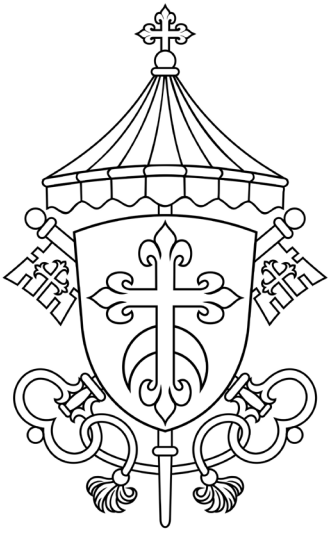
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

Twenty ninth Sunday
of the Year

WEEK I

17 October 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.**

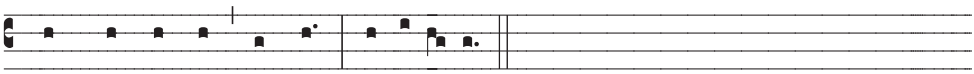
ORDER OF VESPERS

At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.

INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFICE

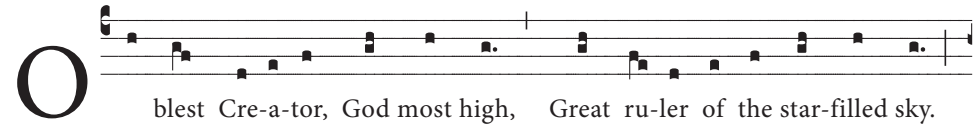
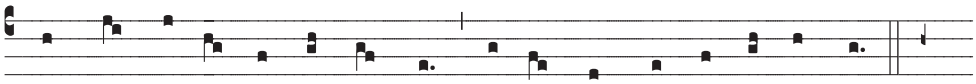
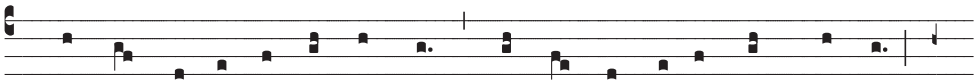
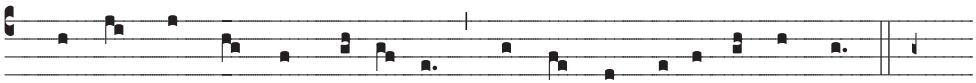
℣. O God, come to our aid.

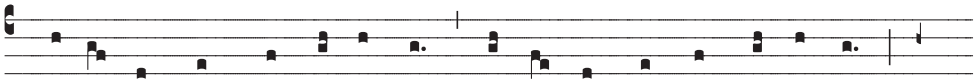
℟. **O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

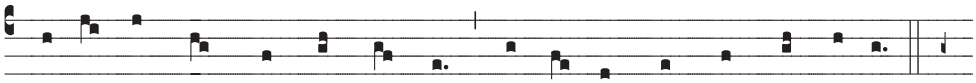
and to the Holy Spi-rit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

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

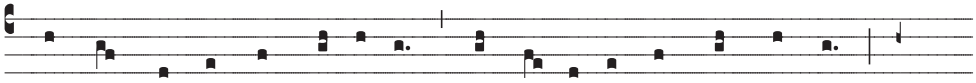
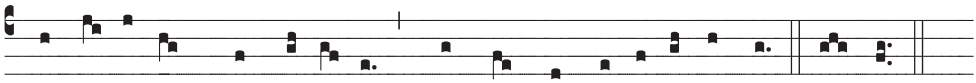
All sing

THE OFFICE HYMN



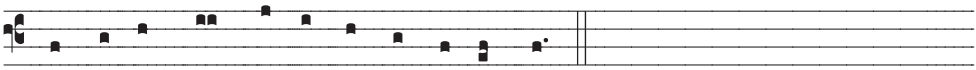




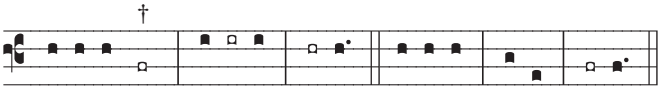


All sit.

PSALMODY

All sing the First Antiphon *Mode II*

Lord, let my prayer rise be-fore you like in-cense.

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 eve- | ning 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 <u>wrong</u>, †**
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 <u>kindness</u> †
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.

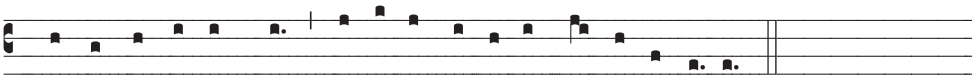
8 **To you, Lord God, my | eyes are | turned: ***
in you I take refuge; | spare my | soul!

9 From the trap they have laid for me | keep me | safe: *
keep me from the snares of those | who do | evil.

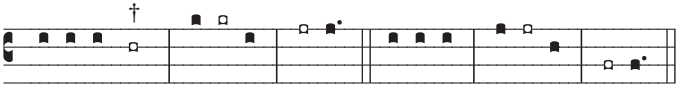
10 **Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son ***
and to the | Holy | Spirit,

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

All repeat the Antiphon.

All sing the Second Antiphon *Mode VII*

You are my refuge, Lord; my he-ri-tage in the land of the living.

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.

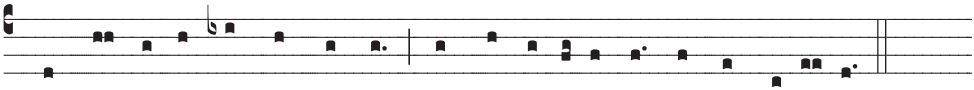
10 **Around me the | just will as- | semble ***
because of your | goodness to | me.

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.

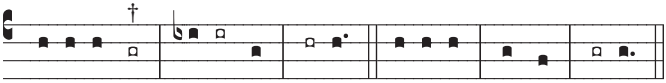
All sing the THIRD ANTIPHON *Mode I*



The Lord Je-sus humbled himself, but God ex-alted him on high for ev-er.

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-<u>self</u> †**
taking the | form of a | servant, *
being born in the like- | ness of | men.

3 And being found in human <u>form</u>, †
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 un- | der 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,

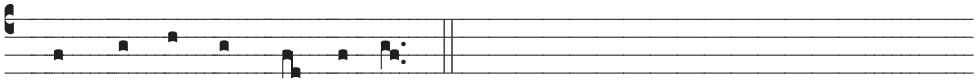
8 **as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, ***
world without | end. A- | men.

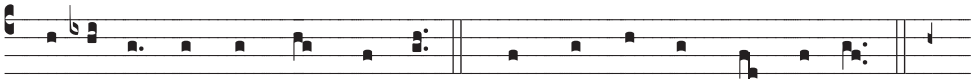
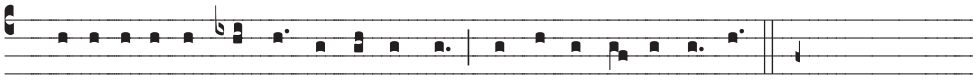
All repeat the Antiphon.

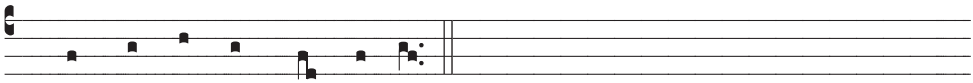
Scripture Reading Romans 11:33-36

HOW great are God's riches. How deep are his wisdom and knowledge. Who can explain his decisions? Who can understand his ways? As the scripture says, 'Who knows the mind of the Lord? Who is able to give him advice? Who has ever given him anything, so that he had to pay it back?' For all things were created by him, and all things exist through him and for him. To God be glory forever. Amen.

THE SHORT RESPONSORY

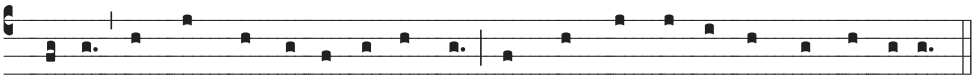


How great are your works, O Lord.

℣ In wisdom you have made them all. ℟ **How great are your works, O Lord.**

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

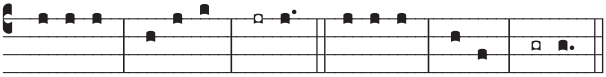


℟ **How great are your works, O Lord.**

All stand.

MODE VIII

Master, we know you are an honest man and teach the way of God with ho-nesty.

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.

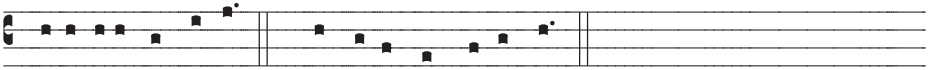
10 **Glory be to the Father | and to the | Son ***
and to the | Holy | Spirit,

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

All repeat the Antiphon.

INTERCESSIONS

Glory be to the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit as we humbly pray:



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

Almighty Father, bring justice to our world, that your people may live in the joy of your peace. ℟.

Bring all peoples into your kingdom, that all mankind may be saved. ℟.

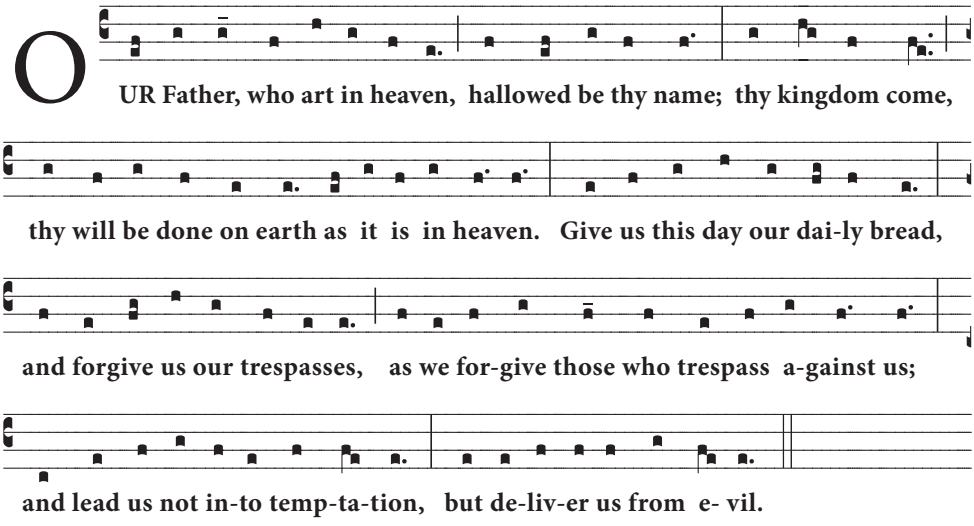
Give to married people the strength of your peace, the guidance of your will, and the grace to live together in constant love. ℟.

Be the reward of all who have given us their help, and grant them eternal life. ℟.

Have mercy on those who have lost their lives through warfare or violence, and receive them into your rest. ℟.

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

All sing



COLLECT

ALMIGHTY, ever-living God, make us ever obey you willingly and promptly. Teach us how to serve you with sincere and upright hearts in every sphere of life. 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:

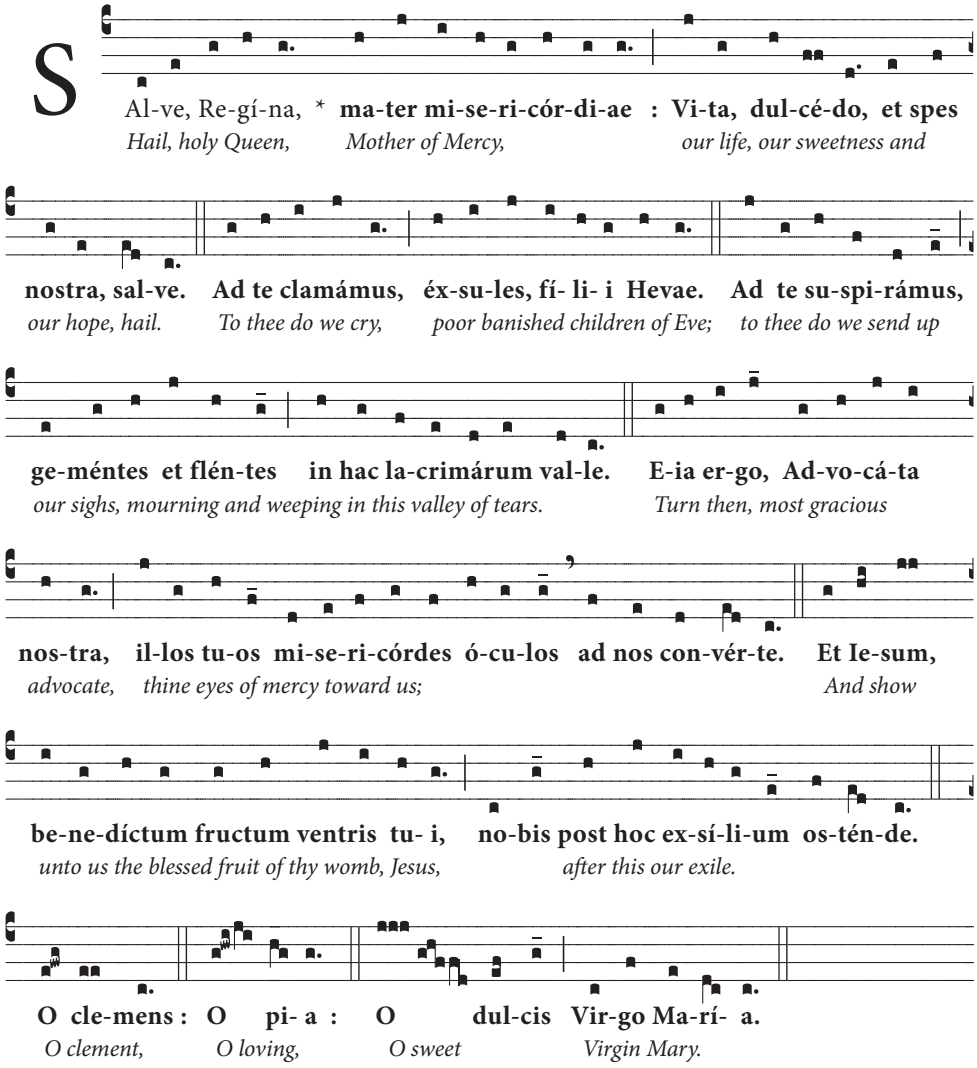
The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

℟. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

℟. **Thanks be to God.**

All sing

THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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