

SATURDAY COMMEMORATION OF OUR LADY ORDINARY TIME

It should be noted that frequent commemorations of the Blessed Virgin are possible through the use of the Saturday commemoration of Our Lady. This is an ancient and simple commemoration and one that is very adaptable and varied by the flexibility of the modern calendar and the number of formulas provided. (Marialis Cultus, 9)

On the Saturdays of Ordinary Time, unless an obligatory memorial occurs, the Office of the Blessed Virgin on Saturdays should be said; it may be taken either from the Office which is found in the Liturgy of the Hours of the Roman Rite or from one of the Offices provided here.

I

ST. MARY OF THE SERVANTS

Invitatory

Ant. Come, let us worship Christ Jesus, who made Mary our Mother and Lady.

Invitatory psalm, as in the Ordinary.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

An appropriate hymn may be sung.

Antiphons and psalms are from the current Saturday.

READING Judith 13:17b-18a; 19-20a

"Blessed are you, our God, who today have brought to nought the enemies of your people. Then Uzziah said to Judith: "Blessed are you, daughter, by the Most High God, above all the women on earth; and blessed be the Lord God, the creator of heaven and earth. Your deed of hope will never be forgotten by those who tell of the might of God. May God make this redound to your everlasting honour, rewarding you with blessings.

RESPONSORY

V. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

R. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

V. Blessed are you for your great faith; all that the Lord promised you will come to pass.

R. And blessed is the fruit of your womb.

V. Glory to the Father ...

R. Blessed are you among ...

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. Had, Holy Mary, the glory of Christ; we, your servants, cry out to you, O Blessed Virgin.

Or:

Ant. Hail, font of mercy and queen of heaven: may you always favours your servants.

INTERCESSIONS

At break of day we bring our morning prayers to God the Father, source of everlasting light:

Renew in us the mystery of Christ's resurrection.

Through the intercession of Holy Mary, your handmaid, grant that we may love you with a pure heart.

-May we always follow your will as obedient children.

Through the intercession of Holy Mary, Our Lady, supply us with eloquence, give us courage and zeal, and guide our work.

-May we give ourselves completely to you and devote ourselves ever more earnestly to the service of the Church.

Through the intercession of Holy Mary, Queen of Mercy, turn your loving eyes to this family of Servants.

-May we have the strength to work for equality and justice.

Through the intercession of Holy Mary, Seat of Wisdom, send forth your light and your truth.

- May we be able to understand more deeply the role of the Blessed Virgin in the plan for human salvation.

Through the intercession of Holy Mary, dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit, make us a temple of your divine presence.

- May we offer you an acceptable sacrifice with a pure heart.

(Let us conclude our morning prayer with the words of Christ that sum up and complete the Church's offering of prayer:)

Our Father ...

PRAYER

God of compassion, hear the prayer of your Servants. Through the loving intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, may we who are gathered in her honour find in you our sure defence against the dangers that surround us. 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:

Lord, our God, in the loving plan of our redemption you chose the Blessed Virgin, your handmaid, to be the Mother of Christ and his companion in the work of salvation. Grant that we, your Servants, inspired by Our Lady, may bear witness to the gospel and bring your salvation to all people. 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.

II

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AND THE CHURCH

Invitatory

Ant. Come, let us worship Christ who called Mary and the Church to share with him the work of salvation.

Invitatory Psalm, as in the Ordinary.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

An appropriate hymn may be sung.

Antiphons and psalms are from the current Saturday.

READING Revelation 12:3a, 4cd, 5-6a

Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon. 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.

RESPONSORY

V. There is a river whose streams give joy to the city of God, the holy sanctuary of the Most High.
R. There is a river whose streams give joy to the city of God, the holy sanctuary of the Most High.
V. God in the midst of her shall not be moved.
R. The holy sanctuary of the Most High.
V. Glory to the Father ...
R. There is a river ...

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. Father, your only-begotten son has become the son of his own handmaid, the Lord of his own Mother: He, the head, is born of Mary, and his members are the fruit of the Church.

Or:

Ant. Blessed are you, holy Mary, the spotless mirror! In you the Church sees the image of its future glory.

INTERCESSIONS

Relying on the aid of the blessed Virgin Mary, let us pray to God the Father, who through the Holy Spirit makes all people one:

Draw all people together into one family.

Father, you made the Church the field where Christ the true vine would flourish.

-Grant that all your followers may remain rooted in Christ, bearing much fruit: we ask this with Mary, branch of the root of Jesse.

Father, you made your Church the dwelling-place of God with his people, a holy temple made from living stones.

-May all of us who have been built into your temple live worthy lives: we ask this with Mary, shrine of the Holy Spirit.

Father, you adorned the Church, the spouse of your Son, with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

-Grant that she may serve Christ faithfully and bring forth countless children for the Kingdom: we ask this with Mary, the dwelling-place of the eternal Word.

Father, you have given your Church to us as a mother who cares for us.

-Grant that as we joyfully begin this new day, we may direct all our efforts towards fostering peace and unity among your family: we ask this with Mary, Mother of Christ and our Mother.

(Through the Lord's mercy, we have become the people of the New Covenant; let us conclude our prayer with the words that Jesus our Mediator taught us:) Our Father ...

PRAYER

Lord God, creator and ruler of your people, you chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the Mother of Christ, our Head, and gave her as spiritual Mother to us who are his members. By her loving intercession, may all peoples find their true home within your Church. 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, the Father of mercies, from the cross your Son gave us his Mother, Mary, to be our Mother. Through her loving assistance may your Church grow in number and holiness and one day draw all people to itself. 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.

III

MARY, QUEEN OF MERCY

Invitatory

Ant. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord who has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.
Invitatory psalm, as in the Ordinary.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

*An appropriate hymn may be sung.
Antiphons and psalms are from the current Saturday.*

READING Micah 7:18-20

Who is there like you, the God who removes guilt and pardons sin for the remnant of his inheritance; Who does not persist in anger forever, but delights rather in clemency, And will again have compassion on us, treading underfoot our guilt? You will cast into the depths of the sea all our sins; You will show faithfulness to Jacob, and grace to Abraham, As you have sworn to our fathers from days of old.

RESPONSORY

V. Remember, O Lord, your mercy, as you promised our ancestors.
R. Remember, O Lord, your mercy, as you promised our ancestors.
V. You have mercy on those who fear you in every generation.
R. As you promised our ancestors.
V. Glory to the Father ...
R. Remember ...

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. O Blessed Virgin Mary, you are the Queen of mercy and the hope of the world; hear your children who call upon you.

Or:

Ant. Come to the aid of those in need, O Virgin. Encourage the timid, strengthen the weak, pray for your people, assist the clergy, intercede for all who are consecrated to your service, comfort all who have recourse to you.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us bless God, the Father of mercies, who, in his Son Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin, fulfilled and surpassed all that had been promised. Let us therefore say:
We proclaim, O Lord, your mercy.

Kind and patient God, you sowed the seed of your word in Mary's womb.

-Grant that your word, received in faith, may bear abundant fruit.

Merciful and just God, you chose the Blessed Virgin from among the poor and humble.

- Make us poor and humble so that we may await with confidence the salvation won for us by Christ.

Gentle and loving God, you sent the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles so that they might form one

Church from many peoples.

-By the power of this same Spirit and the prayers of Mary strengthen in us the bonds of unity and love.

Gracious and serene God, you sent your Son into the midst of oppressed and troubled peoples.

-Standing near the cross with Mary, may we learn how to comfort our suffering brothers and sisters.

Good and compassionate God, you have permitted us to see the light of this new day.

-Following the example of the Queen of mercy, may we welcome with kindness all those we meet today.

(Let us conclude our petitions with the prayer in which we commit ourselves to forgiving one another so that the Father of mercy will grant us his pardon:)

Our Father ...

PRAYER

Merciful and gentle Father, you chose the Blessed Virgin so that through her, as the ark of the new covenant, your Word might dwell in the midst of your people. Grant that we may be always faithful to that covenant which Christ confirmed with his blood. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Or:

Lord, you sent your Son as Saviour of the world and made Mary the Queen of mercy. Kindly hear the prayers of your servants who, burdened by sin, seek your forgiveness. 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.

IV

MARY, THE NEW WOMAN

Invitatory

Ant. Come, let us worship the Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the whole world is renewed.

Or:

Ant. Let us worship God our Father who makes all things new in the Spirit of Christ.

Invitatory Psalm, as in the Ordinary.

Morning Prayer

HYMN

An appropriate hymn may be sung.

Antiphons and psalms are from the current Saturday.

READING 2 Peter 3, 13-14

But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

RESPONSORY

V. I have seen the new heaven and the new earth, the holy city coming down out of heaven from God.

R. I have seen the new heaven and the new earth, the holy city coming down out of heaven from God.
V. I have seen the new Jerusalem, full of the splendour of God.
R. The holy city coming down out of heaven from God.
V. Glory to the Father ...
R. I have seen the new heaven ...

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Ant. Hail, Mary, you are the most holy Mother of God, the Blessed One, who conceived the splendour of the Father. Hail, holy Virgin and Mother of light; all creation praises you.

Or:

Ant. Great is your glory, Holy Mary, new woman; from you was born Christ, the new man.

Or:

Ant. Mary, model of virtue, star of the sea, and harbour of safety, has raised up the children whom Eve had betrayed.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray to God our Father who has given us in the Blessed Virgin, Mother of the new Adam, a new beginning and an image of what the Church is to become, as we say:

Renew in us, O Lord, the Spirit of holiness.

You have brought us to the light of a new day.

-Grant that we may see the day when all creation is brought from the slavery of corruption to the liberty of your children.

You have renewed us by water and the Holy Spirit.

-Grant that we may be faithful to our baptismal promises and walk in newness of life.

Your word has given us a rebirth.

-Make us a new creation of justice, holiness and truth.

You have established a new and eternal covenant with us by the cross of your Son.

-Take from us our hearts of stone and replace them with hearts of flesh.

With the Virgin Mary you have rectified the sin of Eve.

-Give us a deep respect for all creation and the power to resist all who dishonour it.

(Faithful to the teachings of Christ, let us say the prayer of the new people of God:)

Our Father ...

PRAYER

O God, by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, you formed the Blessed Virgin and made her first among all your creation. Remove from us every stain of sin, and transform us into Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Or:

Lord God, your brightness transformed the Virgin Mary and made her the sign of the future glory of the Church. Grant that by reflecting on her life and observing your new law, we may make our pilgrimage through this world to the new Jerusalem. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord 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/>