

The Eucharist

1 January 2023

✦ MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD / A



In the civil calendar today is New Year's Day, the beginning of a new civil year. The Church is thinking of the new age which has come through Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Son of Mary. Christ has brought the fullness of life. Today we are asked to meditate, to reflect, on the mystery of salvation through Jesus Christ, as Mary his mother did.



The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.

FIRST READING (Numbers 6:22-27)

This reading gives us the form of words used by the Jewish priests, the sons of Aaron, when they called down God's blessing on his people. Their prayer was that God show himself present to them, and bring them life in its fullness.

SECOND READING (Galatians 4:4-7)

Today we are reflecting on the place of Mary, mother of Jesus, in the mystery of salvation. This reading reminds us that it was the will of the Father that salvation come to us through Jesus, son of Mary.

GOSPEL (Luke 2:16-21)

The incarnation of Christ, the truth that God became man for us, is a mystery the meaning of which becomes ever clearer through God's grace. The shepherds got an insight into its meaning. Mary, Jesus' own mother, continued to reflect on it after the birth at Bethlehem. Mary is the model for all of us: reflecting on the birth of Jesus and giving thanks to God.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

Or (Cf. Is 9:1.5; Lk 1:33)

**Today a light will shine upon us,
for the Lord is born for us;
and he will be called Wondrous God,
Prince of peace, Father of future ages:
and his reign will be without end.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

Brethren (brothers and sisters),
let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves
to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

A brief pause for silence follows. Then all recite together:

**I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and what I failed to do,**

And, striking their breast, they say:

**through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

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

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, 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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

(Nb 6:22-27)

A reading from the book of Numbers.

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons; "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 66:2-3. 5. 6. 8)

R. O God, be gracious and bless us.

1. God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**
2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. **R.**
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**

SECOND READING

(Ga 4:4-7)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians.

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father,' and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Hb 1:1-2)

Alleluia, alleluia!

At various times in the past and in various different ways,

God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

(Lk 2:16-21)



The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Profession of Faith

(Nicene Creed)

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,

At the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow.

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.

The priest introduces the Prayer of the Faithful.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good,
and the good of all his holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who in your kindness begin all good things
and bring them to fulfilment,
grant to us, who find joy in the Solemnity
of the holy Mother of God,
that, just as we glory in the beginnings of your grace,
so one day we may rejoice in its completion.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer III

(Preface I of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
and to praise, bless, and glorify your name
on the Solemnity of the Motherhood
of the Blessed ever-Virgin Mary.

For by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit
she conceived your Only Begotten Son,
and without losing the glory of virginity,
brought forth into the world the eternal Light,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him the Angels praise your majesty,
Dominions adore and Powers tremble before you.

Heaven and the Virtues of heaven
and the blessed Seraphim

worship together with exultation.

May our voices, we pray, join with theirs
in humble praise, as we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,
and all you have created
rightly gives you praise,
for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
by the power and working of the Holy Spirit,
you give life to all things and make them holy,
and you never cease to gather a people to yourself,
so that from the rising of the sun to its setting
a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you:
by the same Spirit graciously make holy

these gifts we have brought to you for consecration,
that they may become the Body and Blood
of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed
he himself took bread,
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,

WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
he took the chalice,

and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,

THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY

FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

**Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.**

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial
of the saving Passion of your Son,
his wondrous Resurrection
and Ascension into heaven,
and as we look forward to his second coming,
we offer you in thanksgiving
this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church
and, recognizing the sacrificial Victim by whose death
you willed to reconcile us to yourself,
grant that we, who are nourished

by the Body and Blood of your Son
and filled with his Holy Spirit,

may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

May he make of us

an eternal offering to you,

so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect,
especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary,

Mother of God,

with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs
(with Saint N.: the Saint of the day or Patron Saint)
and with all the Saints,

on whose constant intercession in your presence
we rely for unailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation,
we pray, O Lord,

advance the peace and salvation of all the world.

Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity

your pilgrim Church on earth,

with your servant N. our Pope and N. our Bishop,
the Order of Bishops, all the clergy,

and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family,

whom you have summoned before you:

in your compassion, O merciful Father,
gather to yourself all your children
scattered throughout the world.
To our departed brothers and sisters
and to all who were pleasing to you
at their passing from this life,
give kind admittance to your kingdom.
There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory
through Christ our Lord,
through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.
Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

And with your spirit.

*The priest may invite the people to exchange a sign of peace
and Christian fellowship. As the priest breaks the consecrated
Host the following is sung or said:*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

Showing the Eucharist to the people, the priest says:

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

Communion Antiphon *(Heb 13:8)*

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

Prayer after Communion

We have received this heavenly Sacrament with joy,

O Lord:
grant, we pray,
that it may lead us to eternal life,
for we rejoice to proclaim the blessed ever-Virgin Mary
Mother of your Son and Mother of the Church.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

May God, the source and origin of all blessing,
grant you grace,
pour out his blessing in abundance,
and keep you safe from harm throughout the year. **Amen.**

May he give you integrity in the faith,
endurance in hope,
and perseverance in charity
with holy patience to the end. **Amen.**

May he order your days and your deeds in his peace,
grant your prayers in this and in every place,
and lead you happily to eternal life. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

Thanks be to God.

Personal Prayer

Lord Jesus, you have told us to celebrate the Eucharist,
the memorial of your passion, death and resurrection,
in memory of you. This celebration is intended to bring
to the attention of your heavenly Father and to our
attention, all you have done for us, and all you continue
to do. May the Mass we have celebrated continue to
bring these things to mind.

Lord Jesus, you came to unite heaven and earth in one
great family. On earth you were found by the shepherds
with Saint Joseph and with your mother Mary. May
Christian devotion continue to honour Mary your
mother, as the first to believe in the mystery of your
coming among us, and as the believer who continued to
reflect on the mystery of the incarnation, of God among
us in human form. Amen.