

# FIRST VESPERS OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

When the Officiant kneels, all **kneel** and pray silently. Then, when the Officiant stands, all **stand** and say silently one *Pater noster* (Our Father) and *Ave Maria* (Hail Mary). Then all make the sign of the cross with the Officiant as he intones:

**D** E-us in adju-tó-ri- um me- um in-tén-de. R̃. Dómi-ne ad  
adju-vándum me fe-stí-na. (*bow*) Gló-ri- a Pa-tri, et Fí-li- o  
et Spi- rí- tu- i Sancto. (*rise*) Si-cut e-rat in princí-pi- o, et nunc,

et semper et in sæcu-la sæ-cu-ló-rum. Amen. Al-le-lú-ia.

*O God, come to my assistance. Ṽ. O Lord, make haste to help me. Glory be to the Father; and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Praise to Thee, O Lord, King of endless glory.*

## Psalm 109

Ant. 1. *The King of Peace is magnified, whose face the whole earth desireth.*

Ps. *The Lord said to my Lord: \* Sit thou at my right hand:*

All remain standing throughout the first antiphon. After the psalm is intoned by the Cantor, all sit at the asterisk.

VIII

**R** EX pa-cí-fi-cus \* magni-fi-cá-tus est, cu-jus vul-tum de-sí-de-rat u-ni-vér-sa ter-ra.

1. Di-xit Dómi-nus Dómi-no me-o: \* Se-de a dextris me-is:

E u o u a e.

2. Donec ponam inimícos tuos, \* scabéllum pedum tuórum.

3. Virgam virtútis tuæ emíttet Dóminus ex Sion: \* domináre in médio inimicórum tuórum.

4. Tecum princípium in die virtútis tuæ in splendóribus sanctórum: \* ex útero ante lucíferum génuí te.

5. Jurávit Dóminus, et non pœnitébit eum: \* Tu es sacérdos in ætérnum secúndum órđinem Melchisedech.

6. Dóminus a dextris tuis, \* confrégit in die iræ suæ reges.

2. Until I make thy enemies thy footstool.

3. The Lord will send forth the sceptre of thy power out of Sion: rule thou in the midst of thy enemies.

4. With thee is the principality in the day of thy strength: in the brightness of the saints: from the womb before the day star I begot thee.

5. The Lord hath sworn, and he will not repent: Thou art a priest for ever according to the order of Melchisedech.

6. The Lord at thy right hand hath broken kings in the day of his wrath.

7. He shall judge among nations, he shall fill ruins: he shall crush the heads in the land of the many.

7. Judicábit in natió nibus, implébit ruínas: \* conquassábit cápita in terra multórum.

8. De torrén te in via bíbet: \* (*stand*) proptérea exaltábit caput.

(*bow*) Glória Patri, et Fílio, \* et Spirítui Sancto.

(*rise*) Sicut erat in princíp io, et nunc, et semper, \* et in sácula sæculórum. Amen.

8. He shall drink of the torrent in the way: therefore shall he lift up the head.

Glory be.

The antiphon is repeated: *Rex pacíficus...*

## Psalm 110

Ant. 2. The Peaceful King exceeded all the kings of the whole earth. Ps. I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; \* in the council of the just, and in the congregation.

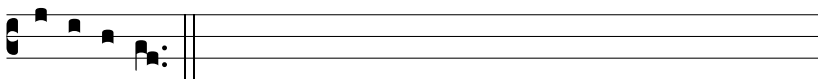
All remain standing throughout the first antiphon. After the psalm is intoned by the Cantor, all sit at the asterisk.

VII  
M Agni- fi- cá- tus est \* Rex pa- cí- fi- cus su- per omnes re-  
ges u- ni- vérsæ terræ.

1. Con- fi- té- bor ti- bi, Dómi- ne, in to- to corde me- o: \* in consí- li- o

justó- rum, et congre- ga- ti- ó- ne. Flex: su- ó- rum,

E u



o u a e.

2. Magna ópera **Dómini**: \* exquisíta in omnes voluntátes ejus.

3. Conféssio et magnificéntia **opus** ejus: \* et justítia ejus manet in **sæculum sæculi**.

4. Memóriam fecit mirabílium suórum, † miséricors et miserátor **Dóminus**: \* escam dedit **timéntibus** se.

5. Memor erit in **sæculum testaménti sui**: \* virtútem óperum suórum annuntiábit **pópulo suo**:

6. Ut det illis hereditátem **géntium**: \* ópera mánuum ejus véritas, et **judícium**.

7. Fidélia ómnia mandáta ejus: † confirmáta in **sæculum sæculi**, \* facta in veritáte et **æquitáte**.

8. Redemptiónem misit **pópulo suo**: \* mandávit in ætérnum **testaméntum suum**.

9. Sanctum, et terríbile **nomen** ejus: \* inítium sapiéntiæ **timor** **Dómini**.

10. Intelléctus bonus ómnibus faciéntibus **eum**: \* *(stand)* laudátio ejus manet in **sæculum sæculi**.

*(bow)* Glória **Patri**, et **Fílio**, \* et **Spirítui Sancto**.

*(rise)* Sicut erat in princípio, et **nunc**, et **semper**, \* et in **sæcula sæculórum**. Amen.

2. Great are the works of the Lord: sought out according to all his wills.

3. His work is praise and magnificence: and his justice continueth for ever and ever.

4. He hath made a remembrance of his wonderful works, being a merciful and gracious Lord: he hath given food to them that fear him.

5. He will be mindful for ever of his covenant: he will shew forth to his people the power of his works.

6. That he may give them the inheritance of the Gentiles: the works of his hands are truth and judgment.

7. All his commandments are faithful: confirmed for ever and ever, made in truth and equity.

8. He hath sent redemption to his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever.

9. Holy and terrible is his name: the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

10. A good understanding to all that do it: his praise continueth for ever and ever.

Glory be.

The antiphon is repeated: *Magnificátus est. . .*

## Psalm 111

Ant. 3. *The days of Mary \* were accomplished that she should bring forth her first-born Son. Ps. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord: \* he shall delight exceedingly in his commandments.*

All remain standing throughout the first antiphon. After the psalm is intoned by the Cantor, all **sit** at the asterisk.

VIII

**C** Omplé-ti sunt \* di-es Ma-rí-ae, ut pá-re-ret fí-li-um  
su-um primo-gé-ni-tum.

1. Be-á-tus vir, qui timet Dómi-num: \* in mandá-tis e-jus vo-let

ni-mis. *Flex:* cómmo-dat,

E u o u a e.

2. Potens in terra erit semen ejus: \*  
generátio rectórum benedicétur.

2. *His seed shall be mighty upon earth:  
the generation of the righteous shall be  
blessed.*

3. Glória, et divítiae in domo ejus: \*  
et justítia ejus manet in sáeculum  
sáeculi.

3. *Glory and wealth shall be in his house:  
and his justice remaineth for ever and  
ever.*

4. Exórtum est in ténebris lumen  
rectis: \* miséricors, et miserátor, et  
justus.

4. *To the righteous a light is risen  
up in darkness: he is merciful, and  
compassionate and just.*

5. Jucúndus homo qui miserétur  
et cómodat, † dispónet sermónes  
suos in judício: \* quia in aetérnum  
non commovébitur.

5. *Acceptable is the man that sheweth  
mercy and lendeth: he shall order his  
words with judgment: because he shall  
not be moved for ever.*

6. In memória aetérna erit justus: \*  
ab auditióne mala non timébit.

6. *The just shall be in everlasting  
remembrance: he shall not fear the evil*

7. Parátum cor ejus speráre in Dómino, † confirmátum est cor ejus: \* non commovébitur donec despíciat inimícos suos.

8. Dispérsit, dedit paupéribus: † justítia ejus manet in sáeculum **sáeculi**, \* cornu ejus exaltábitur in **glória**.

9. Peccátor vidébit, et irascétur, † déntibus suis fremet et **tabéscet**: \* *(stand)* desidérium peccátorum *peribit* *(bow)* Glória Patri, et Fílio, \* et Spíritui **Sancto**.

*(rise)* Sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et **semper**, \* et in sáecula **sæculórum**. Amen.

hearing.

7. His heart is ready to hope in the Lord: his heart is strengthened, he shall not be moved until he look over his enemies.

8. He hath distributed, he hath given to the poor: his justice remaineth for ever and ever: his horn shall be exalted in glory.

9. The wicked shall see, and shall be angry, he shall gnash with his teeth and pine away: the desire of the wicked shall perish.

Glory be.

The antiphon is repeated: *Compléti sunt...*

## Psalm 112

Ant. 4. Know ye that the kingdom \* of God is at hand? Amen, I say unto you, it will not tarry. Ps. Praise the Lord, ye children: \* praise ye the name of the Lord.

All remain standing throughout the first antiphon. After the psalm is intoned by the Cantor, all sit at the asterisk.

VIII

**S** Ci-tó-te \* qui- a pro-pe est regnum De- i: amen di-co

vo-bis, qui- a non tardá-bit.

1. Laudá-te, pú- e-ri, Dómi-num: \* laudá-te *nomen* Dómi-ni. E u



2. Blessed be the name of the Lord, from henceforth now and for ever.

3. *From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same, the name of the Lord is worthy of praise.*

4. *The Lord is high above all nations; and his glory above the heavens.*

5. Who is as the Lord our God, who dwelleth on high, and looketh down on the low things in heaven and in earth?

6. *Raising up the needy from the earth, and lifting up the poor out of the dunghill:*

7. That he may place him with princes,  
with the princes of his people.

8. *Who maketh a barren woman to dwell  
in a house, the joyful mother of children.*

*Glory be.*

The antiphon is repeated: *Scitóte...*

## Psalm 116

Ant. 5. *Lift up your heads; \* behold, your redemption draweth nigh. Ps. Praise the Lord, all ye nations: \* praise him, all ye people.*

All remain standing throughout the first antiphon. After the psalm is intoned by the Cantor, all sit at the asterisk.

I  
**L** E- vá-te cá-pi- ta vestra : \* ecce appro-pin-quá-bit re-dém-  
ti- o vestra.

1. Laudá-te Dómi-num, omnes Gentes: \* laudá-te e- um, omnes pó-  
pu- li: E u o u a e.

2. Quóniam confirmáta est super nos misericórdia ejus: \* *(stand)* et véritas Dómini manet in ætérnum.

*(bow)* Glória Patri, et Fílio, \* et Spirítui Sancto.

*(rise)* Sicut erat in princípio, et nunc, et **semper**, \* et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen.

2. *For his mercy is confirmed upon us: and the truth of the Lord remaineth for ever.*

*Glory be.*

The antiphon is repeated: *Leváte cápita vestra: ...*



## Little Chapter (Titus 3:4-5)

*The Officiant leads the Little Chapter:*

Appáruit benígnitas, et humánitas  
Salvatóris nostri Dei: †non ex  
opéribus justítiae, quæ fécimus nos,\*  
sed secúndum suam misericórdiam  
salvos nos fecit. R̃. Deo grátias.

*But when the goodness and kindness of  
God our Saviour appeared: Not by the  
works of justice, which we have done,  
but according to his mercy, he saved us.  
R̃. Thanks be to God.*

## Hymn

*The Cantor leads the hymn:*

IV

**J** e-su Red-émptor ómni- um Perpes co-ró- na Pr-su-lum

In hac di- e cle-ménti- us Nostris fa-vé- to pré- ci- bus

2. Tu- i sacri qua nómi- nis Conféssor al- mus clá- ru- it, Hu- jus

ce- le- brat ánnu- a De- vó- ta plebs so- lémni- a 3. Qui ri- te

mundi gáudi- a Hu- jus ca- dú- ca réspu- ens, Cum Ange- lis cæ-

lés- ti- bus Læ- tus po- tí- tur pr- mi- is. 4. Hu- jus be- nígnus an-



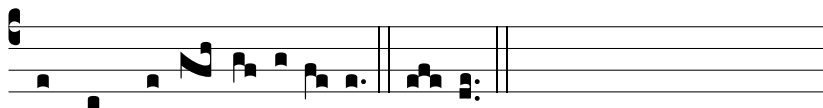
nu- e No-bis sequi ves-tí-gi- a: Hu-jus pre-cá- tu sérvu- lis



Di- mít- te no- xam crí- mi- nis 5. Sit Chris- te rex pi- is- sime



Ti- bi, pa- tri- que glo- ri- a Cum Spi- ri- tu Pa- ra- cli- to,



Et nunc, et in perpé- tu- um. A- men

1. *Jesus, the Ransomer of man, Who, ere created light began, Didst from the sovereign Father spring, His power and glory equalling.*

2. *The Fathers Light and Splendor Thou, Their endless hope to Thee that bow; Accept the prayers and praise to-day That through the world Thy servants pay.*

3. *Salvations Author, call to mind How, taking form of humankind, Born of a Virgin undefiled, Thou in mans flesh becamst a Child.*

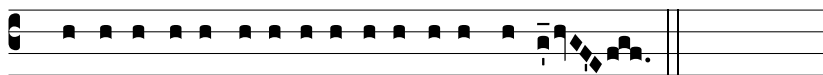
4. *Thus testifies the present day, Through every year in long array, That Thou, salvations source alone, Proceedest from the Fathers throne.*

5. *The heavens above, the rolling main And all that earths wide realms contain, With joyous voice now loudly sing The glory of their new-born King.*

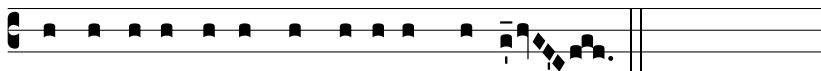
6. *And we who, by Thy precious Blood From sin redeemed, are marked for God, On this the day that saw Thy birth, Sing the new song of ransomed earth.*

7. *O Lord, the Virgin-born, to Thee Eternal praise and glory be, Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Ghost forevermore. Amen.*

*The Cantor says the following before all reply afterwards:*



✠ Crá- sti- na di- e de- lé- bi- tur i- ní- qui- tas terræ.



℞. Et regná-bit su-per nos Salvá-tor mundi.

Ÿ. *Glory and riches are in his house. ℞. And his justice endureth forever.*

## Magnificat

Ant Magn. *Behold a faithful and prudent servant, whom the Lord has set over His household. Cant. My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.*

The Cantor leads by intoning the antiphon and the first verse.

VIII

**C** UM or-tus \* fú-e-rit sol de cæ-lo, vi-dé-bi-tis Re-gem

ré-gum pro-ce-déntem a Pa-tre, tamquam sponsum de thá-

lamo su- o.

All **stand** and make the sign of the cross with the Cantor.

Magní-fi-cat \* á-nima me-a DÓmi-num. 2. Et exsul-tá-vit spí-ri-tus

me-us \* in De-o sa-lu-tá-ri me-o.

3. Quia respéxit humilitátem ancíllæ

3. *Because he hath regarded the humility of his handmaid; for behold from henceforth*

**suæ:** \* ecce enim ex hoc beátam me  
dicent omnes generatiónes.

4. Quia fecit mihi magna qui **potens**  
est: \* et sanctum *nomen ejus*.

5. Et misericórdia ejus a progénie in  
progénies \* *timéntibus eum*.

6. Fecit poténtiam in bráchio **suo:** \*  
dispérsit supérbos mente *cordis sui*.

7. Depósuit poténtes de **sede,** \* et  
exaltávit **húmiles**.

8. Esuriéntes implévit **bonis:** \* et  
dívites dimísit *inánes*.

9. Suscépit Israël púerum **suum,** \*  
recordátus misericórdiæ **suæ**.

10. Sicut locútus est ad patres  
**nostros,** \* Abraham et sémini *ejus*  
in **sæcula**.

*(bow)* Glória Patri, et **Fílio,** \* et **Spirítui Sancto.**

*(rise)* Sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et **semper,** \* et in **sæcula sæculórum.**  
**Amen.**

*all generations shall call me blessed.*

4. *Because he that is mighty, hath done  
great things to me; and holy is his name.*

5. *And his mercy is from generation unto  
generations, to them that fear him.*

6. *He hath shewed might in his arm: he  
hath scattered the proud in the conceit of  
their heart.*

7. *He hath put down the mighty from  
their seat, and hath exalted the humble.*

8. *He hath filled the hungry with good  
things; and the rich he hath sent empty  
away.*

9. *He hath received Israel his servant,  
being mindful of his mercy:*

10. *As he spoke to our fathers, to  
Abraham and to his seed for ever.*

*Glory be.*

All **sit** and repeat the antiphon: *Cum ortus fúerit . . .*, then **stand** for  
the prayer.

## Collect

*The Officiant leads the collect:*

Ÿ. Dómine exáudi oratiónem meam.  
℞. Et clamor meus ad te véniat.

Orémus. Concéde, quæsumus,  
omnípotens Deus: † ut nos Unigéniti  
tui nova per carnem Natívitatis líberet;  
quos sub peccáti jugo vetústa sérvitus  
tenet. Per eúndem Dóminum  
nostrum Jesum Christum Fílium  
tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in  
unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per  
omnia sǽcula sǽculórum. ℞. Amen.

Lord, hear my prayer. ℞. And let my cry  
come unto Thee.

Let us pray. Grant, we beseech thee,  
almighty God, that the new birth of thy  
Only-begotten Son as man may set us  
free, who are held by the old bondage  
under the yoke of sin. Through the same  
Jesus Christ, thy Son, Our Lord, Who  
liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity  
of the Holy Ghost, God, world without  
end. ℞. Amen.

*The Suffrage of the Saints is omitted on this day.*

*The Officiant leads the following:*

Ÿ. Dómine exáudi oratiónem meam.  
℞. Et clamor meus ad te véniat.

Ÿ. Lord, hear my prayer. ℞. And let my cry  
come unto Thee. Ÿ. Let us bless the Lord.  
℞. Thanks be to God.

*The Cantor leads the Benedicamus:*

2.  
**B** E-ne-di-cá-mus Dó-mi-  
 no. R. De-o grá-ti-as.

*The Officiant leads the following:*

℣. Fidélium ánimæ, per misericórdiam Dei, requiáscant in pace.

R. Amen.

Pater noster (*silently*).

℣. Dóminus det nobis suam pacem.

R. Et vitam ætérnam. Amen.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R. Amen.

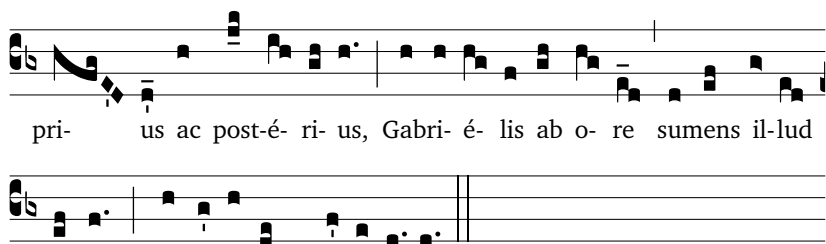
Our Father...

May the Lord grant us his peace. R. And life eternal. Amen.

## Marian Anthem

*The Cantor leads the Marian anthem and responses afterwards; the Officiant leads the ending collect:*

v  
**A** L-ma \* Red-emptó-ris Ma-ter, quæ pér-vi-  
 a c-li por-ta ma-nes, Et stel-la ma-ris, succúrre ca-  
 dén-ti súrge-re qui cu-rat pó-pu-lo: Tu quæ ge-nu-ís-ti,  
 na-tú-ra mi-rán-te, tu-um sanctum Ge-ni-tó-rem: Vir-go



A-ve, \* pecca-tó-rum mi-se-ré-re.

*Holy mother of our Redeemer, thou gate leading to heaven and star of the sea; help the falling people who seek to rise, thou who, all nature wondering, didst give birth to thy holy Creator. Virgin always, hearing the greeting from Gabriels lips, take pity on sinners.*

℣. Post partum, Virgo, inviolata permansisti.

℟. Dei Genitrix, intercede pro nobis.

Orémus. Deus, qui salutis aeternae, beatae Mariae virginitate fecunda, humano generi praemia praestitisti: †tribue, quaesumus, ut ipsam pro nobis intercedere *sentiamus*, per quam meruimus auctorem vitae suscipere, \* Dominum nostrum Iesum Christum, Filium tuum.

℟. Amen.

*Vouchsafe that I may praise thee, O sacred Virgin. ℟. Give me stength against thine enemies.*

*Let us pray. O God, Who by the fruitful virginity of blessed Mary hast offered unto the human race the rewards of eternal salvation, grant, we beseech thee, that we may know the effects of her intercession, through whom we have deserved to receive the author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son. ℟. Amen.*

*The Officiant says the following:*

℣. Divínium auxílium máneat semper nobíscum.

℟. Amen.

*May the divine assistance remain always with us. ℟. Amen.*

After the Office, all **kneel** and pray in silence for a time.