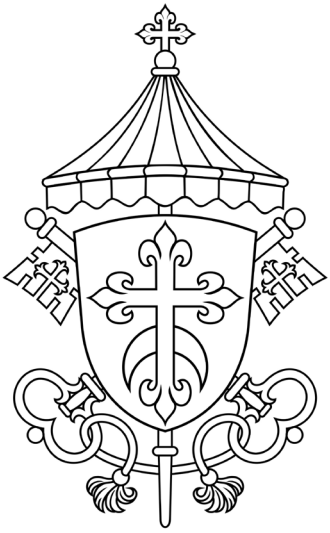
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



First Vespers

The Office of Evening Prayer

FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

28 November 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

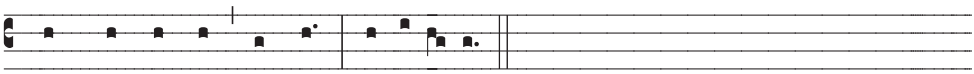
℣. O God, come to our aid.



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



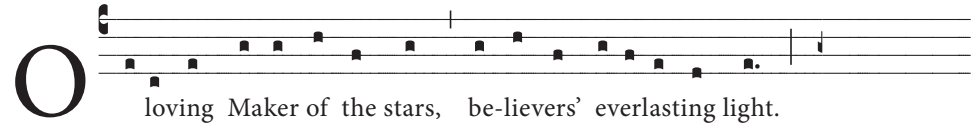
and to the Holy Spi-rit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

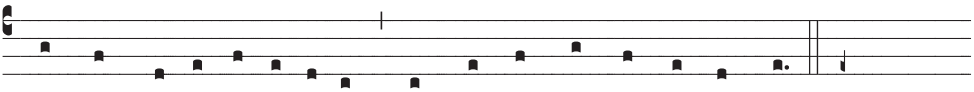


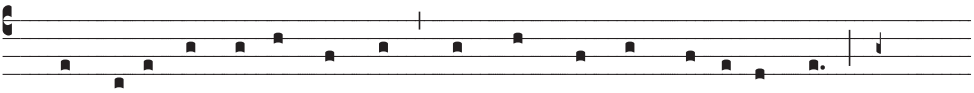
world without end. A-men. Al-le-lu-ia.

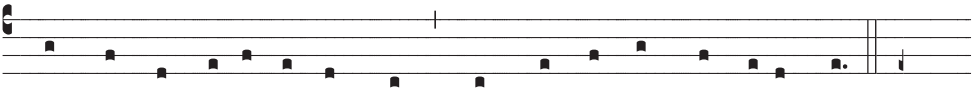
All sing

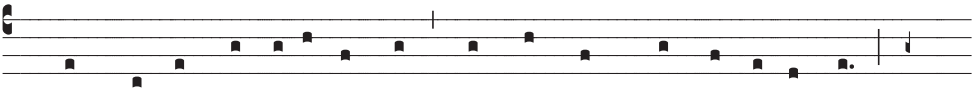
THE OFFICE HYMN

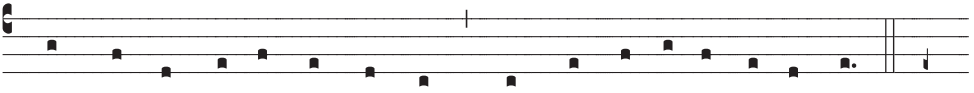


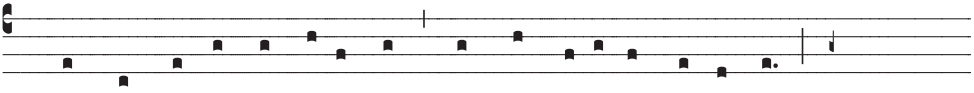


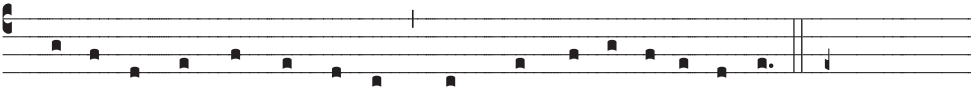


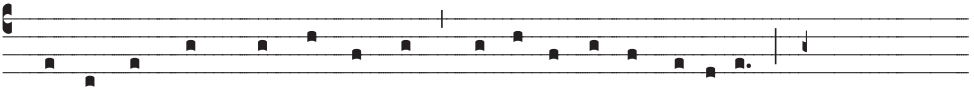


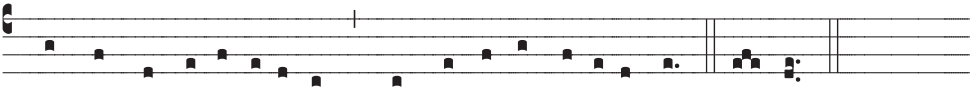








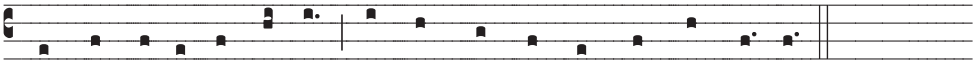




All sit.

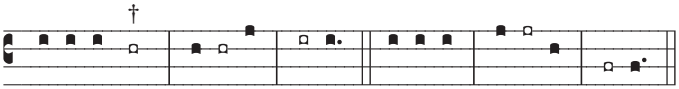
PSALMODY

All sing the First Antiphon *Mode II**



Proclaim it to the peoples: Be-hold, our God will come and save us.

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 before | you like | incense, ***
the raising of my hands like an | evening ob- | lation.

3 Set, O Lord, a guard o- | ver 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!

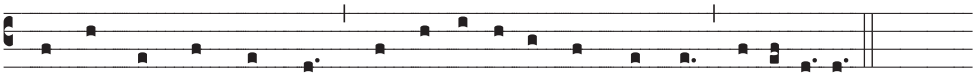
9 From the trap they have laid for me | keep me | safe: *
keep me from the snares of | those who do | evil.

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.

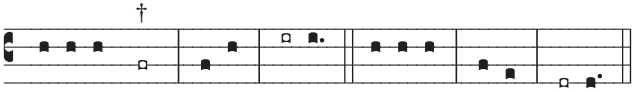
All repeat the Antiphon.

All sing the Second Antiphon *Mode V*



Be-hold the Lord will come, and all his ho-ly ones with him, al-le-lu-ia.

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 trou- | ble 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 strong- | er than | I.

9 Bring my soul out | of this | prison *
and then I shall | praise your | name.

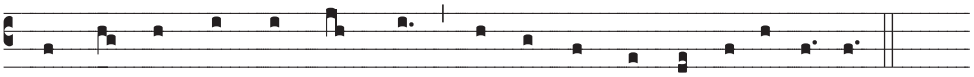
10 **Around me the just | will as- | semble ***
because of your good- | ness to | me.

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.

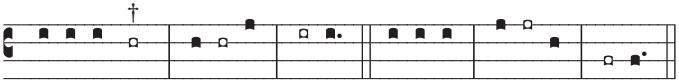
All sing the THIRD ANTIPHON *Mode II**



The Lord will come with great might and all flesh will see his sal-va-tion.

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 | likeness 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 high- | ly 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 | under 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.

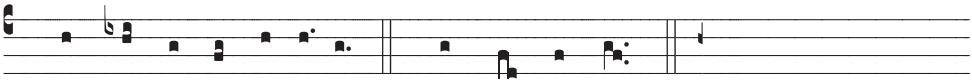
Scripture Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

MAY the God who gives us peace make you completely his, and keep your whole being, spirit, soul, and body, free from all fault, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you will do it, for he is faithful!

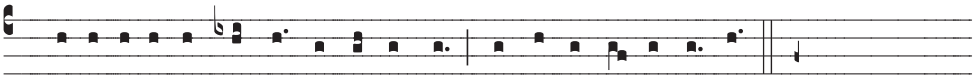
THE SHORT RESPONSORY



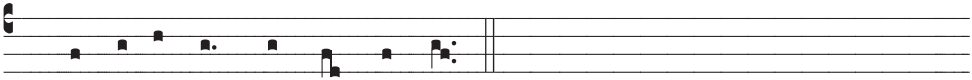
Show us, O Lord, your steadfast love.



℣ And grant us your sal-vation. ℟ **Your steadfast love.**



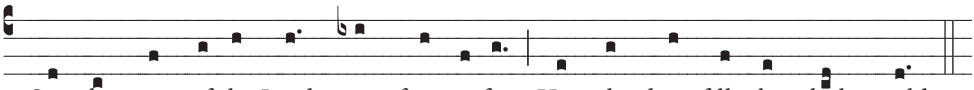
℣ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit.



℟ **Show us, O Lord, your steadfast love.**

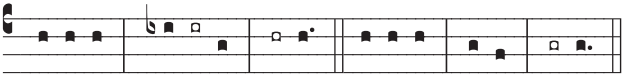
All stand.

MODE I



See, the name of the Lord comes from a-far. His splendour fills the whole world.

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 | 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.

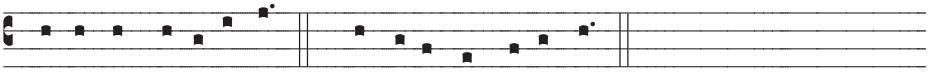
10 **Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son ***
and to the | Holy | Spirit,

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

All repeat the Antiphon.

INTERCESSIONS

The Son of God is coming with great power: all mankind shall see his face and be reborn.



℣ Dominum deprecemur. ℟ **Te, rogamus, audi nos.**
Let us pray to the Lord. *We ask you, hear our prayer.*

You will bring us wisdom, fresh understanding and new vision. ℟

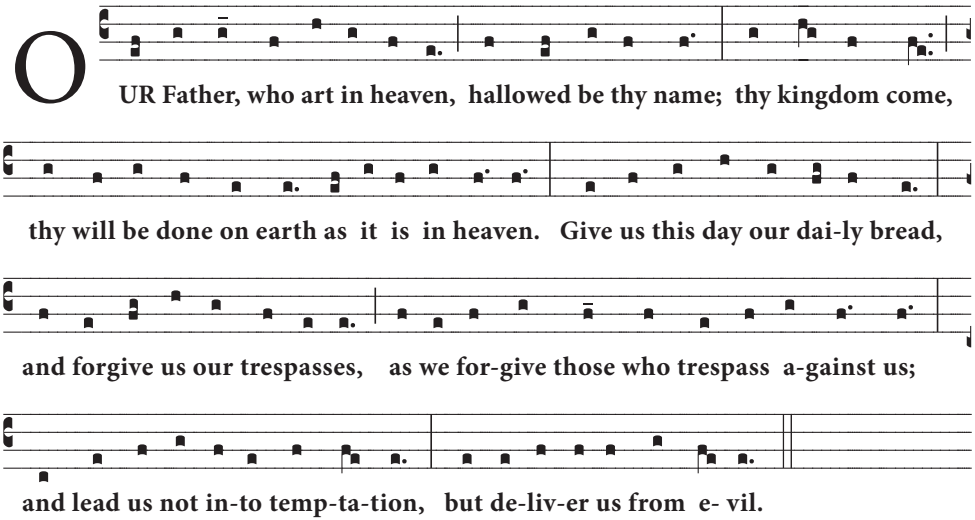
You will bring us good news, and power which will transform our lives. ℟

You will bring us truth, showing us the way to our Father. ℟

Born of a woman, you will open in our flesh the way to eternal life and joy. ℟

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

All sing



COLLECT

GRANT, almighty Father,
that when Christ comes again
we may go out to meet him
bearing the harvest of good works
achieved by your grace.
We pray that he will receive us into the company of the saints
and call us into the kingdom of heaven.
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

Dominus vobiscum.

℟. **Et cum spíritu tuo.**

The Lord be with you.

℟. **And with your spirit.**

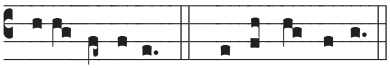
The Celebrant gives the blessing.

Benedícat vos omnípotens Deus,
Pater, et Fílius,
et Spíritus Sanctus.

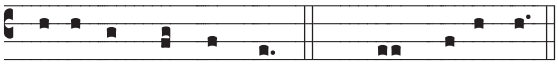
℟. **Amen.**

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.

℟. **Amen.**



℣. I-te in pace. ℟ **De-o grá-ti-as.**



℣. Go in the peace of Christ. ℟ **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.

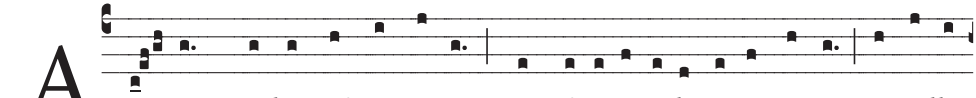
℟. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

℟. **Thanks be to God.**

All sing

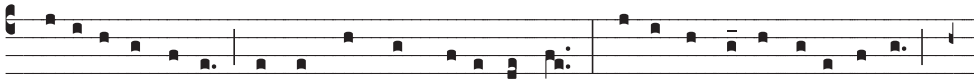
THE ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



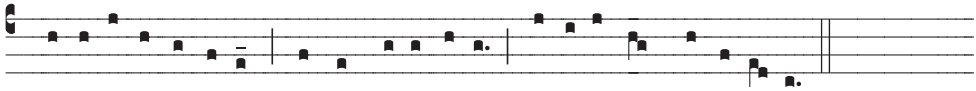
ALMA * **Redemptó-ris Mater, quæ pérvi-a cæli porta manes, et stella**
Loving mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star



ma-ris, succúrre cadénti, súrgere qui curat, pópu-lo; tu quæ genu- ísti,
of the sea, assist your people who have fallen yet strive to rise again, To the



natúra mi-ránte, tu-um sanctum Geni-tó-rem, Virgo pri-us ac posté-ri-us,
wonderment of nature you bore your Creator, yet remained a virgin after as before,



Gabri-é-lis ab o-re sumens illud A-ve, peccató-rum mi-se-ré-re.
You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting, have pity on us poor sinners.

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