



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 15th August 2021

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish, this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

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.

Sign of the Cross

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

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: Our normal cycle of Sundays is interrupted today as we celebrate a solemnity in honour of Mary, the Mother of God. Today we remember the Assumption, that moment at the end of Mary's earthly life when she was the first to share in the resurrection of her Son, being raised body and soul to the new life of heaven. To celebrate this joyous day, we ask for God's mercy, and praise God saying:

Gloria

A: 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

L: Let us pray.

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.

A: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Scripture Reading

Apocalypse 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.'

The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God!

Reflection

It can be easy to forget that Mary was an ordinary human being just like us. Yes, there were some extraordinary moments of God's grace that touched her life, but she still had to face all the joys and sorrows of human existence just as we do. And yet she managed to triumph in trust of God, obedience to God's will and holiness! Mary's humanity is why this feast is so important: we celebrate that moment at the end of her earthly life (which we normally call "death") when she immediately shared in the resurrection – Mary has no tomb on earth, because her body was taken straight to heaven: we believe we will too, though for us it will not be immediate. We have to wait a while for our bodies to catch up with eternal life, as they sleep in the earth. But we will proclaim our faith in a moment, and we will say we believe in the "resurrection of the body." This is what Mary shows us today, that through Jesus, her Son, "all will be brought to life in Christ", in our bodies, in a new heaven and a new earth that will never end.

A Thought for our Younger Friends

Today's feast can seem a bit odd: it is about the end of Mary's life on earth – and yet we are glad and rejoicing! Endings normally make us sad – reaching the end of a video game or a good book or story or film, or when a friend moves away, or (saddest of all) when someone dies. But when you believe in God, there are no endings. Just changes on an endless journey. This is what Jesus' mother Mary shows us today – that even the end of this life is only the beginning of another life. Let's think about endings, and trust in Jesus who turns them into new beginnings.

If gathering as a family, perhaps now continue to have a discussion about what this celebration means to you. If alone, think about what key message you take from the Scriptures today.

Profession of Faith

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

Intercessions

L: Let us pray for the needs of the Church and the world.

L: We pray for our families, that the example of Mary's fidelity and prayer may help all, young and old. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for all who face challenges, pain and sorrow in life, that they may know the support of Mary's maternal love. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for all who have died, and all who mourn, that the Assumption of Mary into heaven may teach us of our final destiny as sharers in the resurrection. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

L: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

A: 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. Amen.

L: May our prayers 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.

A: Amen.

Preparation for Spiritual Communion

L: Almighty Father, today the Virgin Mother of God was assumed into heaven as the beginning and image of your Church's coming to perfection and a sign of sure hope and comfort to your pilgrim people; rightly you would not allow her to see the corruption of the tomb since from her own body she marvellously brought forth Jesus, your incarnate Son, the Author of all life. At the Last Supper he showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts now to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

Spiritual Communion

A: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

Thanksgiving Canticle

Luke 1:39-56

L: The Almighty has done great things for me.

A: The Almighty has done great things for me.

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
and my spirit exults in God my saviour;
because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.

A: The Almighty has done great things for me.

L: 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.

A: The Almighty has done great things for me.

L: 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.

A: The Almighty has done great things for me.

L: 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.'

A: The Almighty has done great things for me.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.



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.
A: Amen.

L: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

A: Amen.

L: Let us bless the Lord!

A: Thanks be to God!

DIOCESE OF SALFORD

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