

The Office of Vespers
for the
Feast of St. Michael
and All Angels



The Service

Vespers is the daily evening prayer of the church, derived from the evening sacrifice offered in the tabernacle and temples of ancient Israel. The general theme of Vespers is thanksgiving for the day now drawing to a close, and the many benefits of God received therein. The high point of Vespers is the singing of the *Magnificat*, the great hymn of praise and thanksgiving first sung by the Blessed Virgin Mary, which the holy Church takes up as her own expression of gratitude to God. During the *Magnificat*, the altar and congregation are honored with incense.

Along with the order of the Divine Service of the Western Church, the Lutheran Reformation also retained (with slight modification) the daily services of Matins and Vespers in text, structure, as well as much of the traditional music. For centuries it was common for the medieval Latin chants to continue be sung in the Lutheran Churches. Many Lutheran composers wrote Latin settings for the various musical parts of the worship services. The Service you will participate in today is an accurate representation of what a late sixteenth/early seventeenth century Christian would have heard in a Sunday afternoon Vespers service.

A Prayer Before the Office

Open my mouth, O Lord, to bless Your holy name. Cleanse also my heart from all vain, evil and distracting thoughts. Enlighten my understanding and enkindle my will, that I may pray this Office with attention and devotion, and be heard in the presence of Your divine majesty; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Nomine Jesu

Pre-Service Music

Fantasia à 3

William Byrd

Please stand when the pastor enters the chancel.

Opening Versicles

Deus in adiutorium meum intende.

Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

Domine ad adjuvandum me festina.

Make haste to help me, O Lord.

*Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui
Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc,
et semper, et in sæcula sæculorum.
Amen. Alleluia.*

*Glory be 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. Alleluia.*

Please sit

Psalms

110; antiphon: v. 1

*Dixit Dominus Domino meo: Sede a
dextris meis.*

*The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at My
right hand:*

*Donec ponam inimicos tuos scabellum
pedum tuorum.*

*Until I make Your enemies Your
footstool.*

*Virgam virtutis tue emittet Dominus
ex Sion: dominare in medio
inimicorum tuorum.*

*The Lord will send forth the sceptre of
Your power out of Zion: rule in the
midst of Your enemies.*

*Tecum principium in die virtutis tue
in splendoribus sanctorum: ex utero,
ante luciferum, genui te.*

*With You is the principality in the day
of Your strength: in the brightness of
the saints: from the womb before the
daystar I begot You.*

*Juravit Dominus, et non poenitebit
eum: Tu es sacerdos in æternum
secundum ordinem Melchisedech.*

*The Lord has sworn, and He will not
repent: You are a priest forever
according to the order of Melchisedek.*

*Dominus a dextris tuis; confregit in die
iræ suæ reges.*

*The Lord at Your right hand has
broken kings in the day of His wrath.*

*Judicabit in nationibus, implebit
ruinas; conquassabit capita in terra
multorum.*

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

*De torrente in via bibet; propterea
exaltabit caput.*

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

*Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui
Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc,
et semper, et in sæcula sæculorum.
Amen.*

*Glory be 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.*

*Dixit Dominus Domino meo: Sede a
dextris meis.*

*The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at My
right hand.*

Office Hymn

T^{HEE}, O Christ, the Father's splendor,
Life and virtue of the heart,
In the presence of the angels
Sing we now with tuneful art,
Meetly in alternate chorus,
Bearing our responsive part.

T^{HUS} we praise with veneration
All the armies of the sky;
Chiefly him, the warrior primate,
Of celestial chivalry,
Michael, who in princely virtue
Cast Abaddon from on high.

B^Y whose watchful care repelling—
King of everlasting grace—
Ev'ry ghostly adversary,
All things evil, all things base,
Grant us of Thine only goodness,
In Thy paradise a place.

Please stand

LAUD and honor to the Father,
Laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit,
Ever Three, and ever One,
Consubstantial, co-eternal,
While unending ages run.

Please sit

Reading

Jude 3–10, 17–25

After the reading:

O Lord, have mercy on us.
Thanks be to God.

Homily

The Homily is followed by a brief instrumental meditation.

Please stand

Versicle

*Dirigatur Domine oratio mea,
sicut incensum in conspectu tuo.*

*Let my prayer be set, O Lord,
in Your sight as incense.*

Magnificat

Orlando Lassus

*Magnificat anima mea Dominum; et
exsultavit spiritus meus in Deo
salutari meo;*

*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my
spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;*

*quia respexit humilitatem ancilla suae;
ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent
omnes generationes.*

*for He has regarded the lowliness of
His handmaid; behold, from this day
all generations will call me blessed.*

*Quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est,
et sanctum nomen eius,*

*For the Mighty One has done great
things to me, and Holy is His name.*

*Et misericordia eius a progenie in
progenies timentibus eum.*

*And His mercy is on those who fear
Him from generation to generation.*

*Fecit potentiam in brachio suo;
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.*

*He has shown strength with His arm;
He has scattered the proud in the
imagination of their hearts.*

*Deposuit potentes de sede, et exaltavit
humiles,*

*He has cast down the mighty from
their thrones, and exalted the lowly.*

*esurientes implevit bonis et divites
dimisit inanes.*

*He has filled the hungry with good
things, and the rich He has sent empty
away.*

*Suscepit Israel puerum suum,
recordatus misericordiae suae, sicut
locutus est ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini eius in saecula.*

*He has helped His servant Israel
in remembrance of His mercy, as He
spoke to our fathers, to Abraham, and
to his seed forever.*

*Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui
Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc,
et semper, et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen.*

*Glory be 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.*

Kyrie

William Byrd

*Kyrie eleison
Christe eleison
Kyrie eleison*

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Lord's Prayer

Salutation *sung on one note*

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Collects *Three collects are prayed.*

After each collect, sung on one note:

Amen.

Benedicamus & Benediction *sung on one note*

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

Post-Service Music

Fantasia à 3

William Byrd

Soli Deo Gloria