

Vespers for St. David of Wales

St. David of Wales Catholic Church
5641 Esmond Ave, Richmond CA 94805

Saturday March 1, 2025 at 6:15 PM

Dewi sant or in Latin *Davidus*, the patron saint of Wales, lived in the 6th century and was canonized in 1120. The Gregorian chants of his Office (from *officium* or 'service') are found in a late 13c. source, the Penpont Antiphoner, and are based on legends in the biography written in the 11c. by the Welsh monk Rhyghfarch. These relate the prophesy of his birth to St. Patrick (who is offered Ireland as a sort of booby prize); David's healing of his blind teacher; the temptation of David's monks by the wife of a neighbor chieftan; an attempted poisoning by one of David's monks; and the most famous of David's miracles, the raising of a speaker's mound and the descent of a dove as David preached.

The Office of Vespers (from *officium* of 'service') is sung at the close of day and consists of an opening sentence, five Psalms with their antiphons, a hymn, and the Canticle of Our Lady, the *Magnificat*, which we sing today in the setting from Thomas Tomkins' First Service. Tomkins (1572-1656) achieved eminence in the Chapel Royal and was Orlando Gibbons' successor there. His father though was the organist at St. David's Cathedral.

Deus in ajutorium: "'O God, make speed to save us" with the response "O Lord, make haste to help us"

- 1 *Dictus est Patricio* (birth foretold) Psalm 92 "The Lord is King"
- 2 *Instructoris oculos* (sight to blind) Ps. 100 "O be joyful in the Lord"
- 3 *Missis ultro feminis* (temptation of monks) Ps. 62 "O God, my God"
- 4 *Toxicate torte* (attempted poisoning) Daniel 3 "O ye works of the Lord"
- 5 *Ut attendat populus* (sermon from the hill) Ps. 148 "Praise the Lord"

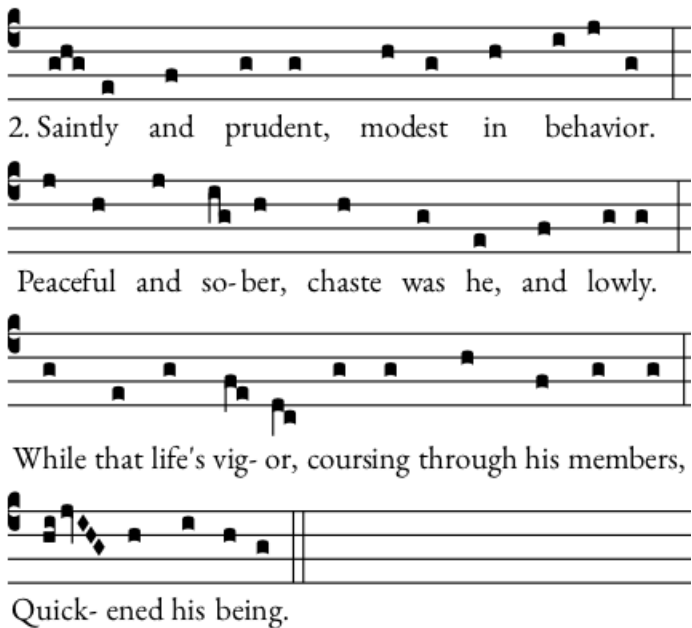
Hymnus (see other side)

Hymn *Iste confessor*

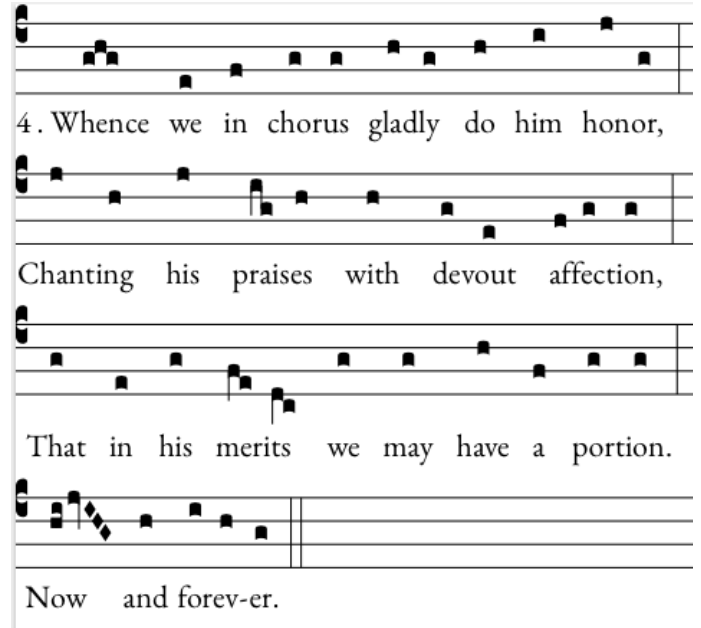
(The odd verses as set by Palestrina are sung by the schola; please join on verses 2 & 4)

1. *This the Confessor of the Lord,
whose triumph
Now all the faithful celebrate, with
gladness
Erst on this feast-day merited to
enter
Into his glory.*

3 *Sick ones of old time, to his tomb
resorting.
Sorely by ailments manifold
afflicted,
Oft-times have welcomed health
and strength returning.
At his petition.*



2. Sainly and prudent, modest in behavior.
Peaceful and so-ber, chaste was he, and lowly.
While that life's vig- or, coursing through his members,
Quick- ened his being.



4. Whence we in chorus gladly do him honor,
Chanting his praises with devout affection,
That in his merits we may have a portion.
Now and forev-er.

5 . *His be the glory, power and salvation,
Who over all things reigneth in the highest,
Earth's mighty fabric ruling and directing,
Onely and Trinal.*

You may stand for the Magnificat, as is the custom. It is preceded and followed by the antiphon Ope juva "Help us by the heavenly aid".