

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

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

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:

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

May almighty God have mercy on us... **Amen.**

**THE 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**

**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 that are above, we may merit to be sharers of her glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ .....

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING** *Apocalypse 11:19;12: 1-6.10*

**A reading from the book of 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 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.'

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** *Ps. 44:10-12.16*

**R. On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.**

1. 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)

2. 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 15:20-26*

**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 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



# focus on sunday

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 16th August 2020

**Mary the mother of Jesus - has conquered sin and death. She has been brought to heaven and we pray that when our time comes we may join her in her Son's kingdom.**



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.**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

**All bow for following two lines:**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

*Pray brothers and sisters, .....*

**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.**

**AFTER THE CONSECRATION**

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



**THE TALKING MARY**

Why does the newly pregnant Mary, normally so quiet, talk so much today? She has hurried to her cousin Elizabeth's house in the hill country, and hardly have they even said hello when Mary bursts into a long speech or song, the one we traditionally call the Magnificat. In it she even says that all generations are going to call her blessed! Talking about herself, so it seems. Not really! Mary is actually responding to what Elizabeth has just said. "You are the mother of my Lord! Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.

**WORDS ABOUT GOD**

In return Mary lets excited words pour from her mouth. But the Magnificat is not about Mary, it is entirely about God. She will be blessed by all generations, she says, not at all because she is herself something great, but because God's love and mercy are great, and they will pour out through her to the world. The feast of the Assumption salutes Mary's trust and openness. She had been at one with God all her life, even in the searing passion and death of her son. She had already been through the sickness and annihilation by which humans normally progress to God. Faith in her Assumption is an acknowledgment of how close she had been to Jesus all throughout her life, and especially in his death. Our faith affirms today that Mary is body and soul in heaven, and interceding with God on our behalf.

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