

*st mary's catholic church
greenville, south carolina*



*solemn vespers
of
the second sunday of advent*

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.

Presiding minister: O God, ✠ come to my as - sis - tance. *Assembly:* Lord, make haste to help me.

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it:

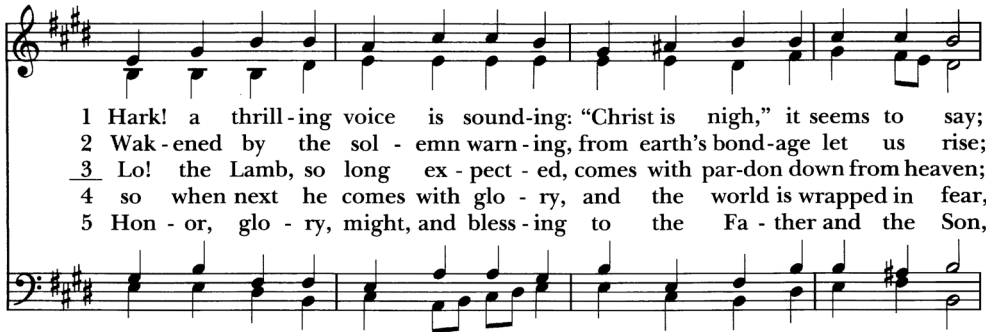
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ev - er. A - men.

Al - le - lu - ia.

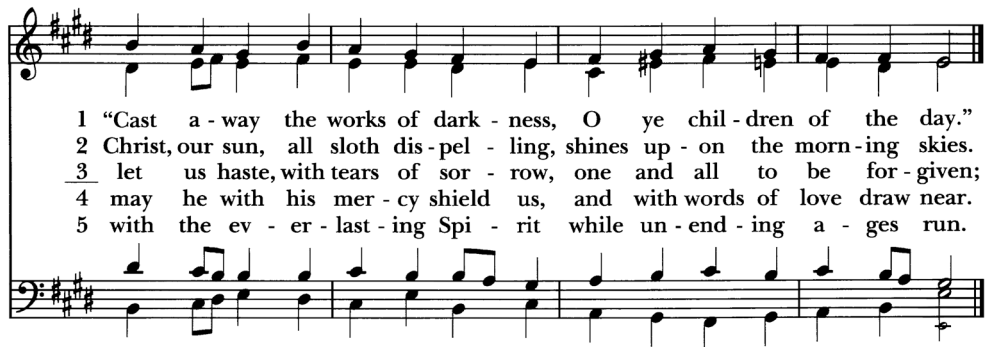
All remain standing for the singing of the office hymn.



HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,



1 "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness, O ye chil - dren of the day."
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt.

Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935)



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.

PSALMODY



Antiphon: The Lord will come on the clouds of heaven / with great power
Schola and might, / alleluia.

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: The Lord will come on the clouds of heaven / with great power
All and might, / alleluia.



Antiphon: The Lord will come; he is true to his word. / if he seems to
Schola delay, keep watch for him, / for he will surely come, / alleluia.

Psalm 115

Schola Not to us, Lord, not to us,
 but to your name give the glory
 for the sake of your love and your truth,
 lest the heathens say: "Where is their God?"

People But our God is in the heavens;
 he does whatever he wills.
 Their idols are silver and gold,
 the work of human hands.

Schola They have mouths but they cannot speak;
 they have eyes but they cannot see;
 they have ears but they cannot hear;
 they have nostrils but they cannot smell.

People With their hands they cannot feel;
 with their feet they cannot walk.
 No sound comes from their throats.
 Their makers will come to be like them
 and so will all who trust in them.

Schola Sons of Israel, trust in the Lord;
 he is their help and their shield.
 Sons of Aaron, trust in the Lord;
 he is their help and their shield.

People You who fear him, trust in the Lord;
 he is their help and their shield.
 He remembers us, and he will bless us;
 He will bless the sons of Israel.
 He will bless the sons of Aaron.

Schola The Lord will bless those who fear him,
the little no less than the great:
To you may the Lord grant increase,
to you and all your children.

People May you be blessed by the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.
The heavens belong to the Lord
but the earth he has given to men.

Schola The dead shall not praise the Lord,
nor those who go down into the silence.
But we who live bless the Lord
now and forever. Amen.

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 will come; he is true to his word. / if he seems to
All delay, keep watch for him, / for he will surely come, / alleluia.





Antiphon: The Lord our king and lawgiver / will come to save us.
Schola

Revelation Canticle

Schola Alleluia. Salvation, glory, and power to our God:
Alleluia.
His judgments are honest and true.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

People Alleluia. Sing praise to our God, all you his servants;
Alleluia.
all who worship him reverently, great and small.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Schola Alleluia. The Lord our all-powerful God is King,
Alleluia.
let us rejoice, sing praise, and give him glory.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

People Alleluia. The wedding feast of the Lamb has begun,
Alleluia.
and his bride is prepared to welcome him.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

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 our king and lawgiver / will come to save us.
All



✠ READING ✠

Philippians 4.4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again. Rejoice! Everyone should see how unselfish you are. The Lord is near. Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petition full of gratitude. Then God's own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

✠ ANTHEM ✠

Zion hört die Wächter singen

JS Bach

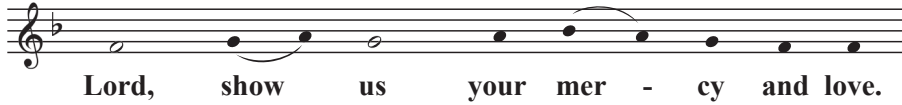
Zion hears the watchmen singing. Her heart, with joyful hope is springing; she wakes and hurries through the night. Forth He comes, her Bridegroom glorious, in strength of grace, in truth victorious. Her star is risen, her light grows bright. Now come, most worthy Lord, God's Son, incarnate Word! Halleluja! We follow all and heed your call to come into the banquet hall.



RESPONSORY

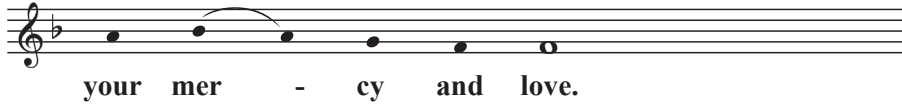
Schola: Lord, show us your mercy and love.

People:



Schola: And grant us your salvation,

People:



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

People:



✠ CANTICLE OF MARY ✠

Magnificat

Adrian Batten

Antiphon: Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary, for your great faith; all that the Lord promised you will come to pass through you, alleluia.

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, 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.
(Luke 1:46-55)

Antiphon: Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary, for your great faith; all that the Lord promised you will come to pass through you, alleluia.



✿ INTERCESSIONS ✿

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



Come, Lord Je sus!

- Celebrant* To Christ the Lord,
who was born of the Virgin Mary,
let us pray with joyful hearts:
- All* *Come, Lord Jesus!*
- Celebrant* Lord Jesus, in the mystery of your incarnation,
you revealed your glory to the world,
give us new life by your coming.
- All* *Come, Lord Jesus!*
- Celebrant* You have taken our weakness upon yourself,
grant us your mercy.
- All* *Come, Lord Jesus!*
- Celebrant* You redeemed the world from sin
by your first coming in humility,
free us from all guilt when you come again in glory.
- All* *Come, Lord Jesus!*
- Celebrant* You live and rule over all,
in your goodness bring us to our eternal inheritance.
- All* *Come, Lord Jesus!*
- Celebrant* You sit at the right hand of the father,
gladden the souls of the dead with your light.
- All* *Come, Lord Jesus!*

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

OUR FATHER

Pa - ter no - ster, qui es in cae - lis: san - cti - fi - cé - tur
no - men tu - um; ad - vé - ni - at re - gnum tu - um;
fi - at vo - lún - tas tu - a, si - cut in cae - lo, et in ter - ra.
Pa - nem no - strum co - ti - di - á - num da no - bis hó - di - e;
et di - mít - te no - bis dé - bi - ta no - stra, si - cut et nos di -
mít - ti - mus de - bi - tó - ri - bus no - stris; et ne nos in -
dú - cas in ten - ta - ti - ó - nem; sed lí - be - ra nos a ma - lo.

Concluding Prayer

Blessing and Dismissal



Page one: Saint Mary's Catholic Church, Greenville, SC.

Page six: *Salus Populi Romani*. Santa Maria Maggiore, Rome. (6th century.)

Page eight: Lorenzo Monaco. *Adoration of the Magi*. (15th century).