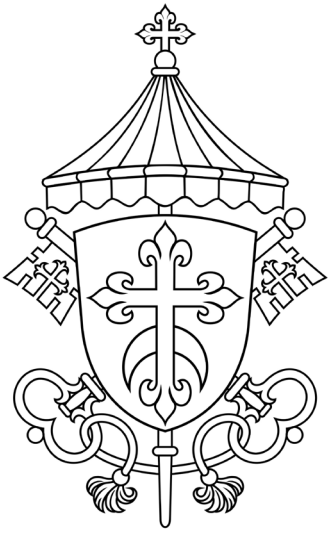
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Solemn Vespers and Benediction

The Office of Evening Prayer

Thirty third Sunday
of the Year

WEEK I

15 November 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.

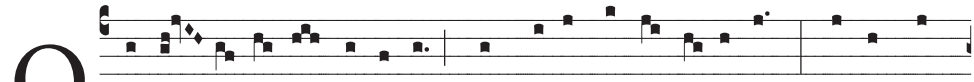
Bishops, priests, deacons, and many men and women in consecrated life pray the Liturgy of the Hours each day. Their work is organised around this prayer, keeping God always at the centre of their days. Lay people are encouraged to pray the Liturgy of the Hours as well, especially Morning and Evening Prayer. The daily singing of 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.**

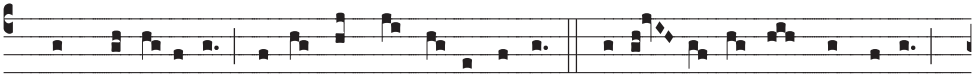
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

At the sound of the Sacristy bell all stand.

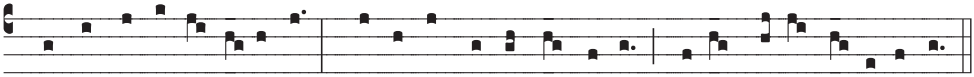
As the Blessed Sacrament is brought to the altar all kneel and sing:



O sa- lu- tá- ris Hósti- a, * **Quae cæ-li pandis ós-ti-um, Bel-la præ-**
O Victim bringing saving grace, who open wide the gate of heaven: our foes assail



munt hostí-li- a, Da ro-bur, fer au-xí- li-um. U-ni tri-nó-que Dó-mino
and press us hard; give us your strength, bring us your aid. To you be everlasting praise and glory,



Sit sempi-térna glóri- a, Qui vitam si-ne tér-mino Nobis donet in pátri- a.
One and Triune Lord, who grant us life that knows no end, for ever in our heavenly home.



A- men.

ORDER OF VESPERS

INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFICE

℣. Deus, in adiutorium meum intende. *O God, come to our aid.*

℟. Domine, ad adiuvandum me festina. *O Lord, make haste to help us.*
Gloria Patri et Filio *Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
et Spiritui Sancto. *and to the Holy Spirit,*
Sicut erat in principio *as it was in the beginning,*
et nunc et semper *is now, and ever shall be,*
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. Alleluia. *world without end. Amen. Alleluia.*

OFFICE HYMN

Lucis Creator optime, *Blest Creator of the light,*
Lucem dierum proferens, *Making day with radiance bright,*
Primordiis lucis novæ *Thou didst o'er the forming earth*
Mundi parans originem. *Give the golden light its birth.*

Qui mane iunctum vesperi *Shade of eve with morning ray*
Diem vocari præcipis; *Took from thee the name of day;*
Tætrum chaos illabitur; *Darkness now is drawing nigh;*
Audi preces cum fletibus. *Listen to our humble cry.*

Ne mens gravata crimine, *May we ne'er by guilt depressed*
Vitæ sit exsul munere, *Lose the way to endless rest;*
Dum nil perenne cogitat, *Nor with idle thoughts and vain*
Sesesque culpis illigat. *Bind our souls to earth again.*

Cælorum pulset intimum, *Rather may we heavenward rise*
Vitale tollat præmium: *Where eternal treasure lies;*
Vitemus omne noxium, *Purified by grace within,*
Purgemus omne pessimum. *Hating every deed of sin.*

Præsta Pater piisime, *Father, what we ask be done*
Patrique compar Unice, *Through thy well-beloved Son;*
Cum Spiritu Paraclito, *With the Holy Ghost and thee*
Regnans per omne sæculum. Amen. *Reigning through eternity. Amen.*

All sit.

PSALMODY

FIRST ANTIPHON

VIRGAM virtutis tuæ emittet Dominus ex Sion,
dominare in medio inimicorum tuorum.

The Lord will send you his mighty sceptre from Sion,
rule in the midst of all your foes.

PSALM 109 (110)

Dixit Dominus Domino meo: «Sede a dextris meis,	*The Lord's revelation to my Master:* *'Sit on my right:*
donec ponam inimicos tuos: scabellum pedum tuorum».	*your foes I will put* *beneath your feet.'*
Virgam potentiæ tuæ emittet Dominus ex Sion: dominare in medio inimicorum tuorum.	*The Lord will wield from Zion your sceptre of power:* *rule in the midst of all your foes.*
Tecum principatus in die virtutis tuæ, in splendoribus sanctis: ex utero ante luciferum genui te.	*A prince from the day of your birth* *on the holy mountains;* *from the womb before the dawn I begot you.*
Iuravit Dominus et non pænitebit eum: «Tu es sacerdos in æternum secundum ordinem Melchisedech».	*The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change.* *'You are a priest for ever,* *a priest like Melchizedek of old.'*
Dominus a dextris tuis: conquassabit in die iræ suæ reges.	*The Master standing at your right hand* *will shatter kings in the day of his wrath.*
De torrente in via bibet: propterea exaltabit caput.	*He shall drink from the stream by the wayside* *and therefore he shall lift up his head.*
Gloria Patri et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.	*Glory be to the Father and to the Son* *and to the Holy Spirit,*
Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.	*as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,* *world without end. Amen.*

The Antiphon is repeated.

SECOND ANTIPHON

EX Ægypto eduxisti nos, Domine.

You brought us out of Egypt, Lord.

PSALM 113A (114)

In exitu Israel de Ægypto,	*When Israel came forth from Egypt,*
domus Iacob de populo barbaro,	*Jacob's sons from an alien people,*
factus est Iuda sanctuarium eius,	*Judah became the Lord's temple,*
Israel potestas eius.	*Israel became his kingdom.*
Mare vidit et fugit,	*The sea fled at the sight:*
Iordanis conversus est retrorsum;	*the Jordan turned back on its course,*
montes saltaverunt ut arietes,	*the mountains leapt like rams*
et colles sicut agni ovium.	*and the hills like yearling sheep.*
Quid est tibi, mare, quod fugisti?	*Why was it, sea, that you fled,*
Et tu, Iordanis,	*that you turned back, Jordan,*
quia conversus es retrorsum?	*on your course?*
Montes, quod saltastis sicut arietes,	*Mountains, that you leapt like rams;*
et colles, sicut agni ovium?	*hills, like yearling sheep?*
A facie Domini contremisce, terra,	*Tremble, O earth, before the Lord,*
a facie Dei Iacob,	*in the presence of the God of Jacob,*
qui convertit petram	*who turns the rock*
in stagna aquarum	*into a pool*
et silicem in fontes aquarum.	*and flint into a spring of water.*
Gloria Patri, et Filio,	*Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
et Spiritui Sancto,	*and to the Holy Spirit,*
Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper	*as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,*
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.	*world without end. Amen.*

The Antiphon is repeated.

THIRD ANTIPHON

REGNAVIT Dominus Deus noster omnipotens, alleluia.

The Lord is King: our God, the Almighty, alleluia.

CANTICLE
Apocalypse 19:1-2. 5-7

Alleluia.	*Alleluia.*
Salus et gloria et virtus Deo nostro:	*Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,*
Alleluia.	*Alleluia.*
quia vera et iusta iudicia eius.	*his judgements are true and just.*
Alleluia, alleluia.	*Alleluia, alleluia.*
Alleluia.	*Alleluia.*
Laudem dicite Deo nostro, omnes servi eius:	*Praise our God, all you his servants,*
Alleluia.	*Alleluia.*
et qui timetis eum, pusilli et magni!	*you who fear him, small and great.*
Alleluia, alleluia.	*Alleluia, alleluia.*
Alleluia.	*Alleluia.*
Quoniam regnavit Dominus,	*The Lord our God,*
Deus noster omnipotens:	*the Almighty, reigns,*
Alleluia.	*Alleluia.*
Gaudeamus et exsultemus et demus gloriam ei.	*let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.*
Alleluia, alleluia.	*Alleluia, alleluia.*
Alleluia.	*Alleluia.*
Quia venerunt nuptiæ Agni:	*The marriage of the Lamb has come,*
Alleluia.	*Alleluia.*
et uxor eius præparavit se.	*and his bride has made herself ready.*
Alleluia, alleluia.	*Alleluia, alleluia.*
Alleluia.	*Alleluia.*
Gloria Patri et Filio:	*Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
Alleluia.	*Alleluia.*
et Spiritui Sancto.	*and to the Holy Spirit,*
Alleluia, alleluia.	*Alleluia, alleluia.*
Alleluia.	*Alleluia.*
Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper	*as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,*
Alleluia.	*Alleluia.*
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.	*world without end. Amen.*
Alleluia, alleluia.	*Alleluia, alleluia.*

The Antiphon is repeated.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, a gentle Father and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows, so that we can offer others, in their sorrows, the consolation that we have received from God ourselves.

SHORT RESPONSORY

Benedictus es, Domine, in firmamento cæli.	*Blessed are you, O Lord, in the vault of heaven.*
℣. Et laudabilis et gloriosus in sæcula.	℟. *You are exalted and glorified above all else for ever.*
℣. Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.	℟. *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.*

All stand.

MAGNIFICAT ANTIPHON

SERVE bone et fidelis, quia in pauca fuisti fidelis, super multa te constituam: intra in gaudium Domini Dei tui.

Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater. Come and enter into the joy of the Lord your God.

MAGNIFICAT

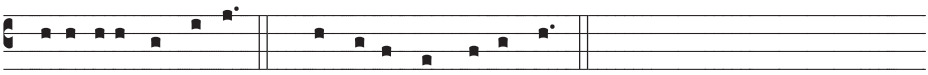
Quarti toni — *Francesco Soriano (1548–1621)*

Magnificat anima mea Dominum,	*My soul* *glorifies the Lord,*
et exsultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo,	*my spirit rejoices* *in God, my Saviour.*
quia respexit humilitatem ancillæ suæ. Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes,	*He looks on his servant in her lowliness;* *henceforth all ages* *will call me blessed.*
quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est, et sanctum nomen eius,	*The Almighty works marvels for me.* *Holy his name!*
et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies timentibus eum.	*His mercy is from age to age,* *on those who fear him.*
Fecit potentiam in brachio suo, dispersit superbos mente cordis sui;	*He puts forth his arm in strength* *and scatters the proud-hearted.*
deposuit potentes de sede; et exaltavit humiles;	*He casts the mighty from their thrones* *and raises the lowly.*
esurientes implevit bonis et divites dimisit inanes.	*He fills the starving with good things,* *sends the rich away empty.*
Suscepit Israel puerum suum, recordatus misericordiæ suæ,	*He protects Israel, his servant,* *remembering his mercy,*
sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et semini eius in sæcula.	*the mercy promised to our fathers,* *to Abraham and his sons for ever.*
Gloria Patri et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.	*Glory be to the Father and to the Son* *and to the Holy Spirit,*
Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.	*as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,* *world without end. Amen.*

The Antiphon is repeated.

INTERCESSIONS

Christ is the Head of his body, the Church, and we are members of that body; gathered this evening to pray in his name, we say:



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

May your Church be a light to the nations, the sign and source of your power to unite all: may she lead mankind to the mystery of your love. ℟.

Guide the Pope, and all the bishops of your Church: grant them the gifts of unity, of love, and of peace. ℟.

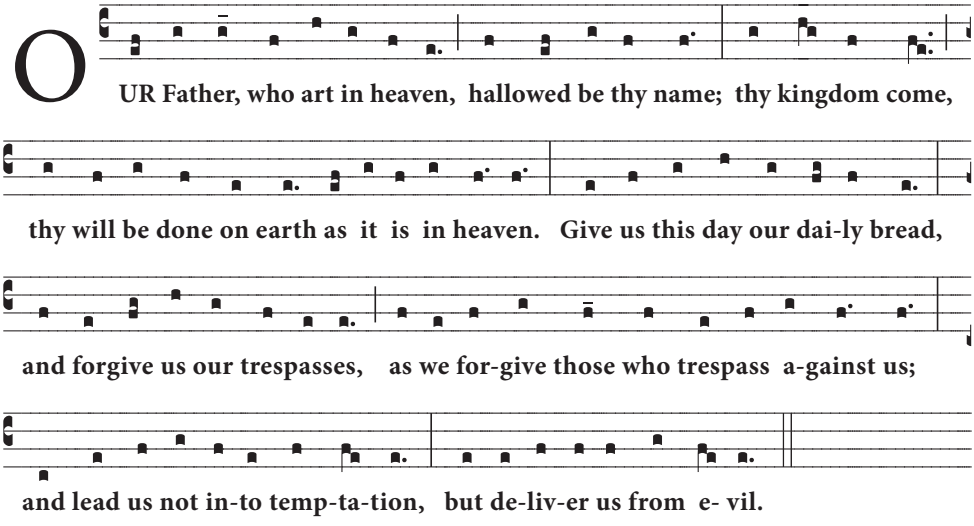
Lord, give peace to our troubled world and give to your children security of mind, and freedom from anxiety. ℟.

Help us to bring your compassion to the poor, the sick, the lonely, the unloved; lead us to find you in the coming week. ℟.

Awaken the dead to a glorious resurrection: may we be united with them at the end of time. ℟.

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

All sing



COLLECT

LORD our God, give us grace to serve you always with joy, because our full and lasting happiness is to make of our lives a constant service to the Author of all that is good. 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.**

The Choir sings

THE MOTET

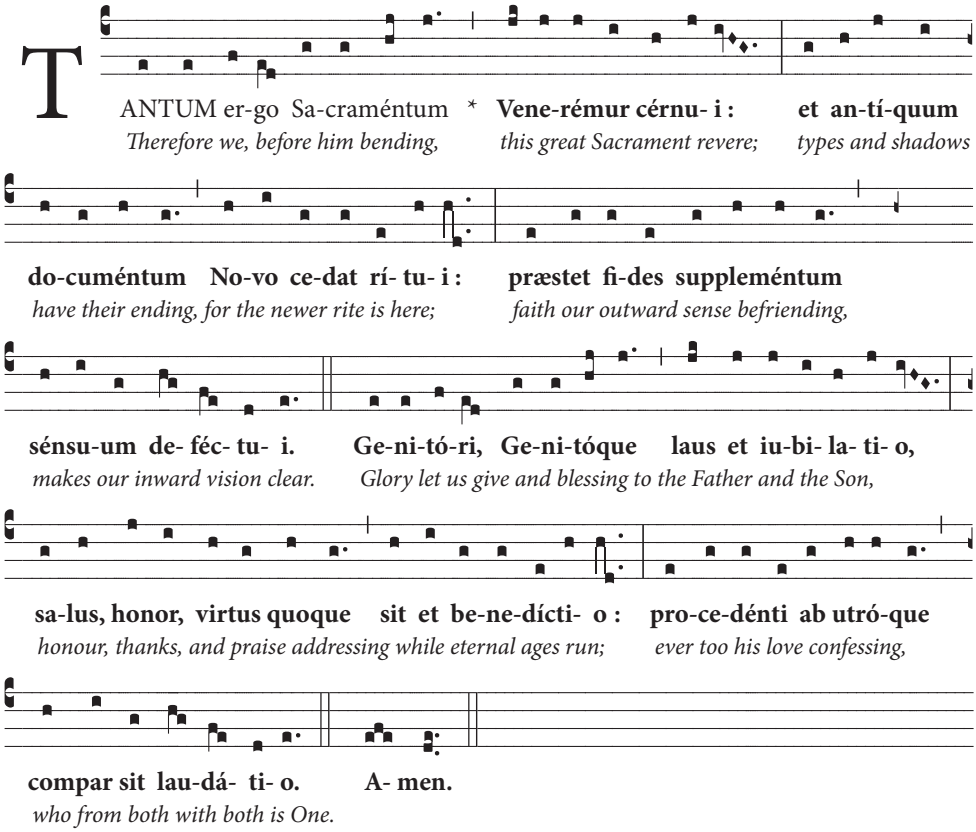
Lord, thou hast been our refuge from one generation to another. Before the mountains were brought forth or ever the earth and the world were made, thou art God from everlasting and world without end. Thou turnest man to destruction; again thou sayest: Come again, ye children of men. For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday; seeing that is past as a watch in the night.

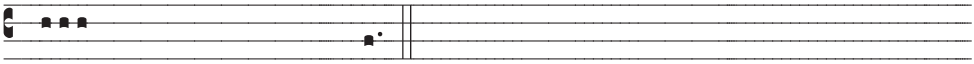
O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

As soon as thou scatterest them they are even as a sleep and fade away suddenly like the grass. In the morning it is green, and groweth up, but in the evening it is cut down, dried up and withered. For we consume away in thy displeasure, and are afraid at thy wrathful indignation. For when thou art angry all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end, as a tale that is told. The years of our age are three-score years and ten, and though men be so strong that they come to four-score years, yet is their strength but labour and sorrow. So passeth it away, and we are gone. Turn thee again, O Lord, at the last. Be gracious unto thy servants. O satisfy us with thy mercy and that soon.

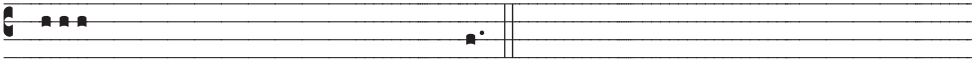
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

All sing


TANTUM er-go Sa-craméntum * Vene-rémur cérnu- i : et an-tí-quum
Therefore we, before him bending, this great Sacrament revere; types and shadows
do-cuméntum No-vo ce-dat rí- tu- i : præstet fi-des suppleméntum
have their ending, for the newer rite is here; faith our outward sense befriending,
sénsu-um de- féc- tu- i. Ge-ni-tó-ri, Ge-ni-tóque laus et iu-bi- la- ti- o,
makes our inward vision clear. Glory let us give and blessing to the Father and the Son,
sa-lus, honor, virtus quoque sit et be-ne-dícti- o : pro-ce-dénti ab utró-que
honour, thanks, and praise addressing while eternal ages run; ever too his love confessing,
compar sit lau-dá- ti- o. A- men.
who from both with both is One.



℣ Panem de cælo præstitísti e- is.
You gave them bread from heaven.



℟ **Omne delectaméntum in se habén- tem.**
Containing in itself all sweetness.

Oremus.

DEUS, qui nobis sub sacramento mirabili passionis tuæ memoriam reliquisti: tribue quæsumus, ita nos corporis et sanguinis tui sacra mysteria venerari; ut redemptionis tuæ fructum in nobis iugiter sentiamus. Qui vivis et regnas in sæcula sæculorum.

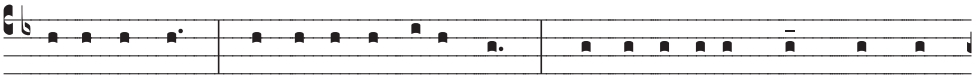
℟ **Amen.**

Let us pray.

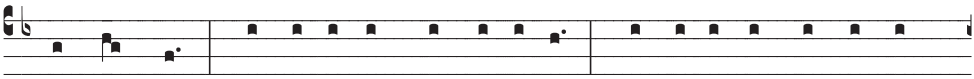
O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

BENEDICTION *is given.*

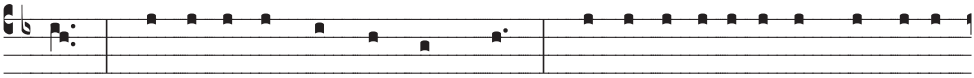
THE DIVINE PRAISES



Blessèd be God. **Blessèd be his Holy Name. Blessèd be Jesus Christ, true God**
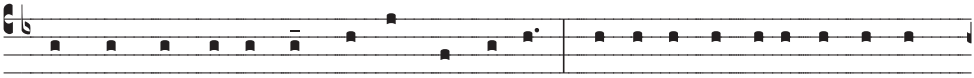


and true Man. Blessèd be the Name of Je-sus. Blessèd be his Most Sacred
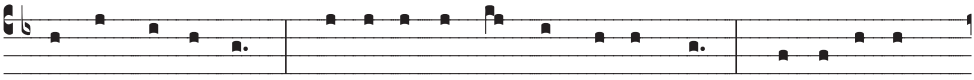


Heart. Blessèd be his Most Precious Blood. Blessèd be Jesus in the Most Holy
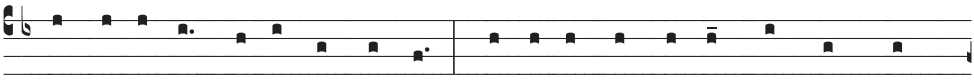


Sacrament of the Al-tar. Blessèd be the Holy Spi-rit, the Pa-raclete. Blessèd be



the great Mother of God, Ma-ry most Ho-ly. Blessèd be her Holy and Imma-



cu-late Conception. Blessèd be her Glorious Assumption. Blessèd be the
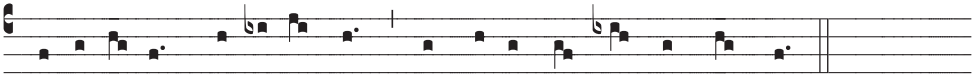


name of Ma-ry, Virgin and Mother. Blessèd be Saint Joseph, her most chaste
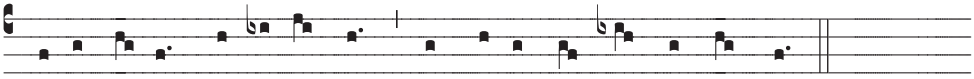


spouse. Blessèd be God in his Angels and in his Saints.

As the Blessed Sacrament is reposed, all sing



A-do-rémus * **in æ-tér-num Sanc-tís-si-mum Sa- cra-mén-tum.**
Let us adore for ever the most Holy Sacrament.
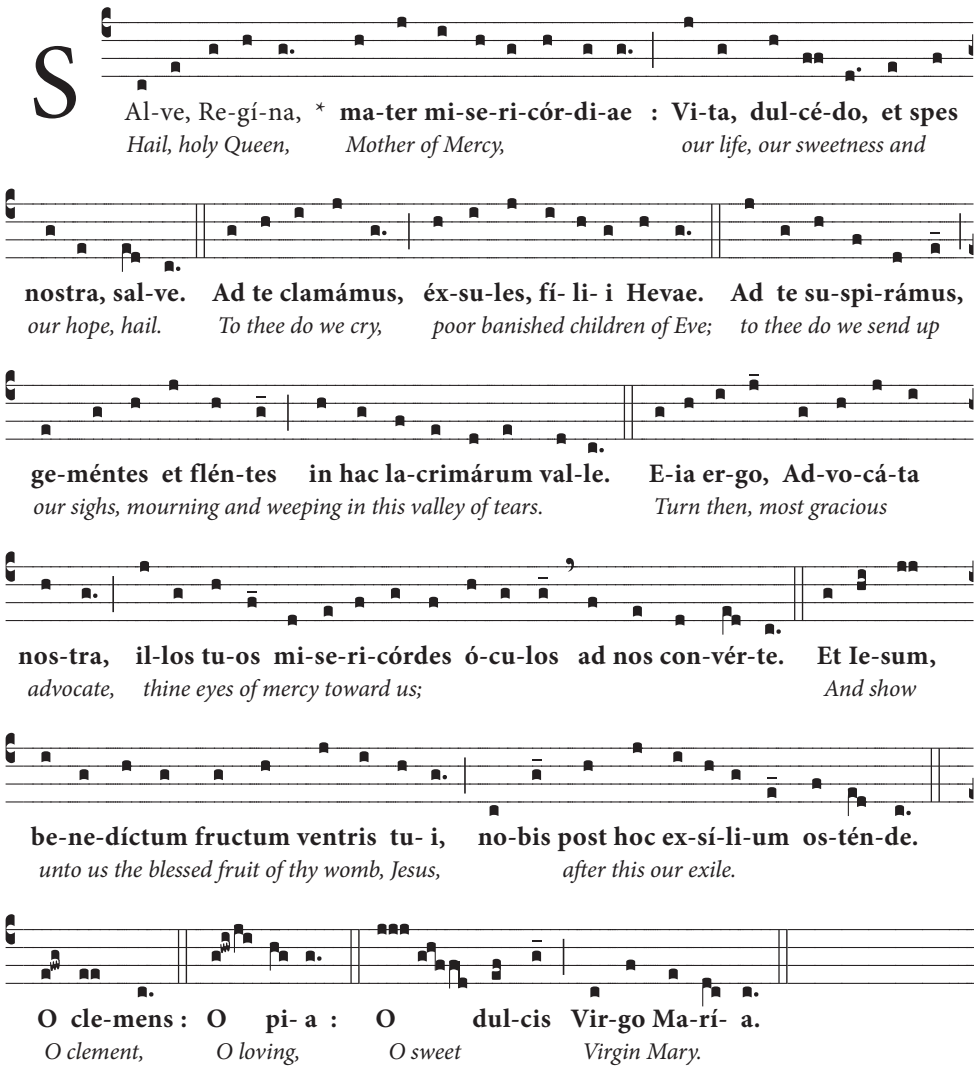
Laudate Dominum omnes gentes: laudate eum omnes populi.	*O praise the Lord, all you nations;* *acclaim him, all you peoples!*
Quoniam confirmata est super nos misericordia eius: et veritas Domini manet in æternum.	*For his merciful love has* *prevailed over us;* *and the Lord's faithfulness endures forever.*
Gloria Patri, et Filio: et Spiritui Sancto,	*Glory be to the Father and to the Son* *and to the Holy Spirit,*
sicut erat in principio, et nunc et semper: et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.	*as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,* *world without end. Amen.*



A-do-rémus * in æ-tér-num Sanc-tís-si-mum Sa- cra-mén-tum.
Let us adore for ever the most Holy Sacrament.

All sing

THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Allegro agitato (Sonata for Organ) *Philip Moore (b. 1943)*

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