

Lord Jesus Christ, manna from heaven, you make into one all who share the one bread: grant peace and concord to all who believe in you. ✠

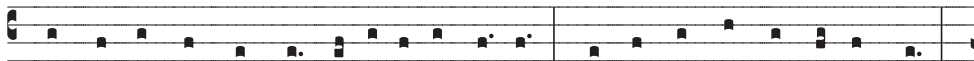
Lord Jesus Christ, heavenly physician, you give an eternal remedy and a pledge of resurrection to those who eat your bread: grant health to the ailing and a real hope to sinners. ✠

Lord Jesus Christ, king who is to come, we know that whenever we celebrate these mysteries, we proclaim your death until you come again: bring all those who have died in you to share your resurrection. ✠

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



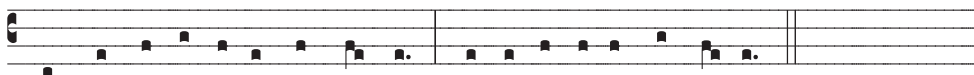
OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come,



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

LORD Jesus Christ,
You gave your Church an admirable sacrament
as the abiding memorial of your passion.
Teach us so to worship the sacred mystery of your Body and Blood
that its redeeming power may sanctify us always.
Who live and reign with God the Father 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

S

Al-ve, Re-gí-na, * **ma-ter mi-se-ri-cór-di-ae** : Vi-ta, dul-cé-do, et spes
Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and

nostra, sal-ve. Ad te clamámus, éx-su-les, fí-li-i Hevae. Ad te su-spi-rámus,
our hope, hail. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up

ge-méntes et flén-tes in hac la-crimárum val-le. E-ia er-go, Ad-vo-cá-ta
our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious

nos-tra, il-los tu-os mi-se-ri-cór-des ó-cu-los ad nos con-vér-te. Et le-sum,
advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; And show

be-ne-díctum fructum ventris tu-i, no-bis post hoc ex-sí-li-um os-tén-de.
unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, after this our exile.

O cle-mens : O pi-a : O dul-cis Vir-go Ma-rí-a.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.



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