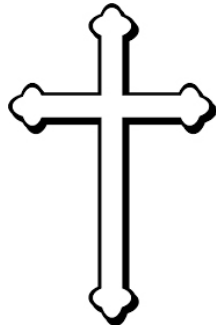


THE OFFICE
of
SUNDAY VESPERS
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Roman Rite. Psalter : Week IV

Ordinary Form



EWTN

**EXPOSITION AND ADORATION
OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT**

O Salutaris Hostia

O salutáris hóstia,
Quæ cæli pandis óstium,
Bella premunt hostília ;
Da robur, fer auxiliúm.

Uni trinóque Dómino
Sit sempitérna glória :
Qui vitam sine término
Nobis donet in pátria.
Amen.

O Saving Victim opening wide
The gate of heav'n to man below :
Our foes press on from every side ;
Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.

All praise and thanks to thee ascend
For evermore, blest One in Three ;
O grant us life that shall not end
In our true native land with thee.
Amen.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT AT SECOND VESPERS

Psalter : Week IV

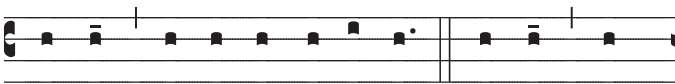
A glimpse into the kingdom of God

Vespers is the evening prayer of the Church. This is the hour of thanksgiving for the graces bestowed during the day of salvation that has just passed. In Sunday Vespers we review gratefully the history of God's kingdom in the Church and in individual souls. We see Christ our victorious King in his power (Ps 109) ; we hear of the fundamental laws of the kingdom : love (fear) of God, love of neighbor (Ps 111). There are two principal objects to our Vesper prayers : thanksgiving, and new courage to continue our pilgrimage.

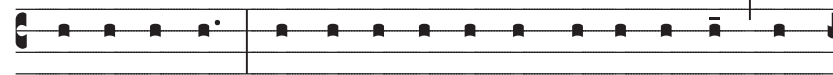
OPENING VERSE

Celebrant :

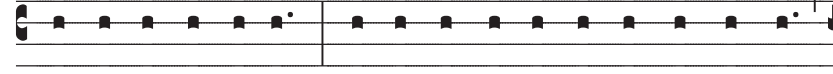
All :

O 

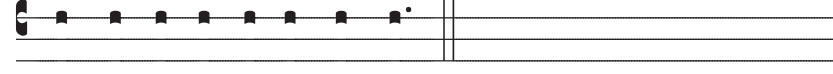
God, come to my as-sistance. $\text{R}.$ O Lord, make



haste to help me. Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and



to the Ho-ly Spir-it : as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now,



and will be for ev-er. A-men.

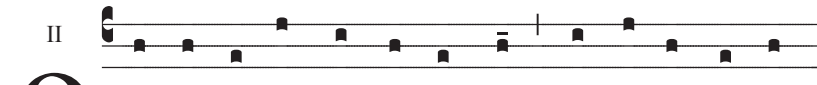
- A -

HYMN

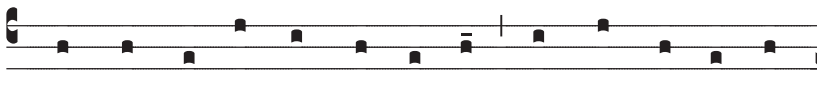
St. Gregory the Great. 540-604

Audi, benigne Conditor. (L.M.)


II



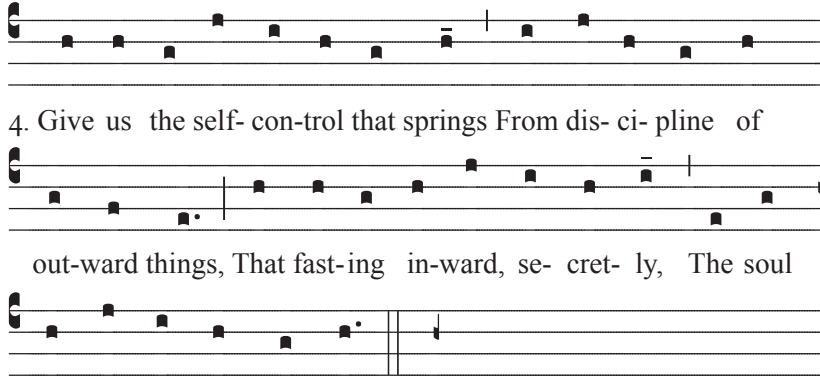
Cantor : **O** mer- ci- ful Cre- a- tor, hear! To us in pit- y
bow thine ear: Ac-cept the tear-ful prayer we raise In this
our fast of for- ty days.



All : 2. Our hearts are o- pen, Lord, to thee; Thou know-est our in-
firm- i- ty; Pour out on all who seek thy face A- bun-dance
of thy par-d'ning grace.



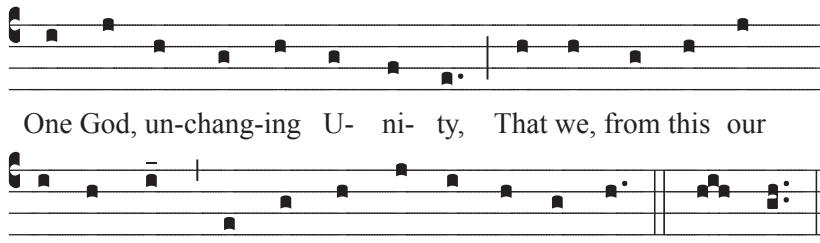
Cantor : 3. Our sins are man- y, this we know; Spare us, good Lord, thy
mer- cy show; And for the hon- or of thy Name Our faint-
ing souls to life re- claim.



All : 4. Give us the self-con-trol that springs From dis-ci-pline of
out-ward things, That fast-ing in-ward, se-cret-ly, The soul
may pure-ly dwell with thee.



Cantor : 5. We pray thee, Ho-ly Trin-i-ty,



All : One God, un-chang-ing U-ni-ty, That we, from this our
ab-sti-nence May reap the fruits of pen-i-tence. A-men.

- B -

Cantor : 1. O merciful Creator, hear!
To us in pity bow thine ear:
Accept the tearful prayer we raise
In this our fast of forty days.

All : 2. Our hearts are open, Lord, to thee;
Thou knowest our infirmity;
Pour out on all who seek thy face
Abundance of thy pard'ning grace.

Cantor : 3. Our sins are many, this we know;
Spare us, good Lord, thy mercy show;

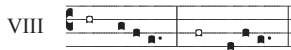
And for the honor of thy Name
Our fainting souls to life reclaim.

All : 4. Give us the self-control that springs
From discipline of outward things,
That fasting inward, secretly
The soul may purely dwell with thee.

Cantor : 5. We pray thee, Holy Trinity,

All : One God, unchanging Unity,
That we, from this our abstinence
May reap the fruits of penitence. Amen.

ANTIPHON I



Cantor : God has appointed Christ to | *be the judge* *
of the living | *and the dead*.

Psalm 109

King and Priest

A famous Messianic Psalm. In colorful pictures, the royal psalmist paints the mission, conflict, and triumph of our Savior. We ought to pray this Psalm with sentiments of deepest devotion, homage, adoration; for Christ has applied these words of prophecy to himself.

*Christ's reign will last until all his enemies
are made subject to him (I Corinthians 15 : 25)*

Appointed King by God

Cantor : The Lord's revelation to my Master : /
“ Sit | *on my right* : *
your foes I will put be- | *neath your feet*. ”

All : The Lord will wield from Sion your scep- | *ter of power* : *
rule in the midst of | *all your foes*.

Cantor : A prince from the day of your birth on the | *ho-ly moun-tains* ; *
from the womb before the dawn | *I be-got* you.

Appointed Priest by God

All : The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change. /
“ You are a | *priest for ev-er*, *
a priest like Melchize- | *dek of old*. ”

Conqueror and Judge in God

Cantor : The Master standing | *at your right* hand *
will shatter kings in the day of | *his great wrath*.

All : He shall drink from the stream | *by the way-side* *
and therefore he shall lift | *up his head*.

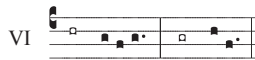
Doxology

Cantor : Glory to the Father, and | *to the Son*, *
and to the | *Ho-ly Spir-it* :

All : as it was in the begin- | *ning, is now*, *
and will be for ev- | *er. A-men*.

ANTIPHON

All : God has appointed Christ to | *be the judge* *
of the living | *and the dead*.



ANTIPHON 2

Cantor : Happy the man who shows mercy | *for the Lord's sake*; *
 he will stand firm | *for ev-er*.

Psalm III

The song of the saintly

This is the complement of the previous Psalm : the good God (Psalm 110)--the virtuous man (Psalm 111). The sequence of thought in the latter is rather free. The Church holds a mirror before my soul : are you such a virtuous man? I will think of the man who has shown the highest sanctity, our blessed Lord, and of his Saints ; every day the Church is leading me into the gallery of his Saints.

Live a children born of the light. Light produces every kind of goodness and justice and truth (Ephesians 5 : 8-9)

Love of God's commandments

Cantor : Happy the man who | *fears the Lord*, *
 who takes delight in all his | *com-mands*.

Blessings of holy fear

All : His sons will be power- | *ful on earth* ; *
 the children of the upright | *are blest*.

Cantor : Riches and wealth are | *in his house* ; *
 his justice stands firm | *for ev-er*.

All : He is a light in the darkness | *for the up-right* : *
 he is generous, merciful | *and just*.

Cantor : The good man takes pit- | *y and lends*, *
 he conducts his affairs | *with hon-or*.

All : The just man will | *nev-er wav-er* : *
 he will be remembered | *for ev-er*.

Cantor : He has no fear of | *e-vil news* ; *
 with a firm heart he trusts in | *the Lord*.

All : With a steadfast heart he | *will not fear* ; *
 he will see the downfall of | *his foes*.

Cantor : Open-handed, he gives to the poor ; /
 his justice stands | *firm for ev-er*. *
 His head will be raised | *in glo-ry*.

Frustration of the wicked

All : The wicked man sees and is angry, /
 grinds his teeth and | *fades a-way* ; *
 the desire of the wicked leads | *to doom*.

Doxology

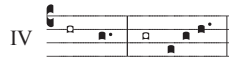
Cantor : Glory to the Father, and | *to the Son*, *
 and to the Ho- | *ly Spir-it* :

All : as it was in the begin- | *ning, is now*, *
 and will be for ever. | *A-men*.

ANTIPHON

All : Happy the man who shows mercy | *for the Lord's sake*; *
 he will stand firm | *for ev-er*.

ANTIPHON 3



Cantor : Those things which God foretold through his prophets /
concerning the sufferings that Christ would en- | **dure**, *
have | *been ful-filled*.

CANTICLE

1 Peter 2:21-24

The willing acceptance of his passion by Christ, the servant of God

Cantor : Christ suffered for you, and left you an ex- | **am-ple** *
to have you follow | *in his foot-steps*.

All : He did no | **wrong**; *
no deceit was found | *in his mouth*.

Cantor : When he was in- | **sult-ed**, *
he re- | *turned no in-sult*.

All : When he was made to | **suf-fer**, *
he did not coun- | *ter with threats*.

Cantor : Instead he delivered himself | **up** *
to the One who | *judg-es just-ly*.

All : In his own | **bod-y** *
he brought your sins | *to the cross*,

Cantor : so that all of us, dead to sin, /
could live in accord with God's | **will**. *
By his wounds | *you were healed*.

Doxology

All : Glory to the Father, and to the | **Son**, *
and to the | *Ho-ly Spir-it* :

Cantor : as it was in the beginning, is | **now**, *
and will be for ev- | *er. A-men*.

ANTIPHON

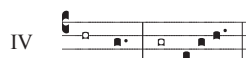
All : Those things which God foretold through his prophets /
concerning the sufferings that Christ would en- | **dure**, *
have | *been ful-filled*.

READING

I *Corinthians* 9:21-25

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.

RESPONSORY



Cantor : Listen to us, O Lord, and have | **mer-cy**, *
for we have | *sinned a-gainst* you.

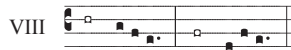
All : Listen to us, O Lord, and have | **mer-cy**, *
for we have | *sinned a-gainst* you.

Cantor : Christ Jesus, / hear our humble pe- | **ti-tions**, *
All : for we have | *sinned a-gainst* you.

Cantor : Glory to the Father, and to the | **Son**, *
and to the | *Ho-ly Spir-it* :

All : Listen to us, O Lord, and have | **mer-cy**, *
for we have | *sinned a-gainst* you.

ANTIPHON. AT MAGNIFICAT



Cantor : 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 a-gain*;
he was lost to us /
and now | *has been found*.

Magnificat

The cantor begins and alternates verses with the congregation :

Canticle of the Blessed Virgin Mary Lk 1: 46-55

- Cantor* : 1. My soul ☩ proclaims the greatness | *of the Lord*, *
my spirit rejoices in | *God my Sav-ior*.
- All* : 2. for he has | *looked with fa-vor* *
on his | *low-ly ser-vant*.
- Cantor* : 3. From this day all | *gen-er-a-tions* *
will | *call me bless-ed* :
- All* : 4. the Almighty has done great | *things for me*, *
and holy | *is his Name*.
- Cantor* : 5. He has mercy on | *those who fear him* *
in every | *gen-er-a-tion*.
- All* : 6. He has shown the strength | *of his arm*, *
he has scattered the proud in | *their con-cept*.
- Cantor* : 7. He has cast down the mighty | *from their thrones*, *
and has lifted | *up the low-ly*.
- All* : 8. He has filled the hungry | *with good things*, *
and the rich he has sent | *a-way emp-ty*.
- Cantor* : 9. He has come to the help of his | *ser-vant Is-ra-el* *
for he has remembered his prom- | *ise of mer-cy*,
- All* : 10. the promise he made | *to our fa-thers*, *
to Abraham and his child- | *ren for ev-er*.
- Cantor* : 11. Glory to the Father, and | *to the Son*, *
and to the | *Ho-ly Spir-it* :
- All* : 12. as it was in the begin- | *ning, is now*, *
and will be for ev- | *er. A-men*.

ANTIPHON

All : 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 a-gain*;
he was lost to us /
and now | *has been found*.

INTERCESSIONS



- 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* **fam-il-y**.
- Cantor* : Lord, be present to the bishops and priest of your Church,
who share your role as head and shepherd,
— may they lead your people to the Father under your | **guid-ance**.
- All* : Come, Lord, to visit | *your* **fam-il-y**.
- Cantor* : May your angel be with all who travel,
— to keep them safe in soul and | **bod-y**.
- All* : Come, Lord, to visit | *your* **fam-il-y**.
- Cantor* : 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* **fam-il-y**.
- Cantor* : 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* **fam-il-y**.
- Cantor* : Have mercy on all the dead,
— bring them to the vision of your | **glo-ry**.
- All* : Come, Lord, to visit | *your* **fam-il-y**.
- Celebrant* : O God, who through your Word
reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way,
grant we pray, *
that with prompt devotion and eager faith
the Christian people may hasten
toward the solemn celebrations to come.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, *
for ever and ever.
- All* : Amen.

Vespers concludes with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

**BENEDICTION
OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Tantum ergo Sacramentum

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Tantum ergo Sacraméntum Venerémur cernui ; Et antíquum documéntum Novo cedat rítui ; Præstet fides suppleméntum Sénsuum deféctui.</p> <p>Genitóri, Genitóque Laus et iubilátio, Salus, honor, virtus, quoque Sit et benedictio : Procedénti ab utróque Compar sit laudátio. Amen.</p> <p>℣. Panem de cælo præstitisti eis (T. P. allelúia). ℞. Omne delectaméntum in se habéntem (T. P. allelúia).</p> | <p>Therefore we, before him bending, This great Sacrament revere ; Types and shadows have their ending, For the newer Rite is here ; Faith, our outward sense, befriending, Makes the inward vision clear.</p> <p>Glory let us give and blessing, To the Father and the Son ; Honor, might, and praise addressing, While eternal ages run ; Ever too his love confessing, Who from Both, with Both, is One. Amen.</p> <p>℣. You have given them bread from heaven (P.T. alleluia). ℞. Having all sweetness within it (P.T. alleluia).</p> |
|---|---|

Oratio

Oremus.

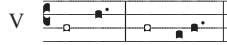
DEUS, qui nobis sub sacraménto mirábili, passiónis tuæ memóriam reliquisti : * tribue, quæsumus, ita nos Córporis et Sánguinis tui sacra mystéria venerári ; ut redemptionis tuæ fructum in nobis iúgiter sentiámus : Qui vivis et regnas in sæcula sæculórum. ℞. Amen.

Prayer

Let us pray.

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, * grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption. Who live and reign for ever and ever. ℞. Amen.

The Divine Praises



- Cantor* : Blessed be | **God**. *
Blessed be his ho- | *ly* **Name**.
- All* : Blessed be Jesus Christ, / true God and true | **man**. *
Blessed be the Name | *of* **Je**-sus.
- Cantor* : Blessed be his most Sacred | **Heart**. *
Blessed be his most Pre- | *ci*ous **Blood**.
- All* : Blessed be Jesus in the most holy Sacrament of the | **Al**-tar. *
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, | *the* **Par**-aclete.
- Cantor* : Blessed be the great Mother of God, / Mary most | **ho**-ly. *
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate | *Con*-cep-tion.
- All* : Blessed be her glorious As- | **sump**-tion. *
Blessed be the name of Mary, / Virgin | *and* **Moth**-er.
- Cantor* : Blessed be Saint | **Jo**-seph, *
her most | *chaste* **spouse**.
- All* : Blessed be | **God** *
in his angels and in | *his* **saints**.

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Holy God, we praise thy Name ; | Hark ! The loud celestial hymn |
| Lord of all, we bow before thee ; | Angel choirs above are raising ; |
| All on earth thy scepter 'claim ; | Cherubim and seraphim, |
| All in heav'n above adore thee ; | In unceasing chorus praising, |
| Infinite thy vast domain ; | Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord : |
| Everlasting is thy reign. | Holy, holy, holy Lord. |

Chant settings prepared by

Fr. Samuel F. Weber, O.S.B.
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