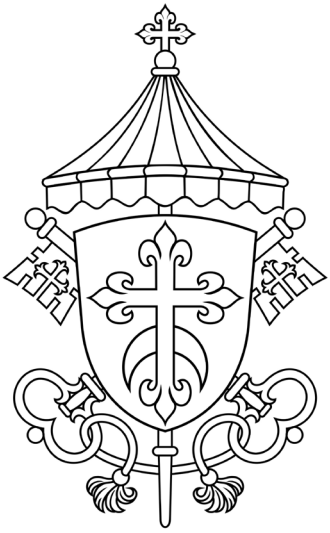
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

Thirtieth Sunday
of the Year

WEEK II

24 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.

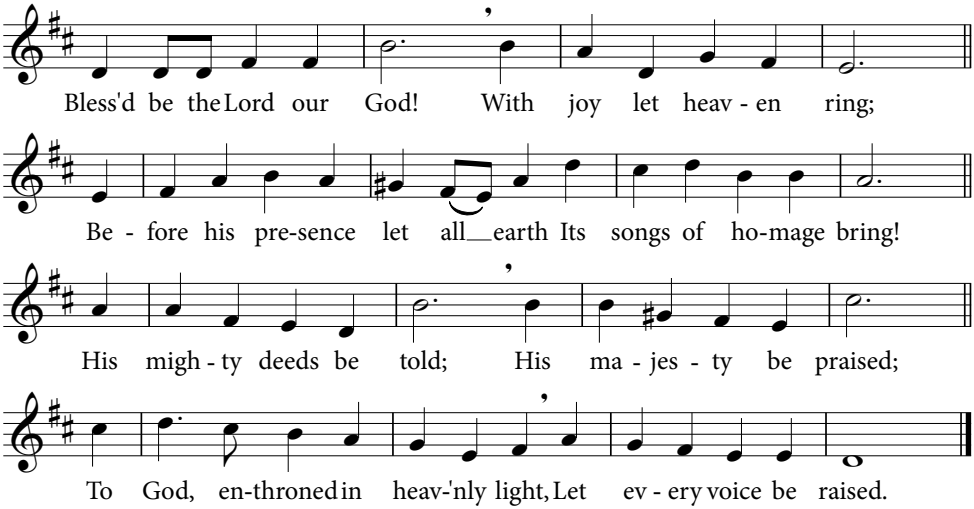
℟. **O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

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

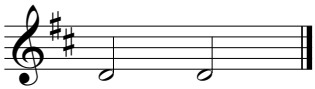
world without end. A-men. Al-le-lu-ia.

All sing

THE HYMN



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!



Diadematа
George Elvey (1818–1893)

All sit.

PSALMODY

All sing the First Antiphon *Mode I*

Lord, your word is a lamp for my steps, al-le-lu-ia.

PSALM 118 (119): 105-112

Cantor 1 Your word is a | lamp for my | steps. *
and a light | for my | path.

All 2 **I have sworn and have | made up my | mind ***
to obey | your de- | crees.

3 Lord, I am | deeply af- | flicted: *
by your word | give me | life.

4 **Accept, Lord, the homage | of my | lips ***
and teach me | your de- | crees.

5 Though I carry my | life in my | hands, *
I remem- | ber your | law.

6 **Though the wicked | try to en- | snare me ***
I do not stray | from your | precepts.

7 Your will is my | heritage for | ever, *
the joy | of my | heart.

8 **I set myself to carry | out your | will ***
in ful- | ness for- | ever.

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

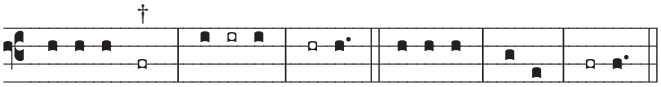
10 **as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, ***
world without | end. A- | men.

All repeat the Antiphon.

All sing the Second Antiphon *Mode II*

O Lord, you will show me the fulness of joy in your presence, al-le- lu-ia.

PSALM 15 (16)



Cantor 1 Preserve me, God, I take refuge in <u>you</u>, †
I say to the Lord: | 'You are my | God. *
My happiness lies in | you a- | lone.'

All 2 **He has put into my heart a | marvellous | love ***
for the faithful ones who dwell | in his | land.

3 Those who choose other gods increase their <u>sorrows</u>. †
Never will I offer their | offerings of | blood. *
Never will I take their name u- | pon my | lips.

4 **O Lord, it is you who are my | portion and | cup; ***
It is you yourself who | are my | prize.

5 The lot marked out for me is | my de- | light; *
welcome indeed the heritage that | falls to | me.

6 **I will bless the Lord who | gives me | counsel, ***
who even at night di- | rects my | heart.

7 I keep the Lord ever | in my | sight: *
since he is at my right hand, I | shall stand | firm.

8 **And so my heart rejoices, my | soul is | glad; ***
even my body shall | rest in | safety.

9 For you will not leave my soul a- | mong the | dead, *
nor let your beloved | know de- | cay.

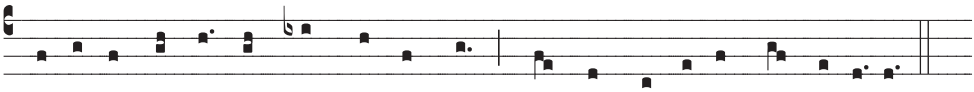
10 **You will show me the path of <u>life</u>, †**
the fulness of | joy in your | presence, *
at your right hand happi- | ness for- | ever.

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.

All repeat the Antiphon.

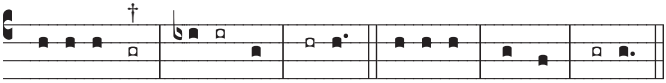
All sing the Third Antiphon *Mode I*



Let every creature, in heav'n and on earth, bend the knee at the name of Jesus.

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,

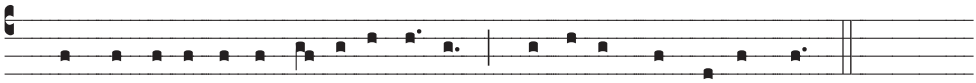
8 **as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be, ***
world without | end. A- | men.

All repeat the Antiphon.

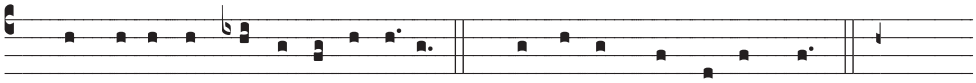
Scripture Reading Colossians 1:2-6

GRACE and peace to you from God our Father. We have never failed to remember you in our prayers and to give thanks for you to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever since we heard about your faith in Christ Jesus and the love that you show towards all the saints because of the hope which is stored up for you in heaven. It is only recently that you heard of this, when it was announced in the message of the truth. The Good News which has reached you is spreading and bearing fruit all over the world.

THE SHORT RESPONSORY

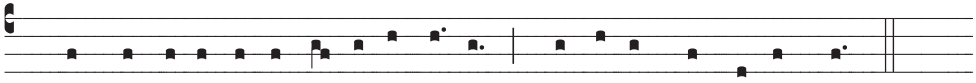


From the rising of the sun to its setting, great is the name of the Lord.



℣. High above the heavens is his glory. ℟. **Great is the name of the Lord.**

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



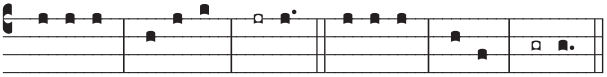
℟. **From the rising of the sun to its setting, great is the name of the Lord.**

All stand.

MODE VIII

You must love the Lord your God with all your heart.

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.

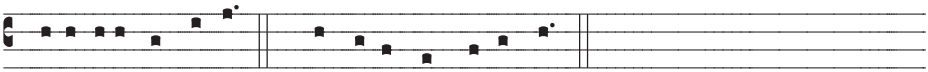
10 **Glory be to the Father | and to the | Son ***
and to the | Holy | Spirit,

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

All repeat the Antiphon.

INTERCESSIONS

God our Father leads us forward with great love towards the joyful day when we enter his rest.



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

Father, we pray for N. our Pope, and N. our Bishop: guide them and bless them in their work. ℟

Help the sick to share their sufferings with Christ: may they know in him the fullness of life and love. ℟

Lord, you found nowhere to lay your head: make us aware of the needs of the homeless today. ℟

Bless those who work on the land: may we receive the fruits of the earth with thankfulness. ℟

Father, have mercy on those who have died in the peace of Christ: receive them into the home you have prepared for them. ℟

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

All sing

COLLECT

LORD God, deepen our faith, strengthen our hope, enkindle our love; and so that we may obtain what you promise, make us love 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.

℟. **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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