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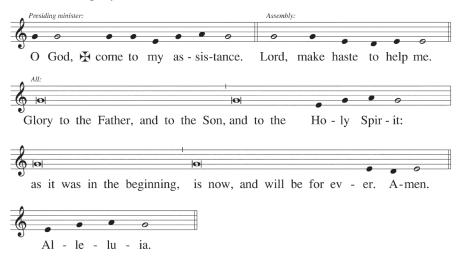


solemn vespers of the secono sunoay of aovent Throughout this celebration of Vespers, we will observe several prolonged periods of sacred silence, during which we are not simply waiting for the next thing to happen; we are, rather, waiting upon the LORD. Sacred silence is active and attentive — an invitation 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:

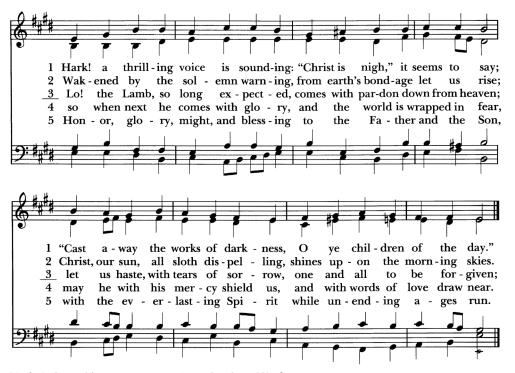
All make the sign of the cross.



All remain standing for the singing of the office hymn.



HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING



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:





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 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 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





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.



Zion hört die Wächter singen

JS Bach

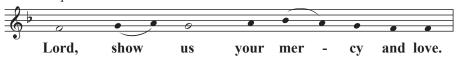
Zion hears the watchmen singing. Her heart, with joyful hope is springing; she wakes and hurries through the night. Forth He comes, her Bridegroom glorious, in strength of grace, in truth victorious. Her star is risen, her light grows bright. Now come, most worthy Lord, God's Son, incarnate Word! Halleluja!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





Schola: Lord, show us your mercy and love.





Schola: And grant us your salvation,





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

People:







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.





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



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!

Our Father



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. (c. 1420).