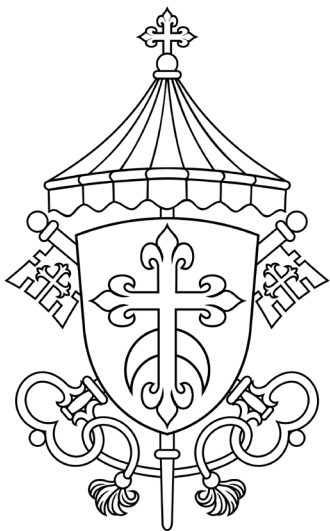


ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

ALL SAINTS

31 October 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.

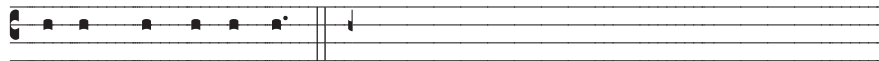
**TO MAINTAIN A SPIRIT OF REVERENCE AND SOLEMNITY,
PLEASE TURN OFF AND REFRAIN FROM USING ALL MOBILE TELEPHONES
AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

ORDER OF VESPERS

At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.

INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFICE

Ψ
O



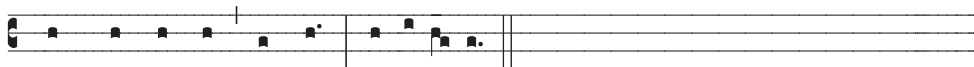
God, come to our aid.



Ⲙ 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

For all the Saints who from their la - bours rest,
Who thee by faith be - fore the world con - fest,
Thy name, O Je - su, be for ev - er blest. Al -
- le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia.

**Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might;
Thou Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou in the darkness drear their one true Light.
Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**O may thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,
Fight as the Saints who nobly fought of old,
And win, with them, the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**O blest communion! fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Sine nomine
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

W Walsham How (1823–1897)

All sit.

PSALMODY

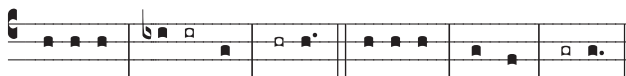
All sing the FIRST ANTIPHON

Mode I



Un-dy-ing light will shine about your saints, O Lord; they will live for ever . Al-le-lu-ia.

PSALM 112 (113)



- Cantor* 1 Praise, O servants | of the | Lord, *
praise the name | of the | Lord!
- All* 2 **May the name of the | Lord be | blessed ***
both now and for | ever- | more!
- 3 From the rising of the sun | to its | setting *
praised be the name | of the | Lord!
- 4 **High above all nations | is the | Lord, ***
above the heav- | ens his | glory.
- 5 Who is like the | Lord, our | God, *
who has risen on high | to his | throne
- 6 **yet stoops from the | heights to look | down, ***
to look down upon heav- | en and | earth?
- 7 From the dust he | lifts up the | lowly, *
from his misery he rais- | es the | poor
- 8 **to set him in the | company of | princes, ***
yes, with the princes | of his | people.
- 9 To the childless wife he | gives a | home *
and gladdens her | heart with | children.
- 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.



Je-ru-sa-lem, ci-ty of God, you shall re-joyce in your children, al-le-lu-ia.

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 | children 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 | hailstones 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.



The saints were singing a new song before the throne of God, al-le-lu-ia.

CANTICLE

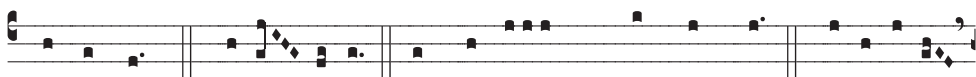
Apocalypse 19



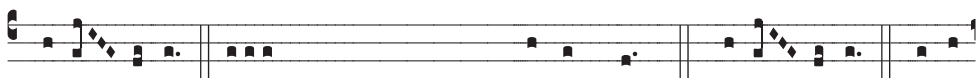
Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, *℟* Al-le- lu-ia. His judge-



ments are true and just. *℟* Al-le-lu-ia, al-le- lu-ia. Praise our God, all you



his servants, *℟* Al-le- lu-ia. You who fear him, small and great. *℟* Al-le-lu-ia,



al-le- lu-ia. The Lord our God the Al-mighty reigns, *℟* Al-le- lu-ia. Let us



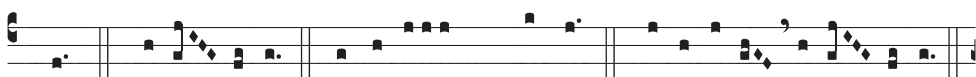
rejoice and exult and give him the glo-ry. *℟* Al-le-lu-ia, al-le- lu-ia. The



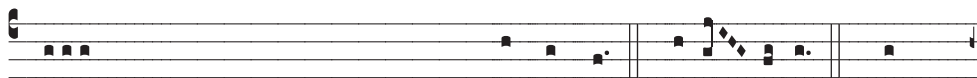
marriage of the Lamb has come. *℟* Al-le- lu-ia. And his bride has made



herself rea-dy. *℟* Al-le-lu-ia, al-le- lu-ia. Glory be to the Father and to the



Son, *℟* Al-le- lu-ia. and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit, *℟* Al-le-lu-ia, al-le- lu-ia.



As it was in the beginning is now and ev-er shall be, *℣* **Al-le- lu-ia.** world



with-out end. A-men. *℣* **Al-le-lu-ia, al-le- lu-ia.**

All repeat the Antiphon.

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 12:22-24

WHAT you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone is a 'first-born son' and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant and a blood for purification which pleads more insistently than Abel's.

THE SHORT RESPONSORY



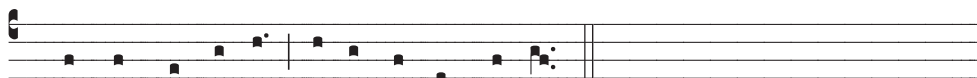
The just shall rejoice in the presence of God.



℣ They shall ex- ult and dance for joy. *℣* **In the presence of God.**



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



℣ **The just shall rejoice in the presence of God.**

All stand.



All the saints in heav'n proclaim: We praise you, Holy Trini-ty, one God.

MAGNIFICAT

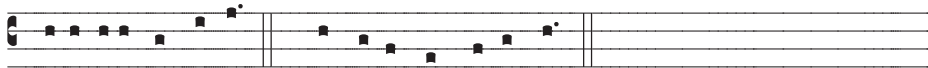


- Cantor* 1 My soul proclaims the greatness | of the | Lord, *
my spirit rejoices in | God my | Saviour;
- All* 2 **for he has looked with favour on his | lowly | servant, ***
and from this day all generations will | call me | blessèd.
- 3 The Almighty has done | great things for | me, *
holy | is his | 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 a-way | 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 without | end. A- | men.

All repeat the Antiphon.

INTERCESSIONS

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we are encouraged to run steadily in the race we have started. We pray to Christ, for he is the author of our faith, and he will bring it to fulfilment:



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

Lord, you chose the apostles to be the foundation of your Church: keep us faithful to all that you left in their care. ℟̥

Your martyrs testified to you, even to the shedding of their blood: make all Christians faithful witnesses to your word. ℟̥

Lord, be with those who have consecrated their lives to you in virginity: may their hope and generosity be a sign to the world of the glorious life they await at the end of time. ℟̥

In the saints you reveal your presence and your care: as we venerate them, may we be drawn closer to you. ℟̥

Welcome our departed brothers and sisters into the company of Mary, Joseph and all the saints: through their intercession, grant us a place in your kingdom. ℟̥

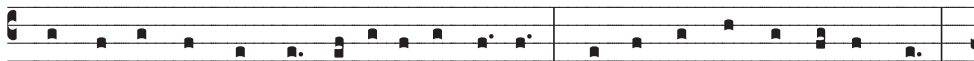
At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All sing

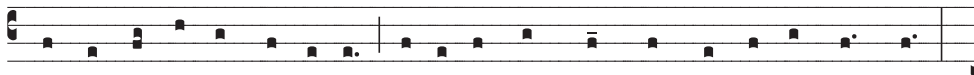
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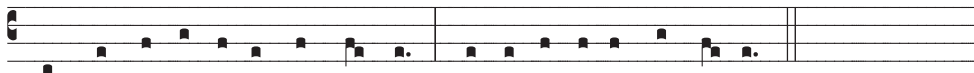
UR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come,



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,
we are celebrating with joy
the triumph of your grace in all the saints.
With so vast a multitude praying for us,
may we receive from you
the fullness of mercy we have always desired.
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-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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