

Roman Catholic Vespers / Evening Prayer: outline & rubrics

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*The texts for Vespers** are carefully laid out by the Church. Please consult an appropriate resource to determine the proper antiphons, psalms, and other prayers for the celebration (e.g. divineoffice.org, the 2015 Ordo Cantus Officii, or a printed volume of the Liturgy of the Hours.) It is also recommended to consult the 1971 General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours.*

All stand. In the absence of a deacon or priest, the one who presides is among equals, and does not enter sanctuary or greet and bless the people.

Opening verse by priest or deacon, if present; otherwise, by another minister.
All make Sign of the Cross at the words, "God, come to my assistance."

Hymn. *Remain standing. The hymn texts provided for certain feast days are proper to these celebrations.*

Antiphon 1 + Psalm * *Sit or stand, depending upon custom.*

Antiphon 2 + Psalm * *Sit or stand, depending upon custom.*

Antiphon 3 + Canticle * *Sit or stand, depending upon custom.*

Reading *Sit. No introduction or concluding verse is given.*

optional: Homily

optional: sacred silence

Responsory *All stand.*

Antiphon + Magnificat * *All make Sign of the Cross after the antiphon, at the beginning of the Magnificat. There may also be incensation of the altar, then of the priest and congregation.*

Remain standing for Intercessions, Lord's Prayer, and Concluding prayer.

Intercessions by priest or minister; may be sung.

Lord's Prayer

~ **Concluding prayer (and Dismissal, if appropriate)**

With blessing by priest or deacon, if presiding; in absence of priest or deacon, another minister concludes with "May the Lord bless us..."

* For psalmody, alternation of the verses can be done in a variety of ways: side to side, between cantor and assembly, men alternating with women. Each psalm and canticle is concluded with the doxology. Antiphon may be repeated after conclusion of doxology.

** **Solemnities** have a dedicated Evening Prayer I / First Vespers on the preceding day, with an Evening Prayer II / Second Vespers the day of, each with their own proper texts. Most **Feasts** have a single celebration of Vespers, on the day of.