

8 May
THE BLESSED VIRGIN,
MOTHER AND MEDIATRIX OF GRACES

Memorial

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

You are indeed blessed, Virgin Mary, in having brought forth the Creator of the universe. You gave birth to the one who made you, while ever remaining a virgin.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
in the mysterious designs of your providence,
you chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to give us Jesus Christ, the source of all grace,
and to be his Associate in the mystery of man's redemption;
grant that she may obtain for us an abundance of graces
and lead us to the harbour of eternal salvation.
We make our prayer.

FIRST READING

Esth. 8:3-8, 16-17a

A Reading from the Book of Esther

How can I look on while my people suffer?

Esther again went to speak to the king. She fell at his feet, weeping and imploring his favour, to frustrate the malice that Haman the Agagite was plotting against the Jews. The king held out the golden sceptre to her, whereupon Esther stood up and faced him. 'If such is the king's good pleasure,' she said, 'and if I have found favour before him, if my petition seems proper to him and if I myself am pleasing to his eyes, may he be pleased to issue a written revocation of the letters which Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, has had written, ordering the destruction of the Jews throughout the royal provinces. For how can I look on, while my people suffer what is proposed for them? How can I bear to witness the extermination of my relatives?'

King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, 'I for my part have given Esther Haman's house, and have had him hanged on the gallows for planning to destroy the Jews. You, for your part, write what you please as regards the Jews, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's signet; for any edict written in the king's name and sealed with his signet is irrevocable.'

For the Jews there was light and gladness, joy and honour. In every province and in every city, wherever the king's command and decree arrived, there was joy and gladness among the Jews, with feasting and holiday making.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps. 66(67)

Response: *May God shed the light of his face upon us.*

1. O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. /**R.**
2. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. /**R.**
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
The earth has yielded its fruit
for God, our God, has blessed us. /**R.**

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia. Happy are you, holy Virgin Mary, Mother of grace and Queen of mercy, for from you has risen Christ, our Mediator and our Saviour. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Jn. 2:1-21

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

Accept, Lord, this sacrifice of reparation and praise,
and, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
make it into the sacrament of our redemption.
Since Christ our Mediator has instituted it
to reconcile us with you,
so, may it be for us, through Mary's intercession,
a continual source of grace and salvation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

ANTIPHON AT COMMUNION

Apoc. 22:17

The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.' Let everyone who listens answer, 'Come.' Then let all who are thirsty come: all who want it may have the water of life, and have it free.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having been refreshed at the fountain of salvation,
we ask you, Lord,
by the grace of this sacrament and the prayers of the Virgin Mary,
that we may be more closely united to Christ our Mediator,
and give ourselves more faithfully day by day
to the work of redemption.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.