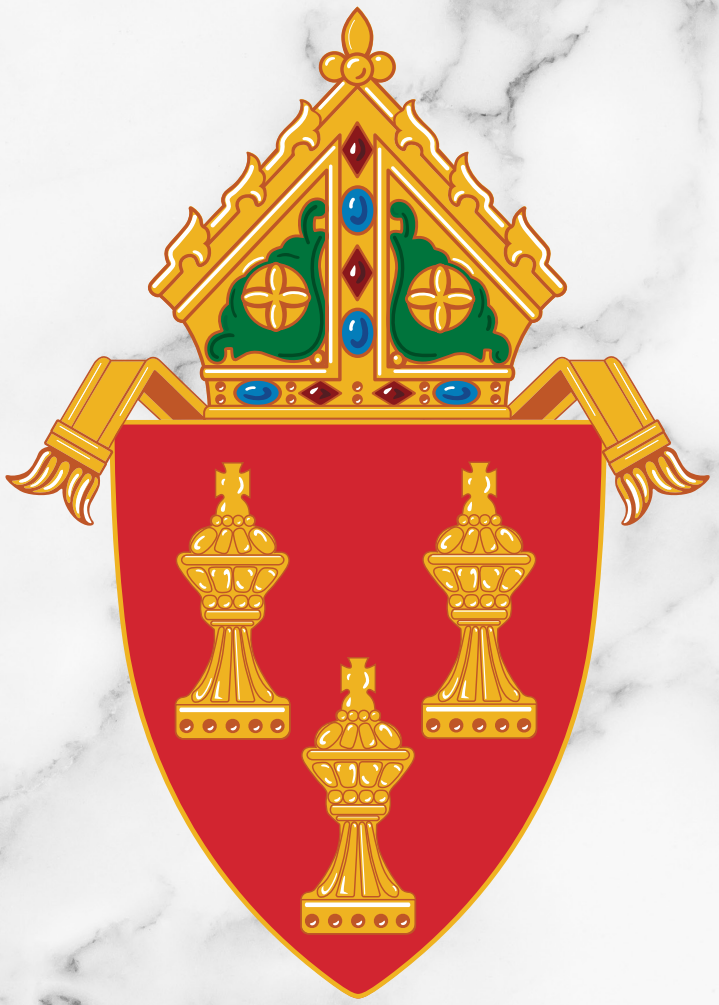


SOLEMN VESPERS *WITH THE* PROFESSION OF FAITH *AND* OATH OF FIDELITY *BY*

THE MOST REVEREND MARIO A. AVILÉS CO

BISHOP–DESIGNATE OF CORPUS CHRISTI

MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD CHURCH † JANUARY 27, 2026 · 6:30 PM

SOLEMN VESPERS

AND THE

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND OATH OF FIDELITY

BY **THE MOST REVEREND MARIO ALBERTO AVILÉS** C.O.

BISHOP-DESIGNATE OF CORPUS CHRISTI

THE MOST REVEREND JOE S. VÁSQUEZ
ARCHBISHOP OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON
PRESIDING

THE MOST REVEREND DANIEL E. FLORES
BISHOP OF BROWNSVILLE
VICE-PRESIDENT, UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
HOMILIST

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026 · 6:30 PM

MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD CHURCH † PRO-CATHEDRAL FOR THE DIOCESE OF CORPUS CHRISTI

THE DIVINE OFFICE AND VESPERS

The Divine Office or Liturgy of the Hours is the public "prayer of the Church with Christ to the Father" *(General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours, 15)* and as such, "is a source of piety, and nourishment for personal prayer." *(Sacrosanctum Concilium, 90)*

By tradition going back to early Christian times, the divine office is devised so that the whole course of the day and night is made holy by the praises of God. *(Sacrosanctum Concilium, 84)*

Vespers, the evening prayer of the Church, holds a "preeminent place" as one of the two hinges of the daily Office. It is celebrated at sunset to give thanks for the graces of the day and to recall the work of our Redemption. Through the singing of Psalms, the reading of Scripture, and the *Magnificat*, the community joins in the perpetual sacrifice of praise.

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH AND OATH OF FIDELITY

Prior to assuming office, one who is designated to become a diocesan bishop is called to make a public declaration of faith in accordance with Canon Law. In addition, the bishop-designate takes an Oath of Fidelity—a promise to preserve unity with the Catholic Church, to carry out his episcopal office with the greatest care, and pledging loyalty and obedience to the Holy Father as the successor of Saint Peter.

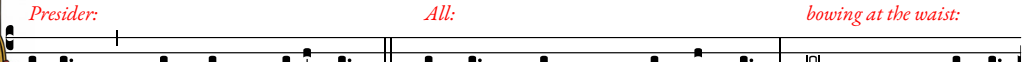
As he makes these promises, the Bishop-designate places his hands upon the Holy Gospels and invokes God's help to remain a witness to the Truth and a faithful shepherd to the flock entrusted to his care.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *Chorale and Menuet from Suite Gothique* Léon Boëllmann (1862–1897)

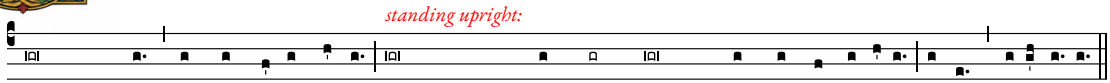
All stand for the procession.

† INVITATORY (CALL TO PRAYER)

Presider: *All:* *bowing at the waist:*

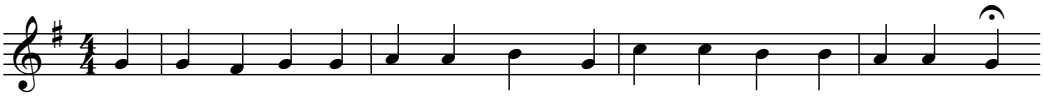


standing upright:

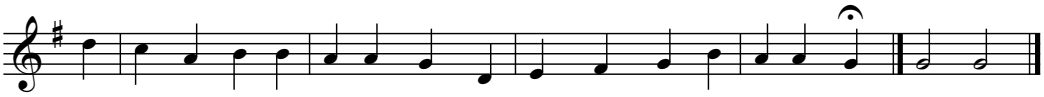


† HYMN *O God, Our Firm and Steadfast Strength* TALLIS' CANON

TEXT: *Rerum Deus tenax vigor* Thomas Tallis (c. 1505–1585)



1. O God, our firm and stead-fast strength, re - main - ing in your - self un - moved,
2. Be - stow at e - ven - tide a light by which our life may nev - er fail;
3. Most lov - ing Fa - ther, hear our prayer, and you, O Christ co - e - qual Son,



1. you rule the span of dai - ly light and guide the course of all the hours.
2. may end - less glo - ry be the crown that fol - lows on a ho - ly death.
3. who with the Spir - it Par - a - clete now reign for all e - ter - ni - ty. A - men.

The assembly is seated for the Psalmody.

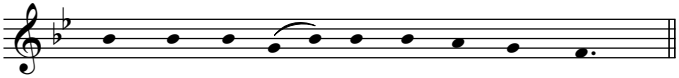
ALTAR

GROUP II | **GROUP II** | **GROUP I** | **GROUP I**

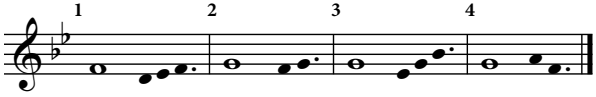
PSALM 125 *The Lord, guardian of his people* Tone VIII

Peace to God's true Israel (Galatians 6:16) *St. Meinrad Psalter*

ANTIPHON
(repeated after final verse)



℟ The Lord sur - rounds his peo - ple with strength.



GROUP I

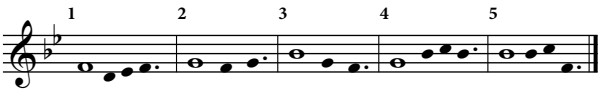
1 Those who put their trust *in the* **Lord***
2 are like *Mount* **Zion**, *
3 that can*not be* **shaken,** *
4 that stands *for* **ever.**

GROUP II

1 Jerusalem! The moun*tains sur***round her,**
2 so the Lord surrounds *his* **people** **
4 both now and *for* **ever.**

GROUP I

1 For the scepter of the wicked
shall not **rest** *
2 over the land of *the* **just** *
3 for fear that the hands *of the* **just** *
4 should turn *to* **evil.**



GROUP II

1 Do good, Lord, to those *who are* **good,** *
2 to the upright *of* **heart;** *
3 but the crooked and those who *do* **evil,** *
4 drive *them a***way**! *
5 On Is-*ra-el*, **peace!**

ALL *(standing, bow)*

1 Glory to the Father, and *to the* **Son,** *
2 and to the Ho-*ly* **Spirit:** **

(standing upright)

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

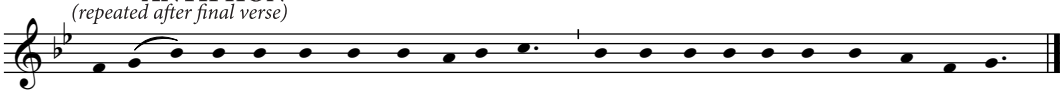
(ANTIPHON)

PSALM PRAYER: *Surround your people, Lord, within the safety of your Church, which you preserve on its rock foundation. Do not let us stretch out our hands to evil deeds, nor be destroyed by the insidious snares of the enemy, but bring us to share the lot of the saints in light.* ℟ **Amen.** *All are seated.*

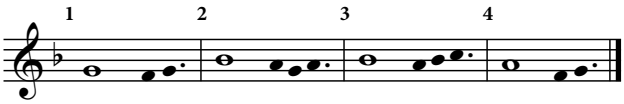
PSALM 131 *Childlike trust in God* Tone II

Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart (Matthew 11:29) *St. Meinrad Psalter*

ANTIPHON
(repeated after final verse)



℟ Un - less you ac - quire the heart of a child, you can - not en - ter the king - dom of God.



GROUP I

1 O Lord, my heart is *not* **proud** *
2 nor haught*y my* **eyes.** *
3 I have not gone after *things too* **great** *
4 nor marvels *be***yond me.**

GROUP II

1 Truly I have set *my* **soul** *
2 in si*lence and* **peace.** *
3 As a child has rest in its *mo-ther's* **arms,** *
4 even so *my* **soul.**

ALL

3 ** O Israel, hope *in the* **Lord** *
4 both now and *for* **ever.**

***ALL** (standing, bow)*

1 Glory to the Father, and to *the* **Son,** *
2 and to the *Ho-ly* **Spirit:** *

(standing upright)

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

(ANTIPHON)

PSALM PRAYER: *Lord Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, you declared that whoever receives a little child in your name receives you, and you promised your kingdom to those who are like children. Never let pride reign in our hearts, but may the Father's compassion reward and embrace all who willingly bear your gentle yoke.* ℟ **Amen.** *All are seated.*

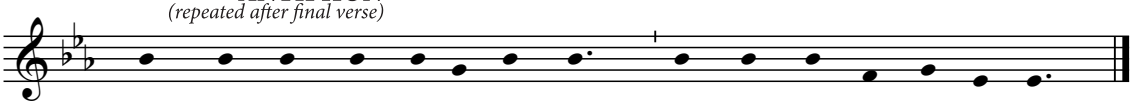
CANTICLE

Redemption Hymn

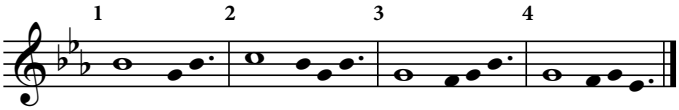
Revelation 4:11; 5:9–10, 12

St. Meinrad Psalter

ANTIPHON
(repeated after final verse)



℟ Lord, you have made us a king - dom, and priests for God our Fa - ther.



GROUP I

1 O Lord our God, you *are* **worthy** *
4 to receive glory and hon*or and* **power.**

GROUP II

1 For you have created *all* **things;** *
4 by your will they came to be *and were* **made.**

GROUP I

1 Worthy are you, *O* **Lord,** *
4 to receive the scroll and break o*pen its* **seals.**

GROUP II

1 For you *were* **slain;** *
2 with your blood you pur*chased for* **God** *
3 men of every *race and* **tongue,** *
4 of every peo*ple and* **nation.**

GROUP I

1 You made of them *a* **kingdom,** *
2 and priests to *serve our* **God,** *
4 and they shall reign *on the* **earth.**

GROUP II

1 Worthy is the Lamb that *was* **slain** *
2 to receive pow*er and* **riches,** *
3 wis*dom and* **strength,** *
4 honor and glo*ry and* **praise.**

ALL *(standing, bow)*

1 Glory to the Father, and to *the* **Son,** *
2 and to the *Ho-ly* **Spirit:** *

(standing upright)

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

(ANTIPHON)

All are seated.

READING

Romans 12:9–12

YOUR LOVE MUST BE SINCERE. Detest what is evil, cling to what is good. Love one another with the affection of brothers. Anticipate each other in showing respect. Do not grow slack but be fervent in spirit; he whom you serve is the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient under trial, persevere in prayer.

HOMILY

The Most Rev. Daniel E. Flores S.T.D.
Bishop of Brownsville
Vice-President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Before assuming his new office, the Bishop-designate makes a public Profession of Faith, affirming his personal belief in and adherence to the teachings of Christ and His Church.

OATH OF FIDELITY

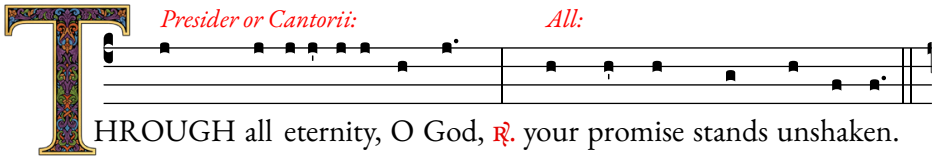
He then takes and signs the Oath of Fidelity— a personal promise made by the Bishop-designate to preserve unity with the Catholic Church and to carry out his office with the greatest care, pledging loyalty and obedience to the Holy Father as the successor of Saint Peter, and diligent care for and service to the people of the Diocese of Corpus Christi. The Bishop-designate places his hands upon the Holy Gospels and invokes God's help to remain a witness to the Truth and a faithful shepherd to the flock entrusted to his care.

After this has been done, the liturgy of Vespers continues with the responsory.

RESPONSORY

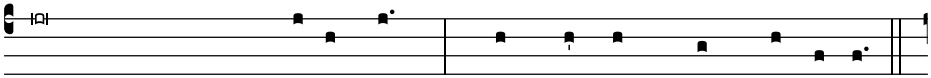
A cantor, together with the priests and prelates, sings the the versicles with the rest of the assembly singing the response as indicated.

Presider or Cantorii: *All:*



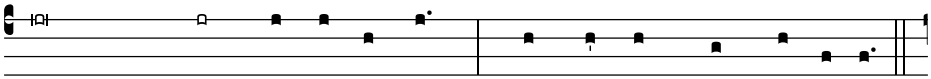
THROUGH all eternity, O God, ℟. your promise stands unshaken.

Presider or Cantorii: *All:*



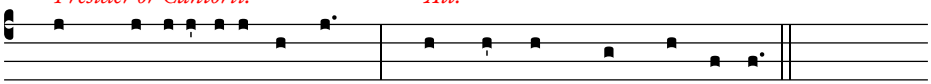
Your faithfulness will never fail, ℟. your promise stands unshaken.

Presider or Cantorii: *All:*



Glory to the Father, and to the Son, ℟. your promise stands unshaken.

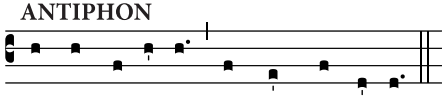
Presider or Cantorii: *All:*



Through all eternity, O God, ℟. your promise stands unshaken.

All stand.

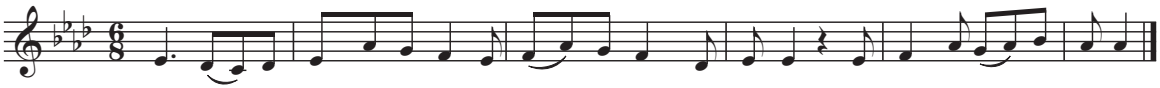
ANTIPHON



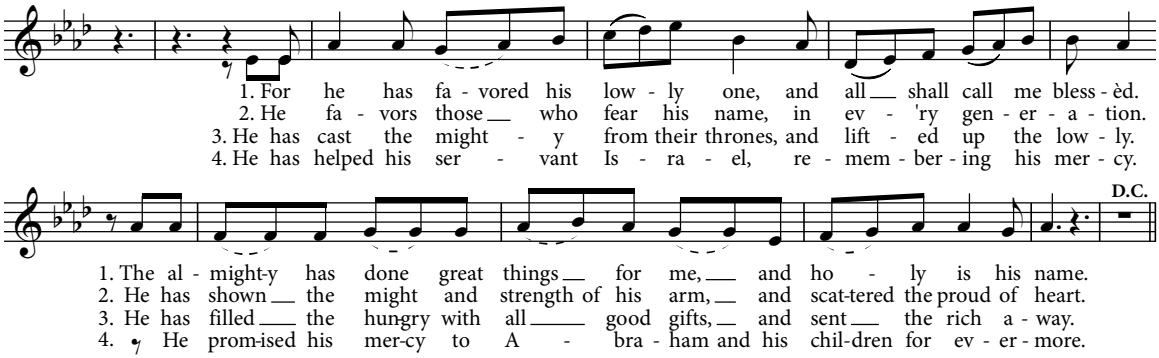
Y soul rejoices in God my Savior.

† GOSPEL CANTICLE: MAGNIFICAT

Rev. James J. Chepponis MDiv, MA
(b. 1956)



℟ Pro-claim the great-ness of God; re - joice in God, my Sav-ior! Re-joice in God, my Sav-ior!



† INTERCESSIONS

℣. *God establishes his people in hope. Let us cry out to him with joy:*

℟. **You are the hope of your people, Lord.**

℣. *We thank you, Lord, — because in Christ you have given us all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

℟. **You are the hope of your people, Lord.**

℣. *O God, in your hands are the hearts of the powerful; bestow your wisdom upon government leaders, — may they draw from the fountain of your counsel and please you in thought and deed.*

℟. **You are the hope of your people, Lord.**

℣. *The talents of artists reflect your splendor, —may their work give the world hope and joy.*

℟. **You are the hope of your people, Lord.**

℣. *You do not allow us to be tested beyond our ability, — strengthen the weak and raise up the fallen.*

℟. **You are the hope of your people, Lord.**

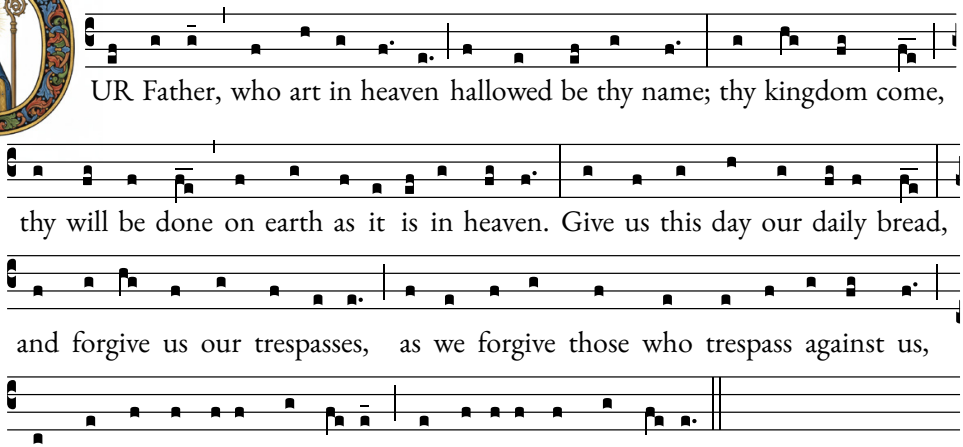
℣. *Through your Son you promised to raise men up on the Last Day,*
— do not forget those who have died.

℟. **You are the hope of your people, Lord.**

Presider: With longing for the coming of God's kingdom, let us offer our prayer to the Father.

† THE LORD'S PRAYER

Missal Chants
Gregorian tone (c. 9th–10th century), adapt. ICEL



† CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord, may our evening prayer rise up to you, and your blessing come down upon us. May your help and salvation be ours now and through all eternity. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

℟ **Amen.**

† PONTIFICAL BLESSING

℣ *The Lord be with you.* ℟ **And with your spirit.**

℣ *Blessed be the name of the Lord.* ℟ **Now and for ever.**

℣ *Our help is in the name of the Lord.* ℟ **Who made heaven and earth.**

℣ *May almighty God bless you, the* ✠ *Father, and the* ✠ *Son, and the* ✠ *Holy Spirit.*

℟ **Amen.**

† DISMISSAL

℣ *Go in peace.*

℟ **Thanks be to God.**

† ORGAN POSTLUDE *Fugue in E^b Major ("St. Anne") BWV 552B* Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

With joy and thanksgiving to almighty God, the Diocese of Corpus Christi invites you to

SOLEMN MASS

WITH THE RITE OF CANONICAL POSSESSION

WHEREIN

THE MOST REVEREND MARIO ALBERTO AVILÉS C.O.

WILL BE INSTALLED AS

THE NINTH BISHOP OF CORPUS CHRISTI

BY

THE MOST REVEREND JOE S. VÁSQUEZ

ARCHBISHOP OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026 · 2:00 PM

MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD CHURCH † PRO-CATHEDRAL FOR THE DIOCESE OF CORPUS CHRISTI

SACRED MUSIC FOR SOLEMN VESPERS

MR. ALEX OLDROYD
Director of Sacred Music
Corpus Christi Cathedral

DR. MEAGHAN KING
Director of Sacred Music,
Most Precious Blood Parish

THE PONTIFICAL CHORALE *OF* CORPUS CHRISTI CATHEDRAL

FESTIVAL CHOIR *FROM* THE DIOCESE OF CORPUS CHRISTI

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