

LOOKING to MARY, the CHRIST BEARER

“In the bodily and spiritual glory which she possesses in heaven, the Mother of Jesus continues in this present world as the image and first flowering of the Church as she is to be perfected in the world to come. Likewise, Mary shines forth on earth, until the day of the Lord shall come (cf. 2 Peter 3:10), as a sign of certain hope and comfort for the pilgrim People of God” (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, 68).



Let us remember with respect and with reverence that we are in the presence of God.

Give us the grace that the thought of Your holy presence, O God, may occupy us always, so that, being always in Your holy presence, we may not pass a single moment without thinking of You.

In the name of the Father Who is creating, and in the name of the Son Who is redeeming, and in the name of the Spirit most holy Who is sanctifying and inviting us to holiness. Amen.

HYMN: IN HONOR of MARY’S ASSUMPTION

**Mary, you now reign on high,
far beyond the earth and sky;
Queen endowed with royal grace,
highest honor of our race.**

**Kept from Adam's stain of sin,
child of purest origin;
asked to bear creation's King,
your reply made heaven sing:**

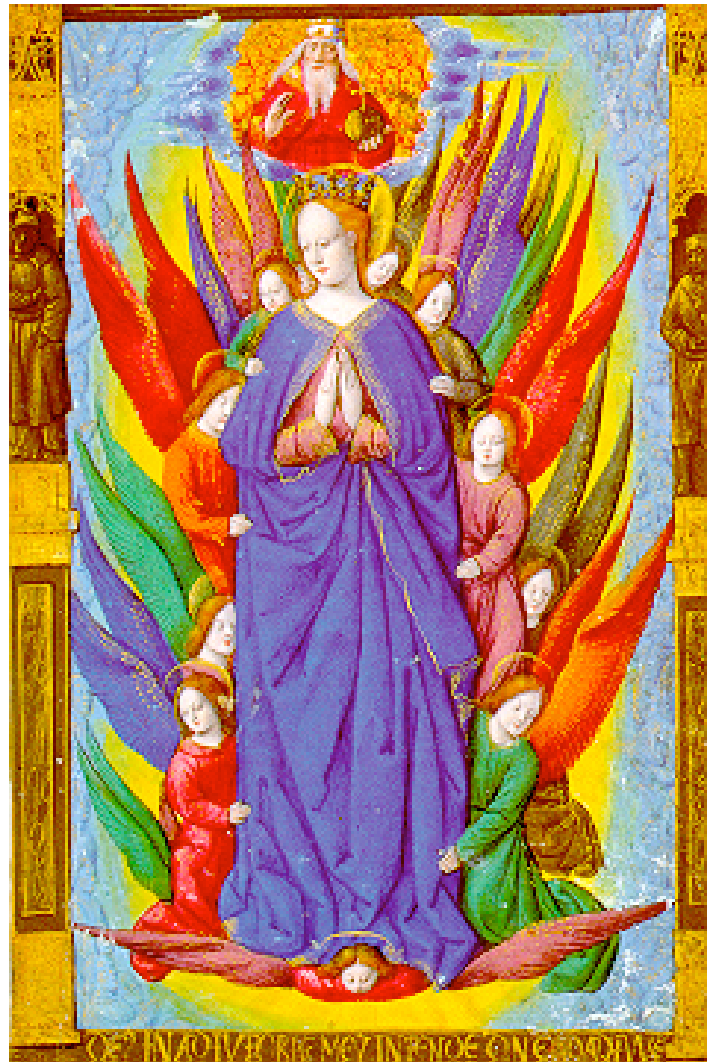
**You gave birth to God the Son,
Christ the sole-begotten One;
in a stable cold and bare,
Virgin-Mother, dear and rare.**

**Guest at Cana's wedding meal,
your request let Christ reveal
glory through His first great sign:
changing water into wine.**

**Witness of His agony,
by the Cross on Calvary:
heart of sorrow, pierced with sword:
Mother of the dying Lord.**

**In the Upper Room at prayer,
you kept vigil, waiting there
for the Spirit's living fire,
to encourage and inspire. (Alleluia!)**

**Now enthroned with Christ your Son,
Resurrection victory won;
Queen of Heaven, Star of Sea,
Mary, Mother – hear our plea:**



**May your Son, the world's True Light,
grant us grace to win the fight,
so with all the saints above,
praise the Father's endless love.**

Fr Ramsey Williams SSC

SCRIPTURE READING: Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6, 10

God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of His covenant could be seen in the temple.

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth.

Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems.

Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and hurled them down to the earth.

Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth.

She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and His throne. The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have salvation and power come, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Anointed One."

GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." And

Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm, He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to His posterity for ever." And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home.

REFLECTION

If anyone has "followed Christ" to the utmost, without the least failing, it is Mary. How, then, could He not but gather her with Him, body and soul, to the glory to which the Cross is the way and the portal? What other "recompense" could be imagined for Mary than this immediate and total participation in the life of the Risen Lord?

Fr. Johann Roten, SM

The Praises of Mary

O how wondrous is the dignity of the glorious Virgin!
She merited to become the mother of Him
who is the strength and beauty of the angels
and the grandeur of all the saints.

Mary was the seat of our sanctification,
that is to say,
the dwelling place of the Son
who sacrificed Himself for us.

"And I shall glorify the place where my feet have stood."
The feet of the Savior signify his human nature.
The place where the feet of the Savior stood
was the Blessed Mary,
who gave Him his human nature.

Today the Lord glorifies that place,
since He has exalted Mary
above the choirs of the angels.
That is to say,
the Blessed Virgin,
who was the dwelling of the Savior,
has been assumed bodily into heaven.

Saint Anthony of Padua

PRAYER

Father in heaven,
all creation rightly gives You praise
for all life and all holiness come from You.
In the plan of Your wisdom
she who bore the Christ in her womb
was raised body and soul in glory to be with Him in heaven.
May we follow her example in reflecting Your holiness
and join in her hymn of endless life and praise.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LITANY OF MARY OUR QUEEN

Lord have mercy on us.

Christ have mercy on us.

Lord have mercy on us. Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, One God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, pray for us.

Holy Mother of God, pray for us.

Most honored of Virgins, pray for us.

Chosen daughter of the Father, pray for us.

Mother of Christ the King, pray for us.

Glory of the Holy Spirit, pray for us.

Virgin daughter of Zion, pray for us.

Virgin poor and humble, pray for us.

Virgin gentle and obedient, pray for us.

Handmaid of the Lord, pray for us.

Mother of the Lord, pray for us.

Helper of the Redeemer, pray for us.

Full of grace, pray for us.

Model of virtue, pray for us.

Woman transformed, pray for us.

Woman clothed with the sun, pray for us.

Woman crowned with stars, pray for us.

Gentle Lady, pray for us.

Gracious Lady, pray for us.

Our Lady, pray for us.

Joy of Israel, pray for us.

Splendor of the Church, pray for us.

Pride of the human race, pray for us.

Advocate of grace, pray for us.

Champion of God's people, pray for us.

Queen of Angels, pray for us.

Queen of Patriarchs and Prophets, pray for us.

Queen of Apostles and Martyrs, pray for us.

Queen of Confessors and Virgins

Queen of all Saints, pray for us.

Queen conceived without Original Sin, pray for us.

Queen assumed into Heaven, pray for us.

Queen of all the earth, pray for us.

Queen of Heaven, pray for us.

Queen of the universe, pray for us

Let us pray.

Father, You have given us the Mother of Your Son
to be our Queen and Mother. With the support of her prayers
may we come to share the glory of Your children in the
Kingdom of Heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

**Blessed is she who trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled.
Like Mary, let us now trust that He will hear our prayers.**

**That the Church, like the Virgin Mary, may bring Christ into the world with
joy, and be joined with Him in endless life, we pray to the Lord...**

**That the Assumption of Mary may awaken government leaders to the
supreme dignity of each human life, which is called to the heights of
heavenly glory, we pray to the Lord...**

**For all mothers, that they may find in Mary the example and strength to
carry out their vocation, we pray to the Lord...**

**That the sick may draw strength, consolation, and healing by turning to
Mary, who intercedes for us from her place in heaven, we pray to the Lord...**

**That all who mourn for departed loved ones may take courage from this
feast and find renewed hope in the promised resurrection, we pray to the
Lord...**

**Father, by bringing Mary body and soul to heavenly glory,
You give us new hope. May we never doubt that you will hear and answer
our prayers, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN: HAIL HOLY QUEEN

**Hail holy queen enthroned above,
Oh Maria.**

**Hail mother of mercy and of love,
Oh Maria.**

**Triumph all ye cherubim,
Sing with us ye seraphim.
Heaven and earth resound the hymn.
Salve, salve, salve Regina.**

**Our life, our sweetness here below,
Oh, oh, oh, oh Maria.**

**Our hope in sorrow and in woe;
Oh, oh, oh, Maria.**

**Triumph all ye cherubim
Sing with us ye seraphim
Heaven and earth resound the hymn
Salve, salve, salve Regina.**



**Saint John Baptist de La Salle,
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
assist us in imitating the detachment of the Most Blessed Virgin,
and in surrendering our wills to the will of God.**

**Live Jesus in our hearts.
Forever!**



"The Assumption" is a tender piece, expressing Christ's presence to Mary at the very moment of the Assumption, as her life in heaven begins.

Artist: SISTER MARY POLUTANOVICH

**Remember, O gracious
Virgin Mary, that never was
it known that anyone who
fled to your protection, implored your
help or sought your intercession was
left unaided.
Inspired by this confidence,
I come to you,
O Virgin of Virgins and
my Mother; to you I
come, before you I kneel,
sinful and sorrowful;
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions, but
in your mercy, hear and answer me.
Amen.**