st mary's catholic charch greenville, south carolina



solemn vespers of the fifth sanoay of lent Throughout this celebration of Vespers, we will observe several prolonged periods of sacred silence, during which we are not simply waiting for the next thing to happen; we are, rather, waiting upon the LORD. Sacred silence is active and attentive — an invitation to deeper prayer and interior stillness.

OPENING VERSE AND RESPONSE

At the ringing of the bells, all stand as the procession enters the church. Upon reaching the chair the celebrant intones the opening verse, and all join in singing the response and doxology:

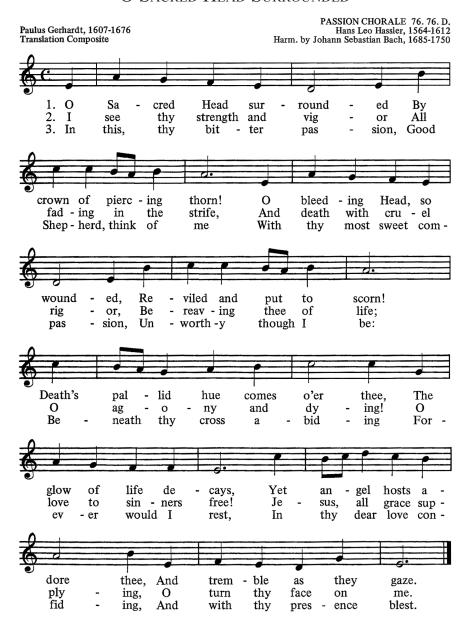
All make the sign of the cross.



All remain standing for the singing of the office hymn.



O SACRED HEAD SURROUNDED



All sit. Before each psalm the organist will introduce the psalm tone, and the schola will intone the antiphon. The people and the schola will sing the psalms in alternation, and each line of the psalms should be sung without pause for punctuation. Immediately following the doxology, the people and the schola sing the antiphon together.





Antiphon: As the serpent was lifted up in the desert, / so the Son

Schola of Man must be lifted up.

Psalm 110.1-5, 7

Schola The Lord's revelation to my Master:

"Sit on my right:

your foes I will put beneath your feet."

People The Lord will wield from Zion

your scepter of power:

rule in the midst of all your foes.

Schola A prince from the day of your birth

on the holy mountains;

from the womb before the dawn I begot you.

People The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change.

"You are a priest for ever,

a priest like Melchizedek of old."

Schola The Master standing at your right hand

will shatter kings in the day of his great wrath.

People He shall drink from the stream by the wayside

and therefore he shall lift up his head.

All 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.

Antiphon: As the serpent was lifted up in the desert, / so the Son

All of Man must be lifted up.



Antiphon: The Lord of hosts protects us and sets us free; / he guides

Schola and saves his people.

Psalm 114

Schola When Israel came forth from Egypt,

Jacob's sons from an alien people, Judah became the Lord's temple, Israel became his kingdom.

People The sea fled at the sight:

the Jordan turned back on its course,

the mountains leapt like rams and the hills like yearling sheep.

Schola Why was it, sea, that you fled,

that you turned back, Jordan, on your course?

Mountains, that you leapt like rams,

hills, like yearling sheep?

People Tremble, O earth, before the Lord,

in the presence of the God of Jacob, who turns the rock into a pool and flint into a spring of water.

All 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.

Antiphon: The Lord of hosts protects us and sets us free; / he guides

All and saves his people.





Antiphon: He was pierced for our offenses / and burdened with our

Schola sins. / By his wounds we are healed.

1 Peter 2.21-24

Schola Christ suffered for you,

and left you an example

to have you follow in his footsteps.

People He did no wrong;

no deceit was found in his mouth.

When he was insulted, he returned no insult.

Schola When he was made to suffer,

he did not counter with threats. Instead he delivered himself up to the One who judges justly.

People In his own body

He brought your sins to the cross, so that all of us, dead to sin,

could live in accord with God's will.

Schola By his wounds you were healed.

All 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.

Antiphon: He was pierced for our offenses / and burdened with our

All sins. / By his wounds we are healed.

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Acts 13.26-30

My brothers, it was to us that this message of salvation was sent forth. The inhabitants of Jerusalem and their rulers failed to recognize him, and in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets which we read sabbath after sabbath. Even though they found no charge against him which deserved death, they begged Pilate to have him executed. Once they had thus brought about all that had been written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. Yet God raised him from the dead.



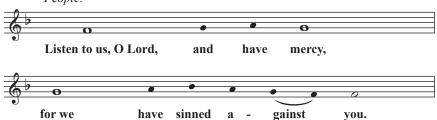
Out from the Deep Psalm 130 Arlen Clarke

Out from the deep I call to thee, O Lord hear my invocation. For if thou wilt our sins behold, that we have done from time to tide, O Lord, who then dare be so bold as in thy sight for to abide.





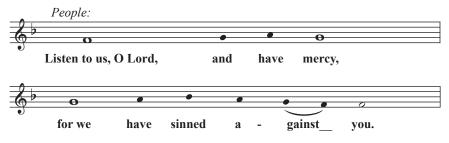
Schola: Listen to us, O Lord, and have mercy, for we have sinned against you. People:

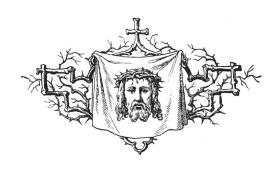


Schola: Christ Jesus, hear our humble petitions,



Schola: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:







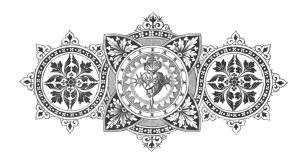
Magnificat Robert Lee

Antiphon: When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself.

When Mary visited Elizabeth before their sons were born, Elizabeth proclaimed her faith in the Word made flesh, who then lived inside of His mother. Elizabeth cried out "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." In response, Mary sang of her confidence in God's love and providential plan for each of us, and this hymn of praise is known as the "Magnificat" from its first word in the Latin text. As the schola sings this canticle all make the Sign of the Cross at the beginning of the text (Luke 1.46-55) which in the Revised Standard Version is rendered:

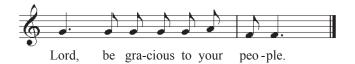
* My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.
For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm,
He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts,
he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree.
He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away.
He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
As he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity forever.

Antiphon: When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself.





The celebrant introduces the intercessions, and after each petition all respond:



Celebrant All praise to God the Father who brought his chosen people

to rebirth from imperishable seed through his eternal Word.

Let us ask him as his children:

All Lord, be gracious to your people.

Celebrant God of mercy, hear the prayers we offer for all your people,

may they hunger for your word more than for bodily food.

All Lord, be gracious to your people.

Celebrant Give us a sincere and active love for our own nation and for

all mankind, may we work always to build a world of peace

and goodness.

All Lord, be gracious to your people.

Celebrant Look with love on all to be reborn in baptism, that they may

be living stones in your temple of the Spirit.

All Lord, be gracious to your people.

Celebrant You moved Nineveh to repentance by the preaching of

Jonah, in your mercy touch the hearts of sinners by the

preaching of your word.

All Lord, be gracious to your people.

Celebrant May the dying go in hope to meet Christ their judge, may

they rejoice for ever in the vision of your glory.

All Lord, be gracious to your people.

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us offer the prayer Christ himself taught us:



Concluding Prayer

Blessing and Dismissal

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Page seven: Giotto. Lower Church, Assisi. (c. 1306).