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 6th June**
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.

RESPONSORY

Quoniam tu illuminas lucernam meam,
Domine Deus meus, illumina tenebras meas.
Quoniam in te eripiar a tentatione, Deus.

Thou also shalt light my candle:
O Lord my God, make my darkness to be light.
For with thee shall I be saved from temptation, O God.
VESPERTS

℣️ 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 84

Antiphon (repeated after the psalm)
*Dixit Dominus Domino meo: Sede a dextris meis, alleluia. *The Lord said unto my Lord: Sit thou on my right hand, alleluia.

1 O how amiable are thy dwellings thou Lord of hosts!

2 My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

3 Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

4 Blessed are they that dwell in thy house they will be alway praising thee.

5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee in whose heart are thy ways.

6 Who going through the vale of misery use it for a well and the pools are filled with water.

7 They will go from strength to strength and unto the God of gods appeareth every one of them in Sion.

8 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer hearken, O God of Jacob.

9 Behold, O God our defender and look upon the face of thine anointed
10 For one days in thy courts is better than a thousand.

11 I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of ungodliness.

12 For the Lord God is a light and defence the Lord will give grace and worship, and no good thing shall he withhold from them that live a godly life.

13 O Lord, God of hosts blessed is the man that putteth his trust in thee.

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.

LITTLE CHAPTER 2 Corinthians 4.16 – 5.1

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

REFLECTION

HYMN O lux beata Trinitas

O lux beata Trinitas, O Trinity of blessed light,  
et principalis unitas, O Unity of princely might,  
iam sol recedit igneus: The fiery sun now goes his way;  
inunde lumen cordibus. Shed Thou within our hearts Thy ray.

Te mane laudum carmine, To Thee our morning song of praise,  
te deprecemur vespere; To Thee our evening prayer we raise;  
te nostra supplex Gloria Thy glory suppliant we adore  
per cuncta laudet sæcula. Forever and forevermore.

Christum rogámus et Patrem, We beseech you, O Christ and the Father,  
Christi Patrísque Spíritum; And the Spirit of Christ and of the Father:  
umum potens per ómnia, O Trinity, one and all-powerful,  
fove precántes, Trinitas. Amen show favour to our supplications. Amen.
Mercy and truth are met together
Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

MAGNIFICAT Magdalen College Oxford Service Kenneth Leighton (1929-88)

Antiphon
Quae mulier habens drachmas decem, et si perdiderit drachmam unam, none accredit lucernam et everrit domum, et quaeerit diligentem, donec inveniat?
Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?

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.

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

O GOD, the strength of all them that put their trust in thee, mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace, that in keeping of thy commandments we may please thee, both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
MOTET  
_Sicut cervus_  
G. P. da Palestrina (1525-94)

_Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum, ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus._  
Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks: so longeth my soul after thee, O God.

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.

SALVE REGINA

_Salve Regina, Mater misericordiae;_  
Hail O Queen, mother of mercy;

_Vita dulce, et spes nostra, salve._  
Our life, our sweetness and our hope, hail.

_Ad te clamamus exules filii Hevae;_  
We cry to you, exiled children of Eve,

_Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes_  
We sigh to you, weeping, lamenting,

_In hac lacrimarum valle._  
In this vale of tears.

_Eia ergo, Advocata nostra,_  
Ah! turn your eyes of mercy to us,

_Illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte:_  
our Defender:

_Et Iesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,_  
And when exile is ended show to us

_Nobis post hoc exsilium ostende:_  
Jesus, the blessed fruit of your womb:

_O clemens, o pia, o dulcis Virgo Maria._  
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

_Tiento del 5º tono_  
Francisco Correa de Arauxo (1584-1654)

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