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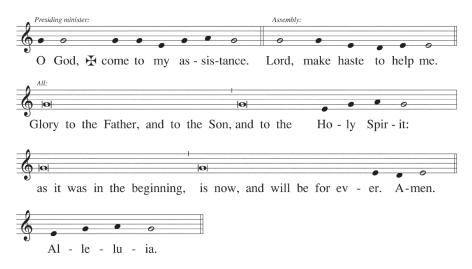
solemn vespers of the third sanday of advent

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.



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.





Text: Hag. 2:7; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Tune: STUTTGART, 8 7 8 7; Christian F. Witt, 1660-1716; Harm. by Kenneth D. Smith, b.1928, © National Christian Education Council



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: <i>Schola</i>	Our Lord will come to claim his glorious throne / in the assembly of the princes.
	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: <i>All</i>	Our Lord will come to claim his glorious throne / in the assembly of the princes.



Antiphon:Let the mountains break out with joy / and the hills with answering gladness,Schola/ for the world's true light, the Lord, / comes with power and might.

Psalm 111

Schold	I will thank the Lord with all my heart in the meeting of the just and their assembly Great are the works of the Lord; to be pondered by all who love them.
People	 Majestic and glorious his word, his justice stands firm forever. He makes us remember his wonders. The Lord is compassion and love.
Schold	 He gives food to those who fear him; keeps his covenant ever in mind. He has shown his might to his people by giving them the lands of the nations.
People	 His works are justice and truth; his precepts are all of them sure, standing firm forever and ever; they are made in uprightness and truth.
Schold	He has sent deliverance to his people and established his covenant forever.Holy is his name, to be feared.
People	e To fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who do so prove themselves wise. His praise shall last forever!
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:	Let the mountains break out with joy / and the hills with answering gladness,

All / for the world's true light, the Lord, / comes with power and might.



Antiphon: Schola	Let us live in holiness and love / as we patiently await our blessed hope, / the coming of our Savior.	
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: <i>All</i>	Let us live in holiness and love / as we patiently await our blessed hope, / the coming of our Savior.	





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.



Jesu, Redemptor omnium

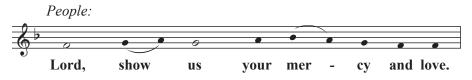
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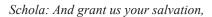
Jesu, the Ransomer of man, who, ere created light began, didst from the sovereign Father spring, His heavenly glory equaling. The Father's Light and Splendor Thou, their endless hope to Thee that bow; accept the prayers and praise today that through the world Thy servants pay. Salvation's Author, call to mind how, taking form of humankind, born of a Virgin undefiled, Thou in man's flesh became a Child. Thus testifies the present day, through every year in long array, that Thou, salvation's source alone, proceeded from the Father's throne. O Lord, the Virgin-born, to Thee eternal praise and glory be, whom with the Father we adore and Holy Ghost forevermore.

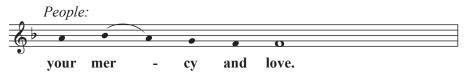


Responsory

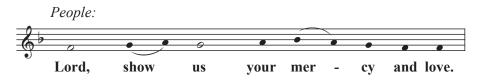
Schola: Lord, show us your mercy and love.



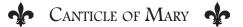




Schola: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:







Magnificat

Mode II, Falso Bordone; Adam Pajan

Antiphon: Are you the One whose coming was foretold, or should we look for another? Tell John what you see: the blind have their sight restored, the dead are raised to life, the poor have the good news preached to them, 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.

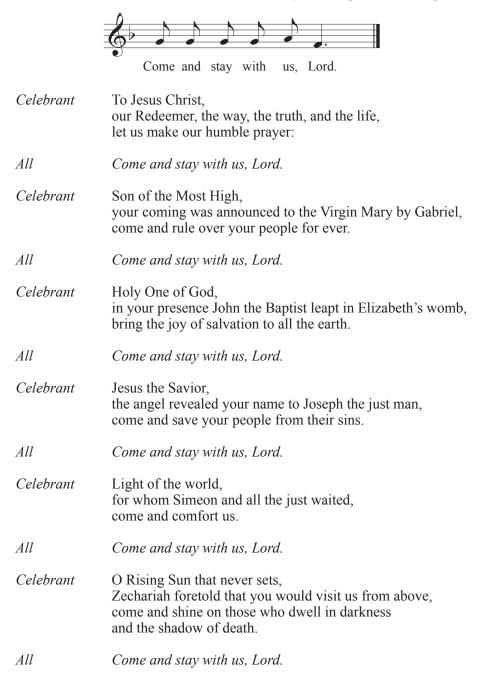
(Luke 1:46-55)

Antiphon: Are you the One whose coming was foretold, or should we look for another? Tell John what you see: the blind have their sight restored, the dead are raised to life, the poor have the good news preached to them, alleluia.



Intercessions

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



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



Concluding Prayer

Blessing and Dismissal



Page one: Saint Mary's Catholic Church, Greenville, SC.Page three: Zanobi Strozzi. The Nativity. (c. 1433).Page seven: Bartolomé Esteban Murillo. Adoration of the Shepherds. (c. 1650).