

[352]

The Assumption of the Virgin Mary into Heaven

ABC

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Revelations 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

God's temple in heaven was opened,
and the ark of his covenant could be seen in the temple.

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

She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth.
Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven
heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems.

Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky
and hurled them down to the earth.
Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth,
to devour her child when she gave birth.

She gave birth to a son, a male child,
destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod.
Her child was caught up to God and his throne.
The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:
"Now have salvation and power come,
and the Kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Anointed One."

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

45:10, 11, 12, 16

R. (10bc) The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

The queen takes her place
at your right hand in gold of Ophir.

R. The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

Hear, O daughter, and see; turn your ear,
forget your people and your father's house.

R. The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

So shall the king desire your beauty;
for he is your lord.

R. The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

They are borne in with gladness and joy;
they enter the palace of the king.

R. The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

SECOND READING

A reading from the book of 1 Corinthians

15:20-27

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since death came through man,
the resurrection of the dead came also through man.

For just as in Adam all die,
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,
but each one in proper order:
Christ the firstfruits;
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;
then comes the end,
when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father,
when he has destroyed every sovereignty
and every authority and power.
For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.
The last enemy to be destroyed is death,
for "he subjected everything under his feet."

ALLELUIA

See Luke 1:28

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women.

GOSPEL

The Almighty has done great things for me;
the Lord has lifted up the lowly.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

1:39-56

Mary hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea.
She went into Zechariah's home,
where she greeted Elizabeth.
When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,
her baby moved within her.

The Holy Spirit came upon Elizabeth.
Then in a loud voice she said to Mary:
"God has blessed you more than any other woman!
He has also blessed the child you will have.
Why should the mother of my Lord come to me?"

As soon as I heard your greeting,
my baby became happy and moved with me.
The Lord has blessed you
because you believed that he will keep his promise."

Mary said:
"With all my heart I praise the Lord,
and I am glad because of God my Savior.
He cares for me, his humble servant.
From now on, all people will say God has blessed me.
God All-Powerful has done great things for me,
and his name is holy.

"He always shows mercy to everyone who worships him.
The Lord has used his powerful arm to scatter those who are proud.
He drags strong rulers from their thrones
and puts humble people in places of power.
He gives the hungry good things to eat,
and he sends the rich away with nothing in their hands.
He helps his servant Israel and is always merciful to his people.

He made this promise to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his family forever!"

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months.
Then she went back home.

The gospel of the Lord.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Into Heaven Cycle C

Prayer:

Dear Mary,
Please say a prayer for us. We know God particularly loves you and we do too!
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen

Readings:

Revelations	11: 19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab
Psalms	45:10, 11, 12, 16
1 Corinthians	15:20-27
Luke	1: 39-56

Reflection:

Today's readings can be very confusing. The first one sounds like something out of a science fiction movie with a woman clothed in the sun with stars on her crown. She is having a baby but there is an evil dragon waiting to eat the baby. The second reading talks about heaven and the end of the world when Jesus destroys all of his enemies. Finally, in the Gospel, we hear about Mary visiting her cousin Elizabeth. Wow! How do you put all of these together to figure out what God is telling us today? If we think about the special event that we are celebrating, it will help us figure it out. Today we celebrate when God brought Mary to heaven before she died. She is the only person that has been given this gift, ever. God was so grateful for everything that Mary had done for all of us that He did this very special thing for her. Mary was a very young girl when she agreed to have Jesus. She was not married. It had to have been very frightening for her, maybe as scary as encountering a dragon! Even though she was afraid, she still trusted in God and did what was asked of her. Once Jesus was born, she had to watch him be criticized, hated, hurt, and killed. She endured all of this so that Jesus could show us how much God loves us. Because she helped show us God's love, we love her and honor her. We know how special she is to God, so we also pray to her, asking her to help us and to ask God to help us.

Discussion:

- How do you think Mary felt when people were mean to her because she was pregnant? (maybe this is why she needed to see her cousin, Elizabeth, someone who would understand and be happy with her)
- How do you think Mary can help us now?

Activity: Paper Flowers for Mary (Directions can also be found on the internet by searching "Paper Flowers").

Materials: Tissue paper (or the kind you use to blow your nose), floral wire, scissors.

Optional: Floral tape, rose perfume

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Activity:

1. Take several pieces of tissue stacked upon each other. Fan-fold it back and forth, about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, until it is completely folded.
2. Once you have the tissue folded into what looks like a long strip, fold the strip in half, matching the two short ends.
3. Take a 12 inch piece of wire and tightly twist it around the center of the strip.
4. Cut the folded end. You can also cut a design in each end.
5. Peel the layers up, one layer at a time, opening the flower.
6. If you like, wrap the wire with floral tape and mist with perfume.

If your Pastor will allow it, have the class place their flowers by the Mary statue in Church when they process back in before returning to their parents. If not, ask the class to do so after Mass is over. If there is extra time, the class may also make a flower for their mothers.