

BELMONT ABBEY



THE OFFICE OF VESPERS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

ORDER FOR THE OFFICE OF VESPERS

1. Introduction

On Solemnities



i. V. O God, come to my aid. R. Lord, make haste to help me.



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit,



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and e - ver shall be,



world with-out end. A - men. Al - le - lu - ia.

2. Psalmody - three Psalms and a NT Canticle with Antiphons

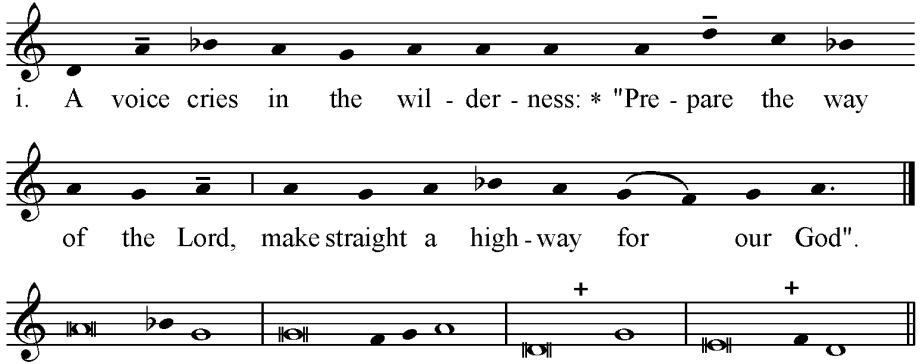
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Repeated after each Psalm and Canticle

THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

24 June



i. A voice cries in the wil - der - ness: * "Pre - pare the way
of the Lord, make straight a high - way for our God".

The musical notation consists of three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style. The second staff continues the melody, ending with a double bar line. The third staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat, and includes two measures marked with a plus sign (+) above the staff, indicating a repeat or a specific performance instruction.

First & Second Vespers: Psalm 84

O Lord, you once favoured your land
and revived the fortunes of Jacob,
you forgave the guilt of your people
and covered all their sins.
You averted all your rage,
you calmed the heat of your anger.

Revive us now, God, our helper!
Put an end to your grievance against us.
Will you be angry with us for ever,
will your anger never cease?

Will you not restore again our life
that your people may rejoice in you?
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people and his friends
and those who turn to him in their hearts.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

vii. A - mong those born of wo - men, *

there is none grea - ter than John the Bapt - ist.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

First Vespers: Psalm 112

The image shows the beginning of a musical setting for Psalm 112. It consists of a single staff of music in G major. The melody starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. There are two plus signs (+) above the staff, one at the beginning and one at the end of the first measure. The music features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final note that is a half note.

Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed
both now and for evermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting
praised be the name of the Lord!

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!'

For love of my brethren and friends
I say: 'Peace upon you.'
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good.

v. He will go be - fore him * in the spi - rit and power of
E - li - jah to make re - ady a peo - ple for the Lord.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, with a '+' sign above the second measure. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text, with a slur over the final two notes. The third staff contains the melody for the third line of text, with '+' signs above the first and fourth measures. The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some rests.

First Vespers: Psalm 32

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.
O sing him a song that is new,
play loudly, with all your skill.

For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

By his word the heavens were made,
by the breath of his mouth all the stars.
He collects the waves of the ocean;
he stores up the depths of the sea.

Let all the earth fear the Lord,
all who live in the world revere him.
He spoke; and it came to be.
He commanded; it sprang into being.

He frustrates the designs of the nations,
he defeats the plans of the peoples.
His own designs shall stand for ever,
the plans of his heart from age to age.

They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own.
From the heavens the Lord looks forth,
he sees all the children of men.

From the place where he dwells he gazes
on all the dwellers on the earth,
he who shapes the hearts of them all
and considers all their deeds.

A king is not saved by his army,
nor a warrior preserved by his strength.
A vain hope for safety is the horse;
despite its power it cannot save.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
In him do our hearts find joy.
We trust in his holy name.

May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

Second Vespers: Psalm 33

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.

The angel of the Lord is encamped
around those who revere him, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him.

Revere the Lord, you his saints.
They lack nothing, those who revere him.
Strong lions suffer want and go hungry
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Come, children and hear me
that I may teach you the fear of the Lord.
Who is he who longs for life
and many days, to enjoy his prosperity?

Then keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from speaking deceit.
Turn aside from evil and do good;
seek and strive after peace.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal.

They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken.

Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

i. God has ta - ken us out of dark - ness

and gi - ven us a place in the king - dom of his Son.

Canticle: St John the Baptist Jn 1: 6-9, 15, 23, 26-27, 29 32, 34

There was a man sent from God
 whose name was John.
 He came as a witness to testify to the light,
 so that all might believe through him.

He himself was not the light,
 but he came to testify to the light.
 The true light, which enlightens everyone,
 was coming into the world.

John testified to him and cried out,
 “This was he of whom I said,
 ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me
 because he was before me.’”

“I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness,
 ‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’”
 “I baptize with water.
 Among you stands one whom you do not know,
 the one who is coming after me;
 I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.”

“Here is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove,
and it remained upon him.
I myself have seen and have testified
that this is the Son of God.”

By his wounds you have been healed.
For you were straying like sheep,
but have now returned
to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls

3. Short Scripture Reading

followed by a short silence and the Brief Respond

BRIEF RESPOND



iv. R/ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. *



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



V/ He came to bear wit - ness to the light.



V/ Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to



the Son and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit.

4. Hymn

as appointed

5. Magnificat with Proper Antiphon

irr. His name shall be John * and he will be filled with the

Ho - ly Spi - rit, e - ven from his mo - ther's womb.

Luke 1:46-55

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.

He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.
He fills the hungry with good things
sends the rich away empty.



and for - give us our tres - pas - ses, as we forgive those
 who tres - pass a - gainst us and lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion,
 but deliver us from e - vil.

8. Collect

9. Blessing and Conclusion

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless you,
 the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

On Solemnities

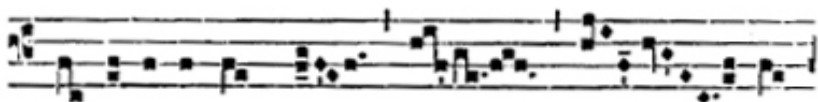


vi. R. Let us bless the Lord. V. Thanks be to God.

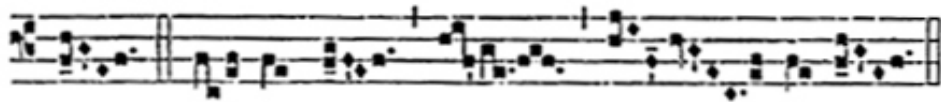


iv. R. Let us bless the Lord. V. Thanks be to God.

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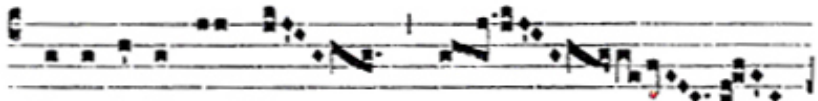


E-ne-di-cámus Dó- mi-

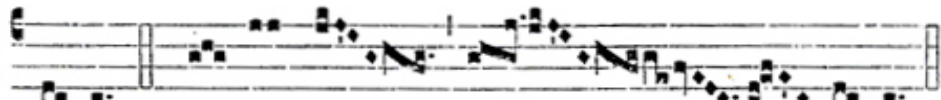


no. R̄. De- o grá- ti- as.

B



Ene-di-cámus Dó-



mi-no. R̄. De- o grá- ti- as.

10. Solemn Antiphon to Our Lady

Following procession to the Lady Chapel

Ant.



S Al- ve, * Re-gi- na, ma-ter mi-se-ri-córdi- æ :
Vi- ta, dulcé- do, et spes nostra, sal- ve. Ad te
clamá-mus, éxsu- les, fi- li- i He- væ. Ad te suspi- rá-
mus, geméntes et flentes in hac lacrimá- rum val- le.
E- ia ergo, Advo- cá- ta nostra, il- los tu- os mi- se-
ri- cór- des ó- cu- los ad nos convér- te. Et Je- sum, be-
ne- dí- ctum fructum ventris tu- i, no- bis post hoc exsí-
li- um osténde : O cle- mens : O pi- a : O
dulcis * Virgo Ma- ri- a.