

24 May
OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS

Memoria

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

You have been blessed, O Virgin Mary, above all other women on earth by the Lord most High God; he has so exalted your name that your praises shall never fade from the mouths of men.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
you have chosen the Virgin Mary, our Mother,
to help all Christians.
Through her prayers strengthen your Church
to bear with patience and overcome with love
all her trials and difficulties,
and so bear witness before all men of the mystery of Christ.
We make our prayer.

I. IN EASTER TIME

FIRST READING

Apoc. 12:1,3a,7-12a,17

A Reading from the Apocalypse of the Blessed Apostle John

A great sign appeared in heaven

A great sign appeared in heaven; a woman, robed with the sun, standing on the moon, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. Then a second sign appeared in the sky: there was a huge red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. And now war broke out in heaven, when Michael with his angels attacked the dragon. The dragon fought back with his angels, but they were defeated and driven out of heaven. The great dragon, the primeval serpent, known as the devil or Satan, who had led all the world astray, was hurled down to the earth and his angels were hurled down with him. Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Salvation and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ, now that the accuser, who accused our brothers day and night before our God, has been brought down. They have triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word to which they bore witness, because even in the face of death they did not cling to life. So let the heavens rejoice and all who live there.'

Then the dragon was enraged with the woman and went away to make war on the rest of her children, who obey God's commandments and have in themselves the witness of Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Jud. 16

Response: *Let us sing a new song to our God.*

or: *Alleluia.*

1. Lord, you are great and glorious,
wonderful in strength, invincible. /**R.**
2. Let all your creatures serve you,
for you spoke, and they were made.
You sent forth your Spirit, and it formed them;
there is none that can resist your voice. /**R.**
3. For the mountains shall be shaken to their foundations with the waters;
at your presence the rocks shall melt like wax,
but to those who fear you,
you will continue to show mercy. /**R.**

II. OUTSIDE EASTER TIME

FIRST READING

Gen. 3:9 15,20

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

I shall put enmity between your offspring and the woman's

After the man had disobeyed God, the Lord God called to the man. 'Where are you?' he asked. 'I heard the sound of you in the garden,' he replied. 'I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.' 'Who told you that you were naked?' he asked. 'Have you been eating from the tree I forbade you to eat?' The man replied, 'It was the woman you put with me; she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'Why did you do that?' The woman replied, 'The snake tempted me and I ate.'

Then the Lord God said to the snake, 'Because you have done this, accursed be you of all animals wild and tame. On your belly you will go and on dust you will feed as long as you live. I shall put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; it will bruise your head and you will strike its heel.'

The man named his wife Eve because she was the mother of all those who live.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Jud. 13

Response: *You are the highest honour of our race.*

1. May you be blessed, my daughter, by God Most High,
beyond all women on earth;
and may the Lord God be blessed,
the Creator of heaven and earth. /**R.**
2. The trust which you have shown
will not pass from the memories of men,
as they commemorate
the power of God for evermore. /**R.**

3. God grant you may be always held in honour,
and rewarded with blessings,
since you did not consider your own life
when our nation was brought to its knees. /R.

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia. Blessed are you, Virgin Mary, who believed that the promise made you by the Lord would be fulfilled. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Jn. 2:1-11

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.'

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. And they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the feast had all been used, and the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman, what do you want from me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. Then he said to them, 'Draw some out now and take it to the president of the feast.' They did this; the president tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from - though the servants who had drawn the water knew - the president of the feast called the bridegroom and said, 'Everyone serves good wine first and the worse wine when the guests are well wined; but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of Jesus' signs: it was at Cana in Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look favourably, Lord,
on the prayers and offerings your faithful people present to you
in honour of the Blessed Mary, Mother of God.
May they be pleasing to you
and obtain for us your saving help.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

ANTIPHON AT COMMUNION

All generations will call me blessed, because God has looked upon his lowly handmaid.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus,
you received a true human nature
from the body of the Virgin Mary.
Through the power of the sacrament we have received
and supported by her prayers,
grant that we may leave behind our old sinfulness
and be clothed in you, the author of life:
Who live and reign for ever and ever.