

Luke 1: 39-56

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 the 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 the 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.

Prayer over the Gifts

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.

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.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

15th August 2021

Glory and Praise to God for Mary, Marvel of His Grace!



The tradition, that, at the end of her life, Mary was taken up into heaven body and soul, dates back to the sixth century. It is founded on the belief, that she who bore the Son of God - Life itself, in her very womb, could not possibly taste the corruption of death at the end of her earthly life. In the Assumption of Our Lady, Mary reveals our own destiny too: *“That transformation of our material bodies to which we look forward one day has been accomplished – we know it now for certain – in her”* (Rev Ronald Knox).

Opening Prayer

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 of heaven, we may merit to be sharers of her glory

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

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 the 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.'

Our First Reading comes from the Book of Revelation (Apocalypse) attributed to John the apostle. It was composed around AD 95 when the young Church was living under persecution. John writes to encourage the faithful to remain firm, confident that the Lord will return to reward the faithful and to judge the wicked. The imagery is highly symbolic. The woman represents the Church, persecuted by forces of evil (dragon) as she struggles to bring the Messiah to birth. On this feast we apply the prophecy to Mary, for Mary is the mother of Christ and therefore, the mother of the Church, which is Christ's body on earth. We look to Mary for the perfect example: she bore Christ, as we must do, and she surrendered her whole being entirely to his service. For this, the Lord rescued her and led her to fullness of life.

Psalm 44(45):10-12,16

*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.*

*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.*

1 Corinthians 15: 20-27

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.

Our Second Reading comes from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians. Written around 55AD, Corinth was a thriving Greek city & sea port. Paul addresses the many problems in the young church & seeks to answer questions. The Greek Christians found it difficult to believe in a resurrection of the body to new life. Paul stresses that the resurrection of Christ and his followers is central to the Christian faith. Today's feast joyfully announces that Mary was the first after Christ to rise to new life. She is already totally transformed into glory, as the pledge to us all, of new life.

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

