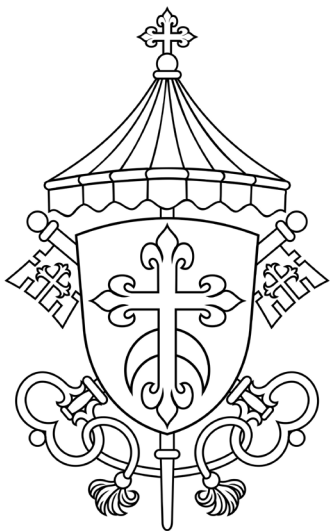


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

Sixteenth Sunday
of the Year

WEEK IV

18 July 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.

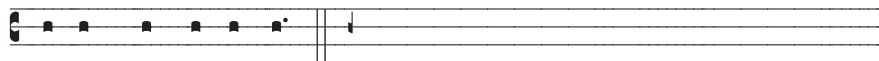
**TO MAINTAIN A SPIRIT OF REVERENCE AND SOLEMNITY,
PLEASE TURN OFF AND REFRAIN FROM USING ALL MOBILE TELEPHONES
AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

ORDER OF VESPERS

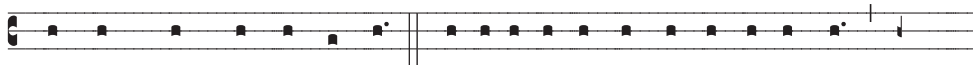
At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.

INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFICE

Ψ
O



God, come to our aid.



Ⲛ O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son



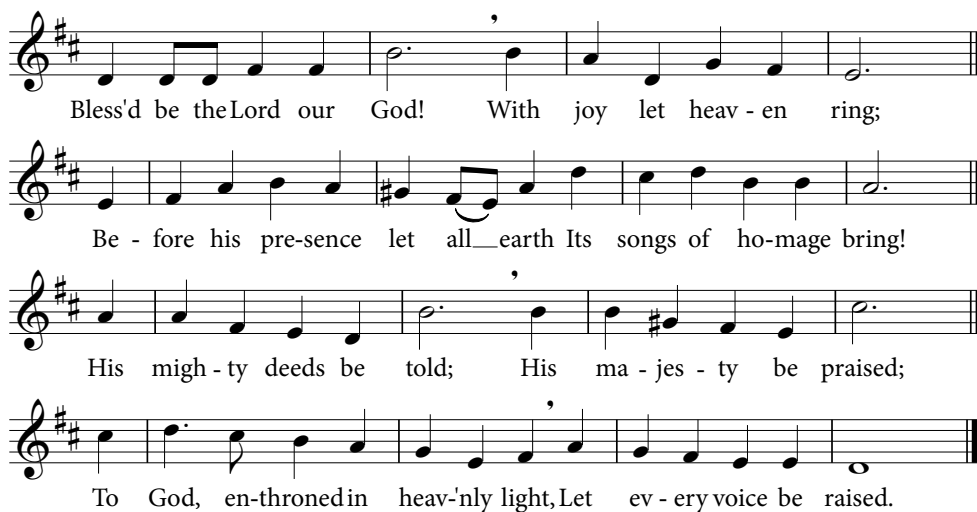
and to the Holy Spi-rit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,



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

All sing

THE HYMN



Bless'd be the Lord our God! With joy let heav-en ring;
Be-fore his pre-sence let all earth Its songs of ho-mage bring!
His migh-ty deeds be told; His ma-jes-ty be praised;
To God, en-throned in heav'nly light, Let ev-ery voice be raised.

**All that has life and breath,
Give thanks with heartfelt songs!
To him let all creation sing
To whom all praise belongs!
Acclaim the Father's love,
Who gave us God his Son;
Praise too the Spirit, giv'n by both,
With both for ever one!**



A - men.

Diademata
George Elvey (1818–1893)

All sit.

PSALMODY

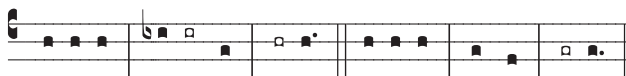
All sing the FIRST ANTIPHON

Mode I



Pray for the peace of Je-ru-sa-lem.

PSALM 121 (122)



- | | | |
|---------------|----|---|
| <i>Cantor</i> | 1 | I rejoiced when I heard them say: * |
| | | Let us go to God's house. |
| <i>All</i> | 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.



From the morning watch ev-en un-til night my soul is long-ing for the Lord.

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- | givenness: *
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 watch- | man 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.

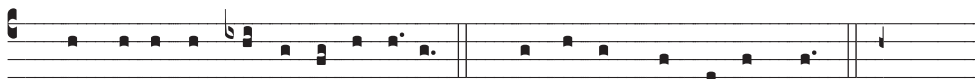
All repeat the Antiphon.

SO we are even more confident of the message proclaimed by the prophets. You will do well to pay attention to it, because it is like a lamp shining in a dark place, until the Day dawns and the light of the morning star shines in your hearts. Above all else, however, remember this: no one can explain, by himself, a prophecy in the Scriptures. For no prophetic message ever came from the will of man, but men were carried along by the Holy Spirit as they spoke the message that came from God.

THE SHORT RESPONSORY



From the rising of the sun to its setting, great is the name of the Lord.



Ⲯ High above the heavens is his glory. Ⲙ **Great is the name of the Lord.**



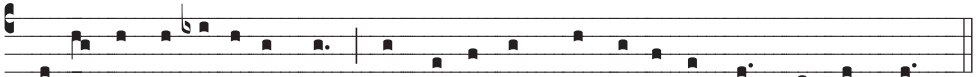
Ⲯ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit.



Ⲙ **From the rising of the sun to its setting, great is the name of the Lord.**

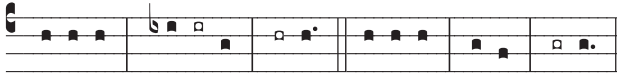
All stand.

MODE I



Collect the darnel to be burnt, then gather the wheat in-to my barn, says the Lord.

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 | 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, of his fullness, gives his brothers and sisters love in return for love.



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

Firstborn from the dead, you have cleansed us of our sins by your blood. Lead us to understand what you have done for us. ✠

You have called us to be heralds of the good news: help us to enter the depths of its message and to make it our own. ✠

King of peace, guide the actions of those who govern: may your Spirit move them to care for those whom society rejects. ✠

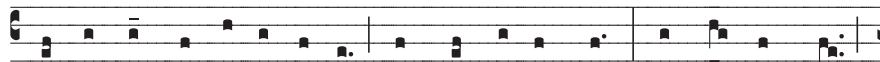
Guide the steps of those who are oppressed, those persecuted for race, colour, or religion: let their dignity be respected, and their rights upheld. ✠

Welcome all who have died in your peace; bring them to everlasting life with our Lady and all the saints. ✠

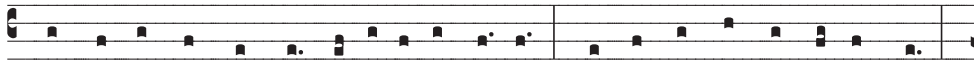
At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All sing

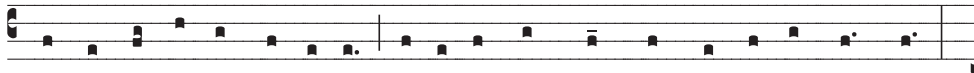
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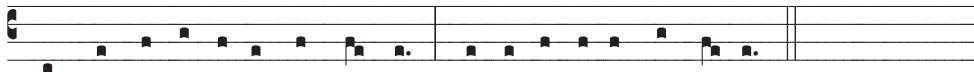
UR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come,



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

BE gracious, Lord, to us who serve you, and in your kindness increase your gifts of grace within us: so that, fervent in faith, hope and love, we may be ever on the watch and persevere in doing what you command. 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.

R: **Amen.**

CONCLUSION OF THE OFFICE

The Lord be with you.

R: **And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R: **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

R: **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.

R: **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

R: **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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