

September 15

**OUR LADY OF SORROWS
PRINCIPAL PATRONESS OF OUR ORDER**

Solemnity

Evening Prayer I

HYMN

An appropriate Marian hymn may be sung.

PSALMODY

Ant.1 O wonderful expression of your love! Through Jesus and Mary, his Mother, you have made the pain of suffering a way to salvation.

Psalm 113

Praise the name of the Lord

He has cast down the mighty and has lifted up the lowly (Lk. 1:52).

Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed
both now and for evermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting
praised be the name of the Lord!

High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,
to look down upon heaven and earth?

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from his misery he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people.
To the childless wife he gives a home
and gladdens her heart with children.

Psalm-prayer

All people praise your name, O Lord, for you exalt the humble and cast down the proud. You raised Mary who once experienced the poverty and suffering of the earth to the glory of heaven and made her, for your Church, the joyful mother of many children.

Ant. O wonderful expression of your love! Through Jesus and Mary, his Mother, you have made the pain of suffering a way to salvation.

Ant. 2 Holy Mother, you shared the work of redemption with your Son from the time of his humble birth to his painful death on the cross.

Psalm 147:12-20
The restoration of Jerusalem
Come, I will show you the bride of the Lamb (Revelation 21:9).

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
Zion, praise your God!

He has strengthened the bars of your gates,
he has blessed the children within you,
He established peace on your borders,
he feeds you with finest wheat.

He sends out his word to the earth
and swiftly runs his command.
He showers down snow white as wool,
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

He hurls down hailstones like crumbs.
The waters are frozen at his touch;
he sends forth his word and it melts them;
at the breath of his mouth the waters flow.

He makes his word known to Jacob,
to Israel his laws and decrees.
He has not dealt thus with other nations;
he has not taught them his decrees.

Psalm-prayer

We praise you, Father, for the word announced to all people that Jesus, born of Mary, died for us all, rose from the dead and is exalted in glory, pouring out his Spirit upon his Church.

Ant. Holy Mother, you shared the work of redemption with your Son from the time of his humble birth to his painful death on the cross.

Ant. 3 You are full of joy, O Mary. After the time of your pain you are now seated in glory with your son, reigning Queen of the Universe.

Canticle Philippians 2:6-11
Christ, God's holy servant

Though he was in the form of God,
Jesus did not deem equality with God
something to be grasped at.

Rather, he emptied himself
and took the form of a slave,
being born in the likeness of men.

He was known to be of human estate,
and it was thus that he humbled himself,
obediently accepting even death,
death on a cross!

Because of this,
God highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
above every other name.

So that at Jesus' name
every knee must bend
in the heavens, on the earth,
and under the earth,
and every tongue proclaim
to the glory of God the Father:
Jesus Christ is Lord!

Canticle-prayer

Father, every tongue proclaims that your Son emptied himself for us and is now seated at your right hand; he healed our wounds with his love and brought us to salvation. He, the new Adam, united the new Eve to himself so that all who had fallen through the disobedience of a woman might be raised up through the obedience of the Blessed Virgin.

Ant. You are full of joy, O Mary. After the time of your pain you are now seated in glory with your Son, reigning Queen of the Universe.

READING Hebrews 5:7-9

In the days when he was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

RESPONSORY

V. Lord, I am your servant, the child of your handmaid.
R. Lord, I am your servant, the child of your handmaid.
V. Break the bonds of my sin so I can offer you a sacrifice of praise.
R. I am your servant, the child of your handmaid.
V. Glory to the Father ...
R. Lord, I am ...

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. We praise you, Mary, so full of love. You did not hesitate to accept great sorrow in your response to the angel: *Be it done to me according to your word.* You opened to us the source of eternal joy.

INTERCESSIONS

Lord Jesus Christ, we join our evening prayer to the prayer you offered on the cross for all people. As servants of your holy Mother, we ask:
Save your people, Lord.

Lord Jesus, you shared poverty and suffering with Your sinless Mother.

-Grant that we sinners may share in the same sacrifice and by the power of your cross live the reality we profess.

Lord Jesus, you said: If the grain of wheat dies, it will bear much fruit.

-Grant that our life may be like a seed buried in you to bring forth much fruit in love, so that we

may become bread broken to nourish the lives of others.

Lord Jesus, you said: My peace I leave with you, my peace I give you.

-Be merciful to those oppressed by injustice, wounded by hatred and torn by war.

Lord Jesus, you gave us the gospel of salvation so that our joy may be complete.

-Comfort the afflicted, support the burdened and deprived, remove the sadness of the embittered and give hope to the destitute.

Lord Jesus, by dying you destroyed death and by your blood you have given peace to the world.

-Grant eternal life to our departed brothers and sisters, for in death they entered into peace forever.

(Together with Christ, let us pray to God so that we might recognize him in times of joy as well as sorrow:)

Our Father ...

PRAYER

Father, you willed that Mary should stand by the cross of your Son. May we who share with her the suffering of Jesus, also share with her the joy of the resurrection. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Or:

God, our Father, to raise up our fallen nature you joined Mother to Son in his suffering and death. By the power of your grace, grant that we may now put aside our attachment to sin and put on the new life of Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Invitatory

Ant. Come, let us worship the Saviour of the world, who shared his saving work with his Sorrowful Mother.

Invitatory Psalm, as in the Ordinary.

Office of Readings

HYMN

An appropriate hymn may be sung.

PSALMODY

One of the series of antiphon, (A, R C) may be chosen.

Antiphon 1

Ser. A He is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel and you, Mary, shall be pierced with a sword.

Ser. B O Virgin most sorrowful, in your journey of faith you are mother and sister to us.

Ser. C Lord, I praise you in the midst of my sufferings, for my whole life is in your hands.

Psalm 16

The Lord himself is my heritage

My spirit rejoices in God my saviour! (Luke 1:47).

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

I say to the Lord: "You are my God.

My happiness lies in you alone."

He has put into my heart a marvellous love
for the faithful ones who dwell in his land.
Those who choose other gods increase their sorrows.
Never will I offer their offerings of blood.
Never will I take their name upon my lips.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.
The lot marked out for me is my delight:
welcome indeed the heritage that falls to me!

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever.

Psalm-prayer

Lord, guard us who trust in your loving care. Renew in our hearts the mystery we celebrate in Mary, so that as we are joined to the passion of Jesus, we may be filled with the joy of his resurrection.

Antiphon 1

Ser. A He is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel and you, Mary, shall be pierced with a sword.

Ser. B O Virgin most sorrowful, in your journey of faith you are mother and sister to us.

Ser. C Lord, I praise you in the midst of my sufferings, for my whole life is in your hands.

Antiphon 2

Ser. A Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been searching for you in sorrow.

Ser. B O Mary, standing at the cross, you are the prophetic sign of our own service to God.

Ser. C I rejoice in your goodness, O Lord, for you have touched the deepest yearnings of my heart.

Psalm 31:1-9, 20-25 Trustful prayer in adversity
Lord, you have looked with favour on your lowly servant
(see Luke 1:48).

I

In you, O Lord, I take refuge.
Let me never be put to shame.
In your justice, set me free,
hear me and speedily rescue me.

Be a rock of refuge for me,
a mighty stronghold to save me,

for you are my rock, my stronghold.
For your name's sake, lead me and guide me.

Release me from the snares they have hidden
for you are my refuge, Lord. Into your hands
I commend my spirit. It is you who will redeem me, Lord.

O God of truth, you detest
those who worship false and empty gods.
As for me, I trust in the Lord:
let me be glad and rejoice in your love.

You who have seen my affliction
and taken heed of my soul's distress,
have not handed me over to the enemy,
but set my feet at large.

Psalm-prayer

Lord, we rejoice in your gracious love, for looking upon the humility of the Virgin Mary, you made her the mother of your own Son. Knowing her sorrow at the cross, you strengthened her fidelity to the passion of her son and filled her with the joy of his resurrection.

Antiphon 2

Ser. A Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been searching for you in sorrow.

Ser. B O Mary, standing at the cross, you are prophetic sign of our own service to God.

Ser. C I rejoice in your goodness, O Lord, for you have touched the deepest yearnings of my heart.

Antiphon 3

Ser. A They came to the place called Golgotha where they crucified Jesus. Near the cross stood his Mother.

Ser. B Teach us, Mary, to be compassionate to the sufferings of our brothers and sisters.

Ser. C My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, for his mercy has done great things for me.

II

How great is the goodness, Lord,
that you keep for those who fear you,
that you show to those who trust you
in the sight of men.

You hide them in the shelter of your presence
from the plotting of men:
you keep them safe within your tent
from disputing tongues.

Blessed be the Lord who has shown me
the wonders of his love
in a fortified city.

"I am far removed from your sight,"
I said in my alarm.
Yet you heard the voice of my plea
when I cried for help.

Love the Lord, all you saints.
He guards his faithful
but the Lord will repay to the full
those who act with pride.

Be strong, let your heart take courage,
all who hope in the Lord.

Psalm-prayer

Lord, grant that we who reflect on the example of the Virgin Mary may learn to place our joy and hope in you. You reveal your goodness to those who fear you, you strengthen those who believe in you and give salvation to those who hope in you.

Antiphon 3

Ser. A They came to the place called Golgotha where they crucified Jesus. Near the cross stood his Mother.

Ser. B Teach us, Mary, to be compassionate to the suffering of our brothers and sisters.

Ser. C My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, for his mercy has done great things for me.

V. in you, Lord, I have laid bare my life.

R. You have beheld my tears.

FIRST READING

From the letter of the apostle Paul to the Romans 5:1-14, 17-19

Trough the obedience of one, many have received the gift of justice

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access [by faith] to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Therefore, just as through one person sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all, inasmuch as all sinned—for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world, though sin is not accounted when there is no law. But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come.

For if, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous.

RESPONSORY

V. The blessed Virgin Mary, sharing the redemptive work of Jesus, was obedient to the will of the Father. R. She became a cause of salvation for herself and all people. V. What Eve had bound by lack of faith, Mary set free by total faith. R. She became a cause of salvation for herself and all people.

SECOND READING

Choose one of the following readings.

From the sermons of Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, priest
(Sermo de Virginis Deiparae doloribus, 4-5; *Mariale*, Patavii, 1928, pp. 66-69)

Standing at the cross, Mary became for the Church a model of unwavering endurance

The Blessed Virgin had to suffer greatly because of Christ from the moment she gave birth to him and even before his birth. Indeed, Joseph, *unwilling to expose her to the law, decided to divorce her quietly*. When in Bethlehem she was about to give birth she experienced the inhumanity of the world; shut out of every home, she could find no kind host or even a temporary lodging. Since there was no room for her in the inn she was forced to seek refuge in a stable together with the animals to evade the dangers of the night. Here she gave birth to her son, the Firstborn and Only Son of the Father and she placed that most delicate and weak infant in a manger. She suffered intensely during the painful circumcision of her son. Great was her suffering in the temple on the day of her purification and Jesus' presentation when she heard from Simeon the prophecy of the persecutions her son would suffer. Great, too, was her suffering when the angel revealed that Herod was seeking the child to kill him and that she had to flee into Egypt. And she suffered again when she lost the twelve-year old Jesus in the temple: *Your father and I have been searching for you in sorrow*.

These were but the beginning—the prelude to her suffering; she had yet to experience the sword that to pierce her soul. When Christ began to show was himself to the world after his baptism by John and his victory over Satan in the desert and when he had begun to preach the gospel and work miracles to destroy the kingdom of Satan, the terrible persecutions which would also touch the Virgin had their beginning. The sword of sharpest sorrow pierced her soul when she learned that Jesus had been betrayed by Judas and captured by the authorities. Then, after his scourging, she saw him condemned to the shameful and infamous death of criminals; she met her son crowned with thorns as he carried his cross to Calvary with the thieves to be crucified. She saw him nailed to the cross and heard his words and witnessed his death. What inexpressible sorrow! If Saint Paul, because of his great love for Christ could say, *I have been crucified with Christ, and the life I live now is not my own, Christ is living in me*, certainly Mary could say the same. If Christ was so closely tied to the Blessed Virgin, how could his sufferings not be reflected in the heart of his Mother? She suffered with her son and her suffering was complete. She stood near the cross supported by her faith, knowing that Christ would rise. She was present in body, and even more in spirit.

She stood there in awe of the love with which God loved the world and the Son's obedience to his Father. She marvelled at her son's strength in combating the demons and his patience in such great suffering. She stood there filled with wonder before the mystery of human salvation and she was model and example for the entire Church of unwavering strength in adversity. With courage she drank of the most bitter chalice prepared for her by God. In this way she fully participated in the passion of her son.

If Christ suffered and left us an example to follow, so, too, did Mary his Mother in her sufferings. Together with her son she has left us an example so that we might do as she did, never taking our eyes from the divine model given us on Calvary. Let us contemplate this example so that we can deliberately imitate Christ and his most holy Mother. Let us reflect again on the contradictions she suffered because of sinners so that we might not become discouraged or lax on our journey toward sanctity and salvation. May Mary remain for us a model of constant and victorious endurance and unwavering virtue and courage so that neither tribulation nor worldly

creatures may ever separate us from the love of Christ.

RESPONSORY

V. Holy Virgin, how is it possible that you lived through such severe pain, had not the Spirit of your own son assured you:

R. that in death Christ was not overcome, and in resurrection he became Lord of all creation.

V. All the redeemed share your compassion and proclaim:

R. that in death Christ was not overcome, and in resurrection he became Lord of all creation.

Alternative:

From the Encyclical *Ad caeli Reginam* of Pius XII, pope
(AAS 46, [1954] p. 633-635)

The Blessed Virgin had a particular role in the work of our salvation

The most Blessed Virgin Mary is to be called Queen not only by reason of her divine maternity, but also because, by the will of God, she has had an outstanding part in the work of our eternal salvation. "What more pleasant or sweeter thought could we have," wrote our predecessor of happy memory, Pius XI, "than that Christ rules over us not only by native right but also by acquired right, namely that of the redemption? Would that all men and women who have forgotten how much we have cost our Saviour might remember: *You were redeemed not with perishable things, with silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.* We are no longer our own for *at a great price* Christ has purchased us."

Now, in accomplishing this work of redemption the most Blessed Virgin Mary was certainly intimately associated with Christ. Appropriately, therefore, we sing in the sacred liturgy: "Holy Mary, Queen of heaven and of the world, stood-sorrowfully by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." Wherefore, even in the Middle Ages a very pious student of Saint Anselm wrote: "As God is the Father and Lord of all things preparing all by his power, so Blessed Mary, repairing all things by her merits is the mother and ruler of all. For God is the Lord of all things, in each constituting by his command its own nature, and Mary is the Lady of all in restoring each to its original dignity through that grace which she has merited."

As Christ is our Lord and King by a special title because he redeemed us, so the Blessed Virgin is our Lady and Queen because of the unique way in which she has cooperated toward our redemption by giving of her own substance, by offering him willingly for us, and by desiring, praying for, and bringing about our salvation in a singular manner.

From these premises the following argument is drawn: Mary was by the will of God, associated with Jesus Christ, the principle of salvation itself, in bringing about spiritual salvation in a way that was quite similar to the way in which Eve was associated with Adam, the principle of death; so that it may be said that the work of our salvation was accomplished through a certain "recapitulation," in which a virgin is instrumental in saving the human race just as a virgin was instrumental in making it subject to death.

Moreover, it can also be said that this most glorious Lady was the beloved Mother of Christ precisely "so that she might be made his associate in the redemption of the human race." Actually, "it was she, the second Eve free from all sin, original or personal, and always most intimately united with her son, who offered him on Golgotha to the Eternal Father for all the children of Adam sin-stained by his unhappy fall, and her mother's rights and mother's love were included in the holocaust." Hence, we may certainly conclude that just as Christ, the new Adam, must be called King, not only because he is the Son of God, but also because he is our redeemer; so, by a certain kind of analogy, the most Blessed Virgin is Queen, not only because she is the Mother of God, but also because, as the new Eve, she was associated with the new Adam.

RESPONSORY

V. O Virgin Mary, God made you the companion of the new Adam and in you the sin of Eve is overcome. R. Together with Christ you battled the enemy and more than all others you shared his victory. V. Hail, Mother of Christ! Hail, Queen over us and all the world!
R. Together with Christ you battled the enemy and more than all others you shared his victory.

HYMN, Te Deum.

Prayer, as in Morning Prayer.

Canticles and Gospel Readings for Vigils

Those who wish to extend the celebration of a vigil of a solemnity, according to tradition, first celebrate the Office of Readings. After the second reading they may add canticles and the Gospel reading as indicated below. A homily on the Gospel may be given. Afterward the Te Deum is sung, the prayer is said, and the hour is concluded as in the Ordinary.

Ant. May your name be blessed, O Lord, for all ages, for after our tears you fill us with joy.

Canticle I Isaiah 61:10-62:3

The prophet rejoices over the new Jerusalem

I saw the new Jerusalem, the holy city, prepared as a bride adorned for her bridegroom (Revelation 21:2).

I rejoice heartily in the Lord,
in my God is the joy of my soul;
for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation,
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,
like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem,
like a bride bedecked with her jewels.

As the earth brings forth its plants,
and a garden makes its growth spring up,
so will the Lord God make justice and praise
spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not be silent,
for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her vindication shines forth like the dawn
and her victory like a burning torch.

Nations shall behold your vindication,
and all kings your glory;
you shall be called by a new name
pronounced by the mouth of the Lord.

You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord,
a royal diadem held by your God.

Canticle II Isaiah 62:4-7

The glory of the new Jerusalem

Here God lives among us. He will make his home among us (Revelation 21:3).

No more shall men call you "Forsaken,"
or your land "Desolate,"
but you shall be called "My Delight,"

and your land "Espoused."
For the Lord delights in you,
and makes your land his spouse.

As a young man marries a virgin,
your Builder shall marry you;
and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride
so shall your God rejoice in you.

Upon your wall, O Jerusalem,
I have stationed watchmen;
Never, by day or by night,
shall they be silent.

O you who are to remind the Lord,
take no rest and give no rest to him,
until he re-establishes Jerusalem
and makes of it the pride of the earth.

Canticle III Sirach 39:13-16a

How praiseworthy are the works of the Lord!

Thanks be to God Who through us is spreading the knowledge of himself like a pleasant fragrance
(2 Corinthians 2:14).

Listen, my faithful children: open up your petals,
like roses planted near running waters;
send up the sweet odour of incense,
break forth in blossoms like the lily.

Send up the sweet odour of your hymn of praise;
bless the Lord for all he has done!

Proclaim the greatness of his name,
loudly sing his praises,
with music on the harp and all stringed instruments;

sing out with joy as you proclaim:
The works of God are all of them good.

Ant. May your name be blessed, O Lord, for all ages, for after our tears you fill us with joy.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 2:41-52

Your father and I have been looking for you

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished,

and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favour before God and man.

HYMN, Te Deum, 43.

Prayer, as in Morning Prayer. Conclusion, as in the Ordinary.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

An appropriate hymn may be sung.

Ant. 1 Alleluia! The Lord reigns from the tree and his sorrowful Mother overcomes the Serpent.
Psalms and canticle from Sunday, Week I.

Ant. 2 With you, Mary, we praise Jesus who from the cross made you our Mother.

Ant. 3 We praise you, Lord, for in your resurrection you raised your sorrowing Mother to full glory.

READING 2 Timothy 2:10-13

Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us. If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

RESPONSORY

V. Because of the anxiety and torment of your people, you did not spare your own life, but you raised up that which was lost into the sight of God.

R. Because of the anxiety and torment of your people, you did not spare your own life, but you raised up that which was lost into the sight of God.

V. To save us, you prayed before God himself.

R. You raised up that which was lost into the sight of God.

V. Glory to the Father ... R. Because of the anxiety ...

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. Blessed are you, Queen of Martyrs. In flesh you gave birth to Christ, but in spirit, by sharing his passion, you became mother of all who believe.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us praise God our Father who desires that all should share in the Paschal Mystery of Christ, and humbly ask:

Lord, may the Queen of Martyrs intercede for us!

Father of mercies, you sent your Son into the world to offer the water of life to every person.

-May we receive him as eagerly as the dry land absorbs the morning dew.

Father of mercies, the holy Virgin placed all her hope in you and was faithful to your word.

- Grant that we may accept your word with eager hearts and be strong in hope.

Gracious Father, when Life itself died on the cross, the Virgin Mary remained strong in faith and in hope.

- Grant that in the mystery of suffering we too may be aware of your presence as a source of

new life and joy.

Father, creator and lover of all life, even today your son is crucified in the person of our brothers and sisters.

- Grant that we too may stand with Mary at these crosses, to bring comfort with our love and strength with our hope.

Just Father, in Mary, the fullest experience of Redemption, you gave us the first-fruits of the new creation.

- Grant that all our communities may be signs of this new life flowing from Christ.

(May our prayer be joined with those of all Christians so that all those redeemed by Christ on the tree of life may share in the eternal banquet of the Kingdom:)

Our Father ...

PRAYER

Father, you willed that Mary should stand by the cross of your Son. May we who share with her the suffering of Jesus, also share with her the joy of the resurrection. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Or:

God our Father, to raise up our fallen nature you joined Mother to Son in his suffering and death. By the power of your grace, grant that we may now put aside our attachment to sin and put on the new life of Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Daytime Prayer

Complementary psalmody from the Ordinary.

Midmorning

Ant. Hail, source of life. The whole world rejoices at the living fruit of your suffering.

READING Judith 9:11

Your strength is not in numbers, nor does your power depend upon stalwart men; but you are the God of the lowly, the helper of the oppressed, the supporter of the weak, the protector of the forsaken, the saviour of those without hope.

V. Lord, you are my strength, my fortress;

R. my refuge in the day of distress.

Midday

Ant. Had, Mother of Christ the Light. In dying he dispelled the darkness of sin, and by rising brought light to the whole world.

READING Job 23:10-12

Yet he knows my way; if he proved me, I should come forth as gold. My foot has always walked in his steps; his way I have kept and have not turned aside. From the commands of his lips I have not departed; the words of his mouth I have treasured in my heart.

V. God of Israel, may your name be blessed for all ages!

R. After our tears, you fill us with joy.

Midafternoon

Ant. Had, dwelling of God! From the torn veil of the temple the Church was born as the tabernacle of God among all people.

READING Hebrews 4:15-16

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.

V. By the blood of Jesus we are able to enter the Holy of Holies.

R. Let us now approach God with sincerity of heart and the fullness of faith.

Prayer, as in Morning Prayer.

Evening Prayer

HYMN

An appropriate hymn may be sung.

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 His mother said to Jesus: "they have no wine." He answered: "My hour has not yet come."

Psalm 111

God's marvellous works

He has upheld Israel his servant, ever mindful of his mercy (Luke 1:54).

I will thank the Lord with all my heart
in the meeting of the just and their assembly.

Great are the works of the Lord;
to be pondered by all who love them.

Majestic and glorious his work,
his justice stands firm forever.
He makes us remember his wonders.
The Lord is compassion and love.

He gives food to those who fear him;
keeps his covenant ever in mind.
He has shown his might to his people
by giving them the lands of the nations.

His works are justice and truth:
his precepts are all of them sure,
standing firm for ever and ever:
they are made in uprightness and truth.

He has sent deliverance to his people
and established his covenant forever.
Holy his name, to be feared.

To fear the Lord is the first stage of wisdom;
all who do so prove themselves wise.
His praise shall last forever!

Psalm-prayer

Lord, we contemplate the wonders of your mighty works; for love of us you sent your son, born of Mary, to be Saviour of the world. You loved us to the point of allowing him to be crucified for us,

and even to have his Mother share his suffering. You chose us in love, and in our birth as your Church, you poured Out your Spirit upon us.

Ant. His Mother said to Jesus: "They have no wine." He answered: "My hour has not yet come."

Ant. 2 When his hour had come, Jesus said to his Mother: "Woman, behold your son." Then he said to the disciple: "Behold your mother."

Psalm 138 Thanksgiving

His mercy is from age to age to those Who fear him (Luke 1:50).

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul.

All earth's kings shall thank you
when they hear the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the Lord's ways:
"How great is the glory of the Lord!"

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Though I walk in the midst of affliction
you give me life and frustrate my foes.

You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands,

Psalm-prayer

All nations praise you, O God, for you look kindly upon the humble and save those in trouble. You exalted the Virgin Mary among all the women of the earth, for in humble obedience and strong suffering she found favour in your sight.

Ant. When his hour had come, Jesus said to his Mother: "Woman, behold your son." Then he said to the disciple: "Behold your mother."

Ant. 3 A great sign appeared in the sky: a woman clothed with the sun; because she was with child she wailed aloud in pain as she laboured to give birth.

Canticle 1 Peter 2:21-24

The voluntary passion of Christ, servant of God

Christ suffered for you,
and left you an example

to have you follow in his footsteps.

He did no wrong;
no deceit was found in his mouth.
When he was insulted he returned no insult.

When he was made to suffer,
he did not counter with threats.
Instead he delivered himself up
To the One who judges justly.

In his own body
he brought your sins to the cross,
so that all of us, dead to sin,
could live in accord with God's will.

By his wounds you were healed.

Canticle-prayer

Lord, from the wood of the cross your son gave us the finest example of patient suffering: as the innocent lamb he bore our sins, as teacher of truth he experienced the evil of lies, as judge of the world he knew injustice. Grant, that, walking his way, we may have strength in adversity and overcome evil with good.

Ant. A great sign appeared in the sky: a woman clothed with the sun; because she was with child she wailed aloud in pain as she laboured to give birth.

READING Revelation 21:1-5a

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them [as their God]. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wading or pain, [for] the old order has passed away." The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

RESPONSORY

V. I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul. He has clothed me with the robe of salvation like a bride bedecked with her jewels.

R. I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul. He has clothed me with the robe of salvation like a bride bedecked with her jewels.

V. You shall no longer be called "forsaken" or your land "desolate."

R. He has clothed me with the robe of salvation, like a bride bedecked with her jewels.

V. Glory to the Father ... R. I rejoice ...

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. We praise you, Virgin of Sorrows, the glory of creation! You are like us and yet you are Mother of the Lord. In you the lowest and the highest come together to bring peace to the world.

INTERCESSIONS

We remember that day when Christ, the Light of the world, died on Golgotha, and Mary his Mother stood courageously at his cross. Mindful of this mystery of our salvation, we offer our petitions:

Lord, be light for our journey.

Lord, do not allow the rebellious plans of others to prevent those who gather in your love from doing your holy will;

- help us work together to build your kingdom.

Even though many are exploited and broken when they oppose the tyranny of the powerful,

- may they not lose hope, but trust in Christ, Who died and rose to life for them.

Strengthen those who without counting the cost work for justice and peace in the world;

- together, may we use all means to vindicate the freedom of every person.

We pray for the brothers and sisters of our Order;

- grant that they, like Christ, carry their crosses and one day share the full glory of resurrection with our Mother Mary.

For all members of our Order, who, like Christ, offered the final gift of their lives in death;

- may they one day share the glory of resurrection together with Jesus and his Mother Mary.

(Let our last petition be the prayer which Jesus taught us; with him and with the Blessed Virgin, let us affirm our obedience to the will of God:)

Our Father ...

PRAYER

Father, you willed that Mary should stand by the cross of your Son. May we who share with her the suffering of Jesus, also share with her the joy of the resurrection. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Or:

God, our Father, to raise up our fallen nature you joined Mother to Son in his suffering and death. By the power of your grace, grant that we may now put aside our attachment to sin and put on the new life of Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Note: Some biblical texts are taken from: The New American Bible <http://www.vatican.va/archives/>