VESPERS is the sixth of the seven prayer services of the Christian day. Its name comes from the Latin *vespera*, which means ‘evening.’ When Thomas Cranmer created the English Prayer Book in 1549 and 1552 he combined Vespers with the night service (compline) into the service we know as Evensong. Magnificat is the Gospel Canticle of Vespers, as Nunc Dimittis is the Gospel Canticle of Compline.

The service ends with a traditional antiphon (a special seasonal text, from which comes our modern word ‘anthem’) in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

*For this service, all persons present worship as a single body. Please sit, stand, and kneel with the Dean, except for the Little Chapter, Reflection and Prayers, when you remain seated (with the choir)*

Sunday 23rd May
Thy word is a lantern unto my feet
and a light unto my paths.

Thou also shalt light my candle
the Lord my God shall make my darkness to be light.

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you
and with thy spirit.

**Light Prayer**
Blessed art thou, Sovereign Lord,
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to thee be glory and praise for ever.
Thou hast called us out of darkness
into thy marvellous light
that our lives may reflect thy glory
and our lips repeat thy song:
**Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**HYMN**

*LUCIS Creator optime*

O BLEST Creator of the light,
who mak'st the day with radiance bright,
and o'er the forming world didst call
the light from chaos first of all;

Whose wisdom joined in meet array
the morn and eve, and named them Day:
night comes with all its darkling fears;
regard Thy people's prayers and tears.

O Father, that we ask be done,
through Jesus Christ, Thine only Son;
who, with the Holy Ghost and Thee
doth live and reign eternally. Amen.
VESPER

O God make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. Alleluia.

PSALMODY

Psalm 104

Antiphon (repeated after the psalm)
Dum completerunt dies Pentecostes, erant omnes pariter dicentes, alleluia.
When the day of Pentecost was fully come they were all together, saying: Alleluia

24 O Lord, how manifold are thy works
in wisdom hast thou made them all;
the earth is full of thy riches.

25 So is the great and wide sea also
wherein are things creeping innumerable,
both small and great beasts.

26 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan
whom thou hast made to take his pastime therein.

27 These wait all upon thee
that thou mayest give them meat in due season.

28 When thou givest it them they gather it
and when thou openest thy hand they are filled with good.

29 When thou hidest thy face they are troubled
when thou takest away their breath they die,
and are turned again to their dust.

30 When thou lettest thy breath go forth they shall be made
and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.
To mark our celebration of the Easter season in Chapel, this canticle is sung

Apocalypse Canticle

Antiphon
Laudem dicite Deo nostro, omnes servieius, pusilli et magni, alleluia
Praise our God, all his servants, both small and great, alleluia

Alleluia. Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God.
Alleluia. For true and righteous are his judgements. Alleluia.
Praise our God, all ye his servants. Alleluia.
And ye that fear him, both small and great. Alleluia.
For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Alleluia.
Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him. Alleluia.
For the marriage of the Lamb is come. Alleluia.
And his wife hath made herself ready. Alleluia.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son. Alleluia.
And to the Holy Ghost. Alleluia.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: Alleluia.

LITTLE CHAPTER     Isaiah 11.1-2

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD.

REFLECTION
Veni, creator Spiritus, 
mentes tuorum visita, 
imple superna gratia, 
quae tu creasti, pectora.

Qui diceris Paraclitus, 
donum Dei altissimi, 
fons vivus, ignis, caritas, 
et spiritalis unctio.

Tu septiformis munere, 
dextrae Dei tu digitus, 
tu rite promissum Patris, 
sermone ditans guttura.

Accende lumen sensibus, 
infunde amorem cordibus, 
infirmia nostri corporis 
virtute firmans perpeti.

Hostem repellas longius 
pacemque dones protinus; 
ductore sic te praevio 
vitemus omne noxium.

Per te sciamus da Patrem 
noscamus atque Filium, 
te utrisque Spiritum 
credamus omni tempore.

COME holy ghost eternall God procedinge from above, 
Both from the father and the sonne, the God of peace and love: 
Vysyte oure myndes, and into us, thy heavenly grace inspyre; 
That in all trueth and godlynesse, we maye have true desyre. 
Thou art the very comforter, in al woe and distresse: 
The heavenly gyfte of God moste highe, whych no tongue can expresse. 
The fountayne and the lively springe, of joye celestiall; 
Thou in thy gyftes arte manifolde, whereby Christes Churche doeth stande: 
In faythfull hearts wyttynghe thy lawe, the fynger of Goddes hande. 
According to thy promes made, thou gevest speache of grace; 
That throughge thy helpe, the prayse of God, may sounde in every place. 
O holy ghoste, into oure wittes, sende downe thyne heavenly lyght; 
Kyndle our hearts wyth fervent love, to serve God daye and nyght. 
Strength and stablishe all oure weakenes, so feble and so frayle: 
That neyther fleshe, the worlde, nor devyl, agaynste us do prevayle. 
Put backe oure enemie farre from us, and graunte us to obtayne: 
Peace in our hearts with God and man, withoute grudge or disdayne. 
And graunt O Lorde that thou beyng, oure leader and oure guyde; 
We may eschewe the snares of synne, and from thee never slyde. 
To us such plentiful of thy grace, good Lord graunt we thee praye: 
That thou mayest bee oure comforter, at the laste dreadfull daye. 
Of all stryfe and dissencion, O Lorde, dissolve the bandes: 
And make the knottes of peace and love, throughoute all Christien landes. 
Graunte us O Lorde, throughge thee to knowe the father most of myght; 
That of hys deare belovde sonne we may attayne the syght. 
And that wyth perfect fayth also, we may acknowledge thee; 
The Spirie of them both alwaye, one God in persones three. 
Laud and prayse be to the father, and to the sonne equall: 
And to the holy spyrte also, one God coeternall. 
And praye we that the onely sonne, vouchesafe hys spyrte to sende; 
To all that do profess his name, unto the worldes ende. Amen.

This free adaptation of the Latin hymn comes from the second Prayer Book of Edward VI (1552)

✠ The Spirit of God moves upon the face of the waters, alleluia. 
✠ The breath of the Almighty has given us life, alleluia.
**MAGNIFICAT**  
*St John’s Evening Service*  
Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

**Antiphon §i**
Hodie completi sunt dies Pentecostes, alleluia; hodie Spiritus Sanctus in igne discipulis apparuit, et tribuit eis charismatum dona (i)
This day the fifty days are fulfilled, alleluia; this day the Holy Spirit appeared in flame to the disciples, and bestowed on them gifts of graces.

My soul doth magnify the Lord:  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.  
He hath shewed strength with his arm:  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:  
As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham, and his seed for ever.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
And to the Holy ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
World without end. Amen.

**Antiphon §ii**
Misi eos in universum mundum praedicare et testificari, qui crediderit, et baptizatus fuerit, salvus erit, alleluia (ii)  
I sent them into all the world to preach and bear witness, so that anyone who believes and is baptised will be saved, Alleluia.

**PRAYERS These end with the following**

*The Lord’s Prayer*

**OUR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.**

**Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,**

**As we forgive them that trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.**

*The Collect for the day*

**GOD, who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by the sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit; Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.**
MOTET  Repleti sunt omnes spiritu sancto  Dominique Phinot (1510-56)

Repléti sunt ómnes Spiritu sáncto,  All were filled with the Holy Spirit,  et coeρerunt lóquì,  and they began to speak,  próut Spíritus sanctus dábat elóqui íllis,  just as the holy Spirit gave them utterance,  et convénít multítūdō dicéntium:  and there gathered a multitude saying:  allelúya.

CONCLUSION

Dominus vobiscum  The Lord be with you
Et cum spiritu tuo  And with thy spirit
Benedicamus Domino  Let us bless the Lord
Deo gratias  Thanks be to God.

Defunctorum animae per misericordiam Dei requiescant in pace.  May the souls of the departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

REGINA CAELI

Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia;  Queen of heaven, rejoice,
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,  For the one you were worthy to bear
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia:  Has risen, as he promised:
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.  Pray for us to God.

Gaude et laetare, Virgo Maria, alleluia.  Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary
Quia surrexit Dominus vere, alleluia.  For the Lord has risen indeed.

DR CAIUS’S PRAYER for daily use in the College

Deus pacis et dilectionis maneat semper nobiscum.  The God of peace and love remain with us always.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Veni Creator: Dialogue sur les Grands Jeux (de Grigny)  Nicolas de Grigny (1672-1703)

Remain seated at the end of the Postlude until the Dean has said a concluding prayer.