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 30th 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,
lucem dierum proferens,
who mak'st the day with radiance bright,
primordis lucis novae,
and o'er the forming world didst call
mundi parans originem:
the light from chaos first of all;

Qui mane iunctum vesperti
Whose wisdom joined in meet array
diem vocari praecipis:
the morn and eve, and named them Day:
taetrum chaos illabitur,
night comes with all its darkling fears;
audi preces cum fletibus.
regard Thy people's prayers and tears.

Praesta, Pater piissime,
O Father, that we ask be done,
Patrique compar Unice,
through Jesus Christ, Thine only Son;
cum Spiritu Paraclito
who, with the Holy Ghost and Thee
regnans per omne saeculum. Amen.
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:

PSALMODY

Psalm 29

Antiphon (repeated after the psalm)
Gloria tibi Trinitas aequalis, una Deitas, et ante omnia saecula, et nunc, et in perpetuum.
Glory to you, O Trinity, all equal, one God, from before all ages now, and for evermore.

1 Bring unto the Lord, O ye mighty, bring young rams unto the Lord
   ascribe unto the Lord worship and strength.

2 Give the Lord the honour due unto his Name
   worship the Lord with holy worship

3 It is the Lord that commandeth the waters
   it is the glorious God that maketh the thunder.

4 It is the Lord that ruleth the sea; the voice of the Lord is mighty in operation
   the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

5 The voice of the Lord breaketh the cedar trees
   yea, the Lord breaketh the cedars of Libanus.

6 He maketh them also to skip like a calf
   Libanus also, and Sirion, like a young unicorn.

7 The voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire;
   the voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness
   yea, the Lord shaketh the wilderness of Cades.

8 The voice of the Lord maketh the hinds to bring forth young,
   and discovereth the thick bushes
   in his temple doth every man speak of his honour.
9 The Lord sitteth above the water-flood and the Lord remaineth a King forever.

10 The Lord shall give strength unto his people the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

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.

Apocalypse Canticle

Antiphon
Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus omnipotens, qui erat et qui est et qui venturus est.
Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come.

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. World without end. Amen. Alleluia.

LITTLE CHAPTER 2 Corinthians 13.11-14

Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you. Greet one another with an holy kiss. All the saints salute you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.
HYMN   Immensa et una Trinitas

Immensa et una Trinitas, Almighty Trinity in one,
cuius potestas omnia Whose sov’reign pow’r all things has made,
facit regitque tempora You rule the ages and the world,
et exstat ante sæcula. Before all time you reigned supreme.

Tu sola pleno suffcis Full plenitude of joy is yours,
tibi beata gaudio; Alone and perfect, needing naught,
tu pura, simplex, provida, Unsullied, simple, purity,
cælos et orbem contines. All things are held within you sway.

Omnis, Pater, fons gratiae, O Father, fount of every grace,
lumen paternæ gloriae, O Father’s glory, God the Son,
Sancte utriusque Spiritus O Holy Spirit of them both,
interminata caritas. Unending source of love divine.

Ex te suprema origine, To you, the origin serene,
Trias benigna, profuit The Godhead one in persons three,
creata quicquid sustinet, All things created owe their form
quicquid decore perficit. And every beauty they contain.

Quos et corona muneras Your children whom you have endowed
adoptionis intimae, With sonship and adoption’s gift,
nos templa fac nitentia Beg you to make them temples fair
tribi placere iugiter. For your indwelling Spirit’s joy.

O viva lux, nos angelis O living Light, grant us the grace
da iungi in aula célica, To join the angels round our throne,
ut grati amoris laudibus That praising you with grateful love,
te concinamus perpetim. Amen Creation’s hymn may never end. Amen.

℣  Christ through the eternal Spirit offered himself to God, alleluia.
℟  Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, alleluia.
MAGNIFICAT  St John’s Evening Service  Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Antiphon §ı
Te Deum Patrem ingenitum, te Filium unigenitum, te Spiritum Sanctum Paraclitum, sanctam et individuam Trinitatem.
Thou, God the unbegotten Father, thou, the only-begotten Son, and thou Holy Spirit, the Comforter, holy and undivided Trinity.

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaid.
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
Toto corde et ore confitemur, laudamus, atque benedicimus: tibi gloria in saecula.
With all our heart and mouths we confess thee, we praise thee, and bless thee; to thee be glory for ever.

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

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace, by the confession of a true faith to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of thy Divine Majesty to worship the Unity; We beseech thee, that thou wouldst keep us steadfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.
**MOTET**  
*Duo Seraphim*  
Jacob Handl (1550-91)

*Duo seraphim clamabant alter ad alterum:*  
*Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.*  
*Plena est omnis terra gloria ejus.*  

Two seraphim cried to one another:  
Holy, holy holy is the Lord God of Sabaoth.  
The whole earth is full of his glory.

**CONCLUSION**

*Dominus vobiscum*  
*Et cum spiritu tuo*  
*Benedicamus Domino*  
*Deo gratias*  

The Lord be with you  
And with thy spirit  
Let us bless the Lord  
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.

**SALVE REGINA**

*Salve Regina, Mater misericórdiae;*  
*Vita dulcédo, et spes nostra, salve.*  
*Ad te clamámus éxsules filii Hevae;*  
*Ad te suspirámus, geméntes et flentes*  
*In hac lacrimárum valle.*  
*Eia ergo, Advocáta nostra,*  
*Illos tuos misericórdes óculos ad nos convérte:*  
*Et Iesum, benédíctum fructum ventris tui,*  
*Nobis post hoc exsílium osténde:*  
*O clemens, o pia, o dulcis Virgo Maria.*

Hail O Queen, mother of mercy;  
Our life, our sweetness and our hope, hail.  
We cry to you, exiled children of Eve,  
We sigh to you, weeping, lamenting.  
In this vale of tears.  
Ah! turn your eyes of mercy to us,  
our Defender:  
And when exile is ended show to us  
Jesus, the blessed fruit of your womb:  
O gentle, O faithful, O kind Virgin Mary.

**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**

*Alleluïatiques*  
Charles Tournemire (1870-1939)

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