

MAY 8

MARY, MOTHER AND MEDIATRIX OF GRACE

Optional Memorial

Entrance Antiphon

Hebrews 4. 16

Let us confidently approach the throne of grace
to receive mercy and favour and to find help in time of need.

Prayer of the Assembly

Lord, our God,
in your eternal wisdom and love
you chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus,
source of all grace.
She shared in bringing about our redemption.
May she obtain for us graces in abundance
and lead us to the harbor of eternal salvation.
(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.

First Reading

Esther 8, 3-8,16-17a

A reading from the Book of Esther

How can I witness the evil that is to befall my people?

In those days, Esther had an audience with the king.
She fell at his feet and tearfully implored him to revoke
the harm done by Haman the Agagite,
and the plan he had devised against the Jews.
The king stretched forth the golden sceptre to Esther.
So she rose and, standing in his presence, said:
“If it pleases your majesty and seems proper to you,
and if I have found favour with you and you love me,
let a document be issued to revoke
the letters which that schemer Haman,
son of Hammedatha the Agagite,
wrote for the destruction of the Jews
in all the royal provinces.
For how can I witness the evil that is to befall my people,
and how can I behold the destruction of my race?”
King Ahasuerus then said
to Queen Esther and to the Jew Mordecai:
“Now that I have given Esther the house of Haman,
and they have hanged him on the gibbet
because he attacked the Jews,
you in turn may write in the king’s name
what you see fit concerning the Jews
and seal the letter with the royal signet ring.”
For whatever is written in the name of the king

and sealed with the royal signet ring cannot be revoked.
And there was splendour and merriment for the Jews,
exultation and triumph.

In each and every province and in each and every city,
wherever the king's order arrived,
there was merriment and exultation,
banqueting and feasting for the Jews.

This is the Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 68 (67), 2-3, 4-5, 6-7

R/. Lord, let your face shed its light upon us

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/. Lord, let your face shed its light upon us

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/. Lord, let your face shed its light upon us

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/. Lord, let your face shed its light upon us

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Happy are you, O Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of Grace and Queen of Compassion. From you has come Christ, Our Mediator and our Saviour. Alleluia!

Gospel Reading John 2, 1-11

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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

At that time, there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.
Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.
When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him,
"They have no wine."

And Jesus said to her,
“Woman, how does your concern affect me?
My hour has not yet come.”
His mother said to the servers, “Do whatever he tells you.”
Now there were six stone water jars there
for Jewish ceremonial washings,
each holding twenty to thirty gallons.
Jesus told them, “Fill the jars with water.”
So they filled them to the brim.
Then he told them,
“Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.”
So they took it.
And when the headwaiter tasted the water
that had become wine,
without knowing where it came from
(although the servers who had drawn the water knew),
the headwaiter called the bridegroom
and said to him,
“Everyone serves good wine first,
and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one;
but you have kept the good wine until now.”
Jesus did this in Cana in Galilee
as the beginning of his signs
and so revealed his glory,
and his disciples began to believe in him.
After this, he and his mother, his brothers, and his disciples
went down to Capernaum
and stayed there only a few days.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Prayer over the Offerings

Lord, receive our prayerful peace offering and make it the sacrament of our redemption. Christ, our Mediator reconciled us with you. With Mary’s help, may we always find a source of grace and blessing in his saving work. (We ask this) through Christ our Lord.

Preface I of Mary, Mother and Mediatrix of Grace

an alternative preface is given below

God established the Mother of his Son as our mother and advocate.

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks
through Christ our Lord,
the one mediator and saviour of all.
In your love for us,
You did great and wonderful things

in Mary, his mother:

You established her as our mother and advocate
so that in her the afflicted might find solace,
the sick health, the needy assistance,

the sinner refuge,
and all people mercy and grace.

Therefore, with all the saints and angels we praise you for ever saying: Holy, Holy...

Preface II of Mary, Mother and Mediatrix of Grace

The love of the Blessed Virgin Mary as Mother

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere
to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Truly God and truly human, he was chosen by you,
as the one mediator between you and the human family,
always to make intercession for us.

In your wisdom and goodness
the Blessed Virgin Mary,
mother and disciple of the Redeemer,
has a maternal role in the church:
one of intercession and prayer,
to bring about reconciliation and peace.

The love that she bestows as a mother is
entirely the gift of Christ, the one mediator,
from whom alone she receives her power.

Her children, in their trials and fears,
can turn with confidence to the Blessed Virgin,
calling on her as mother of mercy and handmaid of grace.
In our joy we sing to your glory
with all the choirs of angels: Holy, Holy...

Communion Antiphon

Rev. 22, 17

The spirit and the bride say, "Come!" Let him who hears answer, "Come!" Let him who is thirsty come forward ; let all who desire it accept the gift of life-giving water.

Prayer after Communion

Lord God,
we have been refreshed at the fountain of salvation.
May the power of this sacrament
and the prayer of the Blessed Virgin
unite us more closely to Christ the Mediator
and help us to enter
into the mystery of our redemption.
(We ask this) through the same Christ our Lord.

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