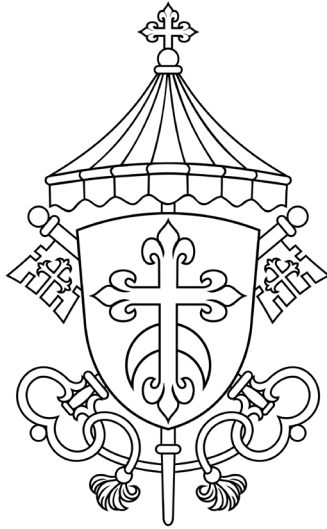


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Second Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

THE ASSUMPTION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

15 August 2026
5.00pm

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.

THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

The commemoration of the death of the Blessed Virgin Mary (the Dormition, or falling asleep, as it was known in the East) is known as the Assumption because of the tradition that her body did not decay but that she was raised up, body and soul, into heaven. This tradition was already present in the sixth century; by the beginning of the twentieth century it was widespread; and after consulting the views of bishops all over the world, the Pope formally and infallibly declared the doctrine of the Assumption to be part of the authentic and ancient doctrine of the universal Church.

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**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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O

God, come to our aid.

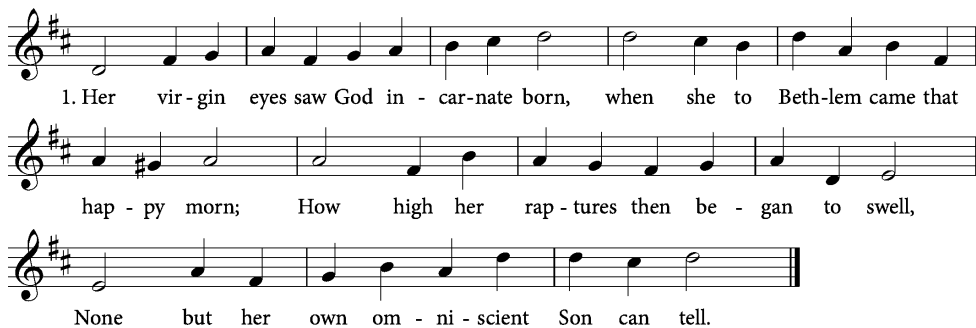
R. O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son

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



1. Her vir - gin eyes saw God in - car-nate born, when she to Beth-lem came that

hap - py morn; How high her rap - tures then be - gan to swell,

None but her own om - ni - scient Son can tell.

**As Eve, when she her fontal sin reviewed,
wept for herself and all she should include,
blest Mary, with man's Saviour in embrace,
joyed for herself and for all human race.**

**All saints are by her Son's dear influence blest;
she kept the very fountain at her breast:
the Son adored and nursed by the sweet Maid
a thousandfold of love for love repaid.**

**Heaven with transcendent joys her entrance graced,
near to his throne her Son his Mother placed;
and here below, now she's of heaven possest,
all generations are to call her blest.**

*Farley Castle
Henry Lawes (1596–1662)*

Thomas Ken (1637–1711)

PSALMODY

All sing the FIRST ANTIPHON

Mode VII



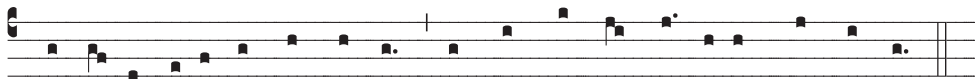
Mary has been assumed into heaven: the angels rejoice.

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 *
— | strongly 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 | palaces, | 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.



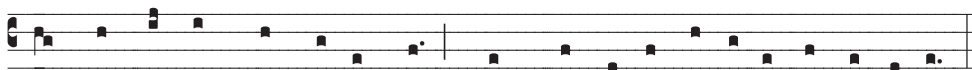
The Virgin Mary has been assumed to where the King sits on a throne of stars.

PSALM 126 (127)



- Cantor* 1 If the Lord does not | build the | house, *
in vain do its | builders | labour;
- All* 2 **if the Lord does not watch | over the | city, ***
in vain does the | watchman keep | vigil.
- 3 In vain is your | earlier | rising, *
your going | later to | rest,
- 4 **you who toil for the | bread you | eat, ***
when he pours gifts on his beloved | while they | slumber.
- 5 Truly sons are a | gift from the | Lord, *
a blessing, the | fruit of the | womb.
- 6 **Indeed the | sons of | youth ***
are like arrows in the | hand of a | warrior.
- 7 O the happiness | of the | man *
who has filled his quiver | with these | arrows!
- 8 **He will have no | cause for | shame ***
when he disputes with his foes | in the | gateways.
- 9 Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son *
and to the | Holy | Spirit,
- 10 **As it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, ***
world without | end. A- | men.

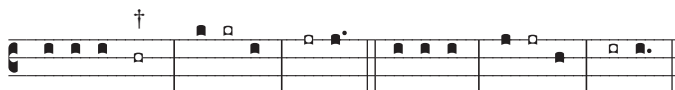
All repeat the Antiphon.



Daughter, you are blessed by the Lord; through you we partake of the fullness of life.

CANTICLE

Ephesians 1:3-10



- | | | |
|---------------|----|--|
| <i>Cantor</i> | 1 | Blessed be the God and Father * |
| | | of our Lord Jesus Christ, |
| <i>All</i> | 2 | who has blessed us in Christ * |
| | | with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. |
| | 3 | He chose us in him * |
| | | before the foundation of the world, |
| | 4 | that we should be holy * |
| | | and blameless be- fore him. |
| | 5 | He destined us in <u>love</u> † |
| | | to be his sons through Jesus Christ, * |
| | | according to the purpose of his will, |
| | 6 | to the praise of his glorious grace * |
| | | which he freely bestowed on us in the Be- loved. |
| | 7 | In him we have redemption through his blood, * |
| | | the forgiveness of our trespasses, |
| | 8 | according to the riches of his grace * |
| | | which he lavished up- on us. |
| | 9 | He has made known to <u>us</u> † |
| | | in all wisdom and insight * |
| | | the mystery of his will, |
| | 10 | according to his purpose * |
| | | which he set forth in Christ. |
| | 11 | His purpose he set forth in Christ * |
| | | as a plan for the fullness of time, |
| | 12 | to unite all things in him, * |
| | | things in heaven and things on earth. |



- 13 Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son *
 and to the | Holy | Spirit,
- 14 **as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, ***
 world without | end. A- | men.

All repeat the Antiphon.

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:30

JUST as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him.

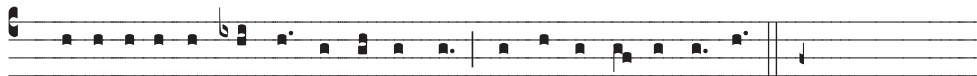
THE SHORT RESPONSORY



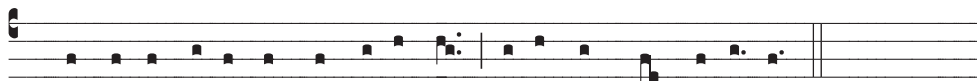
The Virgin Mary has been lifted high * above the choirs of angels.



℣. Blessed is the Lord, who raised her up. ℟. **Above the choirs of angels.**



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



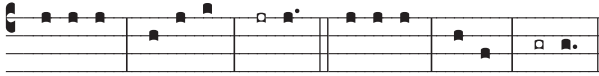
℟. **The Virgin Mary has been lifted high above the choirs of angels.**

All stand.



Today the Virgin Mary was assumed into heav'n: rejoice and be glad.

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 praise God the Father who chose Mary as the mother of his Son and wanted all generations to call her blessed. With confidence we pray:



℣ Exaudíre di-gnéris. ℟ **Te, rogamus, audi nos.**

Father, you did great things for the Virgin Mary and brought her, body and soul, to the glory of heaven; fill the hearts of your children with the hope of Christ's glory. ℟

Through the prayers of Mary, our mother, heal the sick, comfort the sorrowful, pardon sinners; grant peace and salvation to all. ℟

You favoured Mary with the fulness of grace; bestow on all men your overflowing blessings. ℟

May your Church be united heart and soul, held fast by love; and may your faithful be joined in continuous prayer, with Mary the mother of Jesus. ℟

Father, you exalted the Virgin Mary and crowned her queen of heaven; may the dead enter your kingdom and rejoice with your saints for ever. ℟

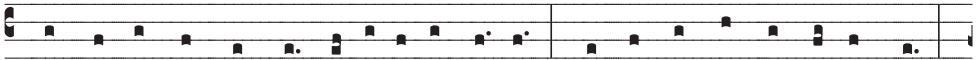
At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All sing

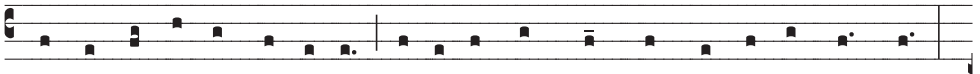
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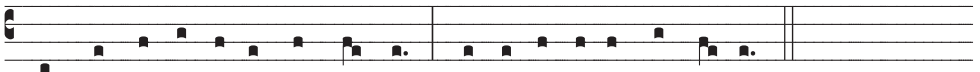
UR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come,



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

ALMIGHTY, ever-living God,
you have taken the mother of your Son,
the immaculate Virgin Mary,
body and soul into the glory where you dwell.
Keep our hearts set on heaven
so that, with her, we may share in your glory.
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

S

Al- ve, * Re-gi- na, ma-ter mi-se-ri-córdi- ae: Vi- ta, dulcé- do,
Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness

et spes nostra, sal- ve. Ad te clamá- mus, éxsu-les, fí- li- i Hevae. Ad te
and our hope, hail. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee

suspi-rá- mus, geméntes et flen-tes in hac la-crí-má-rum val-le. E- ia ergo,
do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then,

advoca- ta nostra, il-los tu- os mi-se-ri-cór-des ó-cu-los ad nos convér- te.
most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us;

Et Ie-sum, bene-díc-tum fructum ventris tu- i, no-bis post hoc ex-sí-li- um
And show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, after this our exile.

os- ténde. O cle- mens : O pi- a : O dul- cis Virgo Ma-rí- a.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.



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