

ENTRANCE ANTIIPHON

Let us all rejoice in the Lord,
as we celebrate the feast day in honour of
the Virgin Mary,
at whose Assumption the Angels rejoice
and praise the Son of God.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary,
the Mother of your Son,
body and soul into heavenly glory,
grant, we pray,
that, always attentive to the things that are
above,
we may merit to be sharers of her glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING *Apocalypse 11:19; 12:1-6, 10*

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.
The sanctuary of God in heaven opened,
and the ark of the covenant could be seen
inside it.

Now a great sign appeared in heaven; a
woman, adorned with the sun, standing
on the moon, and with the twelve stars on
her head for a crown. She was pregnant,
and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of
childbirth. Then a second sign appeared
in the sky, a huge red dragon which had
seven heads and ten horns, and each of the
seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its
tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky
and dropped them to earth, and the dragon
stopped in front of the woman as she was
having the child, so that he could eat it as
soon as it was born from its mother. The
woman brought a male child into the world,
the son who was to rule all the nations with
an iron sceptre, and the child was taken
straight up to God and to his throne, while
the woman escaped into the desert where
God had made a place of safety ready. Then
I heard a voice shout from heaven, "Victory
and power and empire for ever have been
won by our God, and all authority for his
Christ."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 44

Response:
On your right stands the queen,
in garments of gold.

- The daughters of kings are among your
loved ones.
On your right stands the queen in gold of
Ophir.
Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words:
forget your own people and your father's
house. (R.)
- So will the king desire your beauty:
he is your Lord, pay homage to him.
They are escorted amid gladness and joy;
they pass within the palace of the king (R.)

SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 15:20-28*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the
first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.
Death came through one man and in the
same way the resurrection of the dead has
come through one man. Just as all men die
in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in
Christ; but all of them in their proper order:
Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the
coming of Christ, those who belong to him.
After that will come the end, when he hands
over the kingdom to God the Father, having
done away with every sovereignty, authority
and power. For he must be king until he has
put all his enemies under his feet and the last
of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for
everything is to be put under his feet.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Mary has been taken up into heaven;
all the choirs of angels are rejoicing.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-56

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.
Mary set out and went as quickly as she
could to a town in the hill country of Judah.
She went into Zechariah's house and greeted
Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard
Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb
and Elizabeth was filled with Holy Spirit. She
gave a loud cry and said, "Of all women you
are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit
of your womb. Why should I be honoured
with a visit from the mother of my Lord?
For the moment your greeting reached my
ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes,
blessed is she who believed that the promise
made her by Lord would be fulfilled."
And Mary said:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the
Lord
and my spirit exults in God my saviour;
because he has looked upon his lowly
handmaid.
Yes, from this day forward all generations
will call me blessed,
for the Almighty has done great things for
me.
Holy is his name,
and his mercy reaches from age to age for
those who fear him.
He has shown the power of his arm,
he has routed the proud of heart.
He has pulled down princes from their
thrones and exalted the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things,
the rich sent empty away.
He has come to the help of Israel his
servant, mindful of his mercy
– according to the promise he made to our
ancestors –
of his mercy to Abraham and to his
descendants for ever."
Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three
months and then went back home.
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this oblation, our tribute of homage,
rise up to you, O Lord,
and, through the intercession of the most
Blessed Virgin Mary,
whom you assumed into heaven,
may our hearts, aflame with the fire of love,
constantly long for you.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIIPHON

All generations will call me blessed,
for he who is mighty has done great things
for me.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the Sacrament of salvation,
we ask you to grant, O Lord,
that, through the intercession of the Blessed
Virgin Mary,
whom you assumed into heaven,
we may be brought to the glory of the
resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday Message

THE WORD



Statue of Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Grace

In today's Gospel we hear Mary's Magnificat. It is a joyful hymn of praise to God who has not forgotten his lowly handmaid and has done such great things for her.

But it is also a subversive hymn, and it shows Mary to be a radical woman who hungers for justice for the poor and the little ones. Mary presents an image of God as one who pulls the mighty from their thrones and raises up the lowly, as one who fills the hungry with good things and sends the rich away empty. She voices God's opposition to oppression, injustice and inequality of whatever kind.

Mary's Magnificat hymn shows that she is no gentle, passive, silent woman. She is, rather, a voice of the voiceless, and mother of all who are oppressed and overlooked and weak. Mary's preferences and her hopes for our world are our preferences and our hopes too. ■

REFLECT

When Catholics have traditionally held Mary in the highest esteem. We rank her as first among the saints, and we honour her with feasts and titles because, in the words of Vatican II, she is "the Church's outstanding model in faith and love". Mary is our model because she shows us better than anyone ever did, or ever will, what it means to be a disciple. Her whole life was a constant "yes" to God.

When the angel Gabriel told her at the annunciation of God's astonishing plan for her, she was surprised and afraid, but she did not allow her fear to overwhelm her. She answered, "Be it done unto me according to your word." Her "yes" to God changed the course of history. It allowed God's Spirit to take hold of her so that the Son of God could take flesh in our midst. No one has ever listened more willingly or responded more generously to God.

In his public ministry, Jesus described the true disciple as one who hears the word of God and keeps it. That sums up Mary in a nutshell. She shows us what it means to listen to and keep God's word. She shows us the true meaning of faith and trust in God. ■

SAY

"Lord, thank you for giving me Mary as my mother. Help me to follow her example so that I may share in her son's resurrection. Amen."

PRAY

God, thank you for the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus.
Thank you for her goodness.
Thank you for her openness.
Thank you for her generosity
Thank you for her faith.
Thank you for her example.
Thank you for her perseverance.
Thank you for her faithfulness.
Thank you for her resurrection joy.
Thank you for taking her up to heaven.
Thank you for her prayers for us.
Thank you for reminding us, through her,
that we are made for heaven.
Thank you for Mary, the mother of Jesus
and thank you, God, for all your good gifts.

DO

Rejoice in good news.

Pray for those who receive bad news.

Ponder the joy and peace of the saints in heaven.

LEARN

Today we celebrate the feast of the Assumption of Mary. We celebrate our belief that Mary was taken up, body and soul, into heaven, where she enjoys eternal life in the company of her son. It is a joyful feast for us Christians because it points to what we believe will be our destiny. We believe that what God has done for Mary, God will do for us also; that at the end of time God will raise our mortal bodies and bring us into the fullness of God's life for ever.



The statue of the Virgin Mary is escorted during the annual Assumption procession in the Le Panier district of Marseille, France.