

THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



II VESPERS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 20, 2020

Welcome to the Cathedral's celebration of Second Vespers for the Sundays in Advent. This order will be your guide for the liturgy. Please note the symbols for cantor or celebrant (℣, Can., or Celebrant) and assembly (℟ or All) and pray accordingly. Evening Prayer begins with the following verse:

OPENING VERSE (STAND)

℣ od, come to my assistance. ℟ Lord, make haste to help me. Glory to
the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it: as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alle-lu-ia.

HYMN

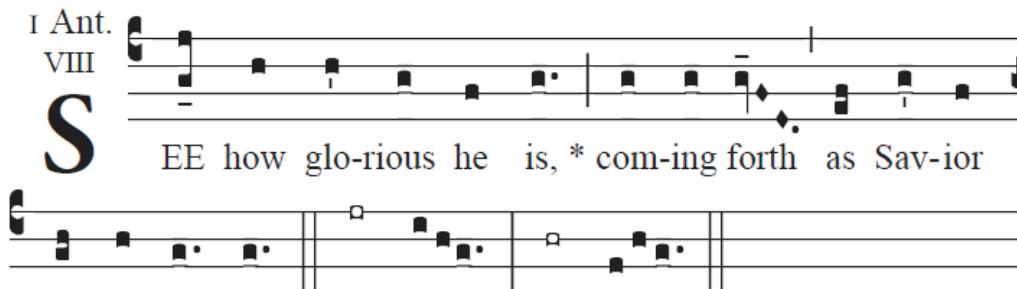
VERBUM SALUTIS

The Sav - ior of all men, the Word, Who from the Fa - ther's mouth pro - ceeds,
The Spi - rit o - ver - sha - dows you, His fruit - ful work has now be - gun,
Be - hold the sac - red tem - ple's gate, Re - main-ing sealed for years un - known;
Of old the pro - phets held his pledge; Be - fore the dawn he had his birth;
Let an - gels then ex - ult as well And all the na - tions leap for joy;
To you, O Christ, our gra - cious king, And to the Fa - ther glo - ry be,

With - in your womb, O Vir - gin blest, We hum - bly beg you to re - ceive.
That you might bring forth Christ the Lord, The Fa - ther's co - e - ter - nal Son.
Its bless - ed thres - hold fast - en'd tight Would o - pen for the Prince a - lone.
Now Ga - bri - el pro - claims to you: The Lord de - scends un - to the earth.
The Most High comes in low - li - ness To save what sin had once de - stroyed.
And to the Spi - rit Pa - ra - clete, While a - ges run e - ter - nal - ly.

After the hymn follows the psalmody of the office. Each psalm has an associated antiphon. The antiphon will be introduced, then the cantor will chant the incipit of the antiphon (the portion up to the asterisk, i.e., “See how glorious he is...”) Please join in the remainder of the antiphon. After the psalm, all sing the antiphon in its entirety. This practice is also the case for the Magnificat antiphon. The psalm verses are sung alternating by verse between schola and assembly. The psalm tone is found at the end of the antiphon below.

ANTIPHON I (SIT)



I Ant. VIII
S EE how glo-rious he is, * com-ing forth as Sav-ior
of all peo-ple. *Psalm 109*

PSALM 110

Can. The Lord's revelation to my Master: “*Sit on my right: **
your foes I will put be-neath your feet.”

All The Lord will wield from Zion your scep-ter of power: *
rule in the midst of *all your foes*.

(etc.) A prince from the day of your birth on the *ho-ly mountains*; *
from the womb before the dawn *I be-got you*.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change. / “*You are a priest for-ever, **
a priest like Melchize-dek of old.”

The Master standing *at your right hand* *
will shatter kings in the day of *his great wrath*.

He shall drink from the stream *by the wayside* *
and therefore he shall lift *up his head*.

Glory to the Father, and *to the Son*, *
and to the *Ho-ly Spirit*:

as it was in the beginn-ing, is **now**, *
and will be forev-er. **A-men**.

(The antiphon is then repeated by all.)

ANTIPHON II

2 Ant. VI

C Rook-ed paths * will be straightened, and rough ways made
 smooth. Come, O Lord, do not de- lay, al- le- lu- ia.

VIF

PSALM 111

Can Happy the man who *fears the Lord*, *
 who takes delight in all his *com-mands*.

All His sons will be power-*ful on earth* ; *
 the children of the upright *are blest*.

(etc.) Riches and wealth are *in his house* ; *
 his justice stands firm *for-ever*.

He is a light in the darkness *for the upright* : *
 he is generous, merciful and **just**.

The good man takes pit-y and **lends**, *
 he conducts his affairs *with honor*.

The just man will *nev-er waver* : *
 he will be remembered *for-ever*.

He has no fear of *evil news* ; *
 with a firm heart he trusts in *the Lord*.

With a steadfast heart he *will not fear* ; *
 he will see the downfall of *his foes*.

Open-handed, he gives to the poor; / his justice stands *firm for-ever*. *
 His head will be raised *in glory*.

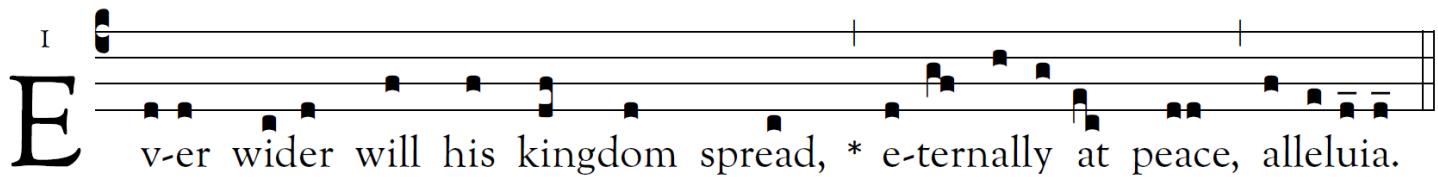
The wicked man sees and is angry, / grinds his teeth and *fades a-way* ; *
 the desire of the wicked leads *to doom*.

Glory to the Father, and *to the Son*, *
 and to the *Ho-ly Spirit*:

as it was in the begin-*ning*, *is now*, *
 and will be for ever. **A-men**.

(The antiphon is then repeated by all.)

ANTIPHON III



I
E v-er wider will his kingdom spread, * e-ternally at peace, alleluia.

CANTICLE

CF. REVELATION 19:1-7

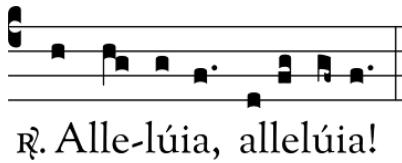
Cantor/choir sings each trope, while all respond with “Alleluia”.

Salvation, glory, and power to our God.



R. Alleluia!

His judgments are honest and true.



R. Alleluia, alleluia!

Sing praise to our God, all you his servants,
all who worship him reverently, great and small.
The Lord our all-powerful God is King;
let us rejoice, sing praise, and give him glory.
The wedding feast of the Lamb has begun,
and his bride is prepared to welcome him.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

Alleluia
Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia
Alleluia, alleluia.

(The antiphon is then repeated by all.)

READING

Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again. Rejoice! Everyone should see how unselfish you are. The Lord is near.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5

RESPONSORY

Resp. IV

L ET us see, O Lord, your mer- cy, * And grant us your
 sal-va-tion. Let us see. ¶ Restore a- gain our life, that we may
 rejoice in you. * And grant. ¶ Glo- ry to the Fa-ther, and to the
 Son, and to the Ho- ly Spir- it. Let us see.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*MAGNIFICAT*) (STAND)

Antiphon (schola)

O Clavis David et sceptrum domus Israel, qui aperis, et nemo claudit, claudis, et nemo aperit: veni et educ vincatum de domo carceris, sedentem in tenebris et umbra mortis.

O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of heaven: come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.

II D

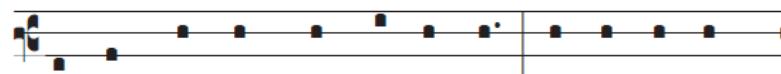
M Y soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, *
 my spir- it re-joic- es in God my Sav- ior.
 2. for he has looked with fav-or on his low-ly servant. * From
 this day all gen- er- a- tions will call me bless-ed :
 3. the Al-might-y has done great things for me, * and ho- ly
 is his Name.



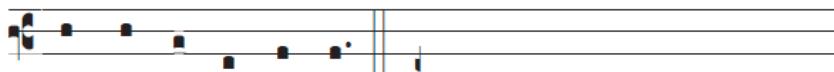
4. He has mer- cy on those who fear him * in ev- 'ry gen-



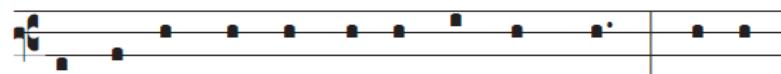
er- a- tion.



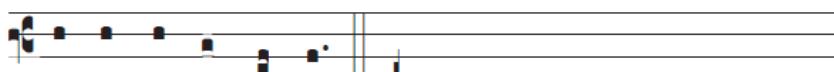
5. He has shown the strength of his arm, * he has scattered



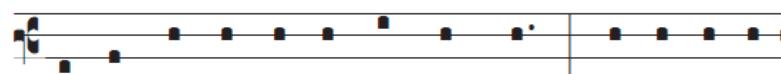
the proud in their con-ceit.



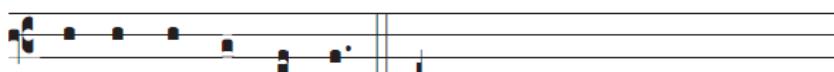
6. He has cast down the might-y from their thrones, * and has



lift- ed up the low- ly.



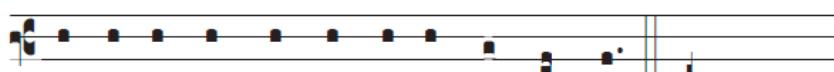
7. He has filled the hun-gry with good things, * and the rich he



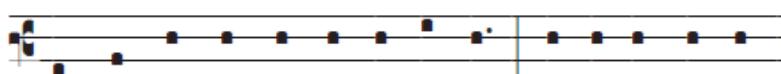
has sent a- way emp- ty.



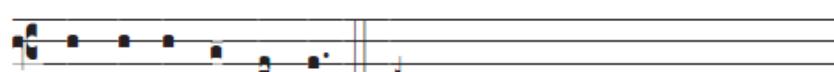
8. He has come to the help of his ser-vant, Is- ra- el * for



he has re-membered his promise of mer- cy,



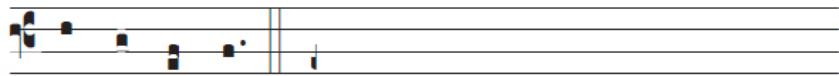
9. the prom-ise he made to our fa-thers, * to A-bra-ham and



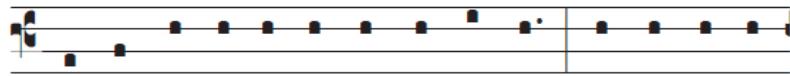
his children for ev- er.



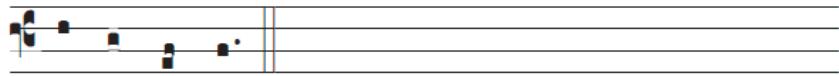
10. Glo- ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, * and to the



Ho- ly Spir- it :



11. as it was in the be- gin-ning, is now * and will be for



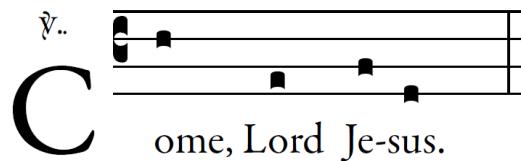
ev- er. A- men.

(The antiphon is then repeated by the schola.)

The office of Vespers concludes with the sung Intercessions, Concluding Prayer, and Final Blessing and Dismissal found below.

INTERCESSIONS

After the Celebrant's invocation and each cantor petition, the following response is sung:



CONCLUDING PRAYER, FINAL BLESSING, AND DISMISSAL

V. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

V. The Lord be with you:

R. And with your spirit.

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

R. Amen.

V. Go in peace.

R. Thanks be to God.

ANTIPHON IN PROCESSION (SUNG BY SCHOLA)

ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER

SIMPLE TONE, MODE V

Alma redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli porta manes, Et stella maris, succurre cadenti surgere qui curat populo: Tu quae genuisti, natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem: Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere.

Holy Mother of our Redeemer, thou gate leading to heaven and star of the sea; help the falling people who seek to rise, thou who, all nature wonders, didst give birth to thy holy Creator. Virgin always, hearing that “Ave” from Gabriel’s lips, take pity on us sinners.

—Marian antiphon for Advent and Christmas

The chant for tonight’s Vespers was led by the men of Cathedral Choir. Please contact Bruce Ludwick, Jr., at Ludwick@stpaulsbhm.org or 205.251.1279x107 for more information on joining this group!

CHRISTMAS MASSES AT THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL

Please join us for one of our celebrations of the Nativity of the Lord!

5:00PM	VIGIL MASS FOR CHRISTMAS WITH CANTOR
8:00PM	MASS FOR CHRISTMAS WITH CHOIR, CELEBRATED BY BISHOP RAICA
11:15PM	SUNG OFFICE OF READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS
12:00AM	SOLEMN MIDNIGHT MASS: J. HAYDN MISSA BREVIS IN F WITH GREGORIAN CHANT, CAROLS, AND ANTHEMS
10:00AM	MASS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY WITH CANTOR, CELEBRATED BY BISHOP RAICA



THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

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