st mary's catholic charch greenville, south carolina

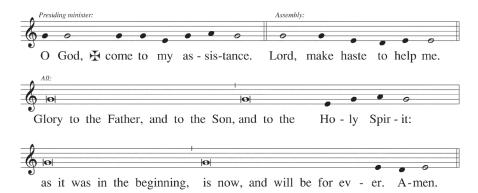


solemn vespers of the fourth suboay of lent Throughout this celebration of Vespers, we will observe several prolonged periods of sacred silence, during which we are not simply waiting for the next thing to happen; we are, rather, waiting upon the LORD. Sacred silence is active and attentive — an invitation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



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.





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:	God has appointed Christ / to be judge of the living
Schola	and the dead.

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>	God has appointed Christ / to be judge of the living and the dead.



Antiphon:	Happy the man who shows mercy for the Lord's sake; /
Schola	he will stand firm for ever.

Psalm 112

Schola	Happy the man who fears the Lord, who takes delight in his commands. His sons will be powerful on earth; the children of the upright are blessed.
People	Riches and wealth are in his house; his justice stands firm forever. He is a light in the darkness for the upright; he is generous, merciful, and just.
Schola	The good man takes pity and lends, he conducts his affairs with honor. The just man will never waver; he will be remembered forever.
People	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.
Schola	Open-handed, he gives to the poor; his justice stands firm forever. His head will be raised in glory.
People	The wicked man sees and is angry, grinds his teeth and fades away; the desire of the wicked leads to doom.
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>	Happy the man who shows mercy for the Lord's sake; / he will stand firm for ever.



Antiphon: <i>Schola</i>	Those things, which God foretold through his prophets / concerning the sufferings that Christ would endure, / have been fulfilled.
	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: All	Those things, which God foretold through his prophets / concerning the sufferings that Christ would endure, / have been fulfilled.

* * * * *

Reading

1 Corinthians 9.24-25

While all the runners in the stadium take part in the race, the award goes to one man. In that case, run so as to win! Athletes deny themselves all sorts of things. They do this to win a crown of leaves that withers, but we a crown that is imperishable.



Vere languores nostros

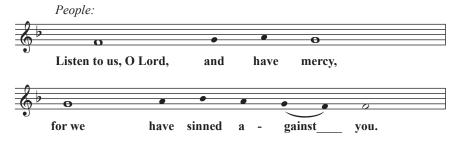
Tomás Luis de Victoria

Truly, our failings he has taken upon himself and our sorrows he has borne. By his wounds we have been saved. O sweet wood; O sweet nails that bore this sweet burden, which alone were worthy to support the king of Heaven and Lord.





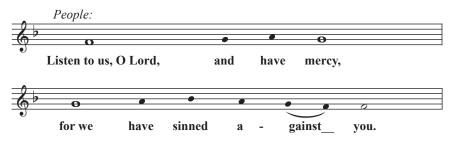
Schola: Listen to us, O Lord, and have mercy, for we have sinned against you.



Schola: Christ Jesus, hear our humble petitions,



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







Magnificat

Falso Bardone, Mode II, Adam Pajan

Antiphon: My son, you have been with me all the time and everything I have is yours. But we had to feast and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost to us and now has been found.

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: My son, you have been with me all the time and everything I have is yours. But we had to feast and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost to us and now has been found.



Intercessions

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



- *Celebrant* Let us give thanks continually to Christ, our teacher and our head, who came to serve and to do good to all. In humility and confidence let us ask him:
- All Come, Lord, to visit your family.
- *Celebrant* Lord, be present to the bishops and priests of your Church, who share your role as head and shepherd, may they lead your people to the Father under your guidance.
- All Come, Lord, to visit your family.
- *Celebrant* May your angel be with all who travel, to keep them safe in body and soul.
- All Come, Lord, to visit your family.
- *Celebrant* Teach us to serve the needs of others, and to be like you, who came to serve, not to be served.
- All Come, Lord, to visit your family.
- *Celebrant* Grant that in the human family, brother may always help brother, so that, with your assistance, it may be a city compact and strong.
- All Come, Lord, to visit your family.
- *Celebrant* Have mercy on all the dead, bring them to the vision of your glory.
- All Come, Lord, to visit your family.

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



Concluding Prayer

Blessing and Dismissal



Page seven: Bartolome Esteban Murillo. *Christ Meets the Virgin Mary on the Way to Calvary.* (c. 1665).

Page eight: James Tissot. The Title on the Cross. (19th century).