

**SEPTEMBER 15**

**OUR LADY OF SORROWS  
PRINCIPAL PATRONESS OF THE ORDER OF SERVANTS OF MARY**

*Solemn Feast*

**Entrance Antiphon**

Luke 2, 34-35

Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his Mother,  
“This child is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel,  
a sign that will be opposed; and you  
yourself shall be pierced with a sword.”

**Prayer of the Assembly**

Father,  
as your Son was raised on the cross,  
his mother Mary stood by his side,  
sharing his sufferings.  
May your Church be united with Christ  
in his suffering and death  
and so come to share in his rising to new life.  
(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**

O God,  
to repair the damage done to our human nature  
by the deception of the devil,  
you linked a mother’s compassion  
with the suffering of her Son.  
Grant that we, your people,  
may lay aside our sinful past  
and be clothed with the new life 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.

**First Reading**

Judith 13, 17b-20

A reading from the Book of Judith

*You have averted our ruin before our God*

All the people were greatly astonished.  
They bowed down and worshipped God,  
saying with one accord,  
“Blessed are you, our God,  
who today have brought to naught  
the enemies of your people.”  
Then Uzziah said to her:

“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,  
who guided your blow  
at the head of the chief of our enemies.  
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 honor,  
rewarding you with blessings,  
because you risked your life  
when your people were being oppressed,  
and you averted our disaster,  
walking uprightly before our God.”  
And all the people answered, “Amen! Amen!”

### **This is the Word of the Lord**

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 144 (145), 1-2, 4-6, 8-9

#### **R/. God is compassionate to all creatures**

I will give you glory, O God my king,  
I will bless your name for ever.  
I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever.

#### **R/. God is compassionate to all creatures**

Age to age shall proclaim your works,  
shall declare your mighty deeds,  
shall speak of your splendor and glory,  
tell the tale of your wonderful works.  
They will speak of your terrible deeds,  
recount your greatness and might.

#### **R/. God is compassionate to all creatures**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures.

#### **R/. God is compassionate to all creatures**

#### **Second Reading**

Colossians 1, 18-24

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians

*I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ*

Brothers and sisters,  
Christ is the head of the body, the church.  
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,

that in all things he himself might be preeminent.  
For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell,  
and through him to reconcile all things for him,  
making peace by the blood of his cross through him,  
whether those on earth or those in heaven.  
And you who once were alienated  
and hostile in mind because of evil deeds  
he has now reconciled in his fleshly body  
through his death,  
to present you holy, without blemish,  
and irreproachable before him,  
provided that you persevere in the faith,  
firmly grounded, stable,  
and not shifting from the hope  
of the Gospel that you heard,  
which has been preached  
to every creature under heaven,  
of which I, Paul, am a minister.  
Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake,  
and in my flesh I am filling up  
what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ  
on behalf of his body, which is the church,  
of which I am a minister  
in accordance with God's stewardship  
given to me to bring to completion for you  
the word of God,  
the mystery hidden from ages  
and from generations past.

### **This is the Word of the Lord**

#### **Optional Sequence "Stabat Mater"**

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|---|---|
| 1. At the cross her station keeping<br>stood the mournful mother weeping<br>close to Jesus to the last: | 2. Through her heart his sorrow sharing<br>all his bitter anguish bearing,<br>now at length the sword has passed. |
| 3. Oh, how sad and sore distressed<br>was that mother highly blessed<br>of the sole-begotten one!       | 4. Christ above in torment hangs;<br>she beneath beholds the pangs<br>of her dying, glorious Son.                 |
| 5. Is there one who would not weep,<br>'whelmed in miseries so deep<br>Christ's dear mother to behold?  | 6. Can the human heart refrain<br>from partaking in her pain,<br>in that mother's pain untold?                    |
| 7. Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,<br>she beheld her little Child<br>all with bloody scourges rent;  | 8. For the sins of his own nation,<br>saw him hang in desolation<br>till his spirit forth he sent.                |
| 9. O thou mother, fount of love!<br>Touch my spirit from above,<br>make my heart with thine accord.     | 10. Make me feel as thou has felt;<br>make my soul to glow and melt<br>with the love of Christ my Lord.           |
| 11. Holy Mother, pierce me through;   | 12. Let me share with thee his pain,  |

in my heart each wound renew  
of my Saviour crucified.

who for all my sins was slain,  
who for me in torments died.

13. Let me mingle tears with thee,  
mourning him who mourned for me,  
all the days that I may live:

14. By the Cross with thee to stay;  
there with thee to weep and pray;  
is all I ask of thee to give

15. Virgin of all virgins blest!  
Listen to my fond request:  
let me share thy grief divine. Amen

Fra Jacopone da Todi, OFM(1230-1306)  
Translated by Edward Caswall  
(1814-1878)

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Mary, Queen of heaven and earth,  
stood in sorrow at the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

### **Gospel Reading**

Luke 2, 33-35

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*You yourself a sword will pierce*

The child's father and mother were amazed  
at what was said about him;  
and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,  
"Behold, this child is destined  
for the fall and rise of many in Israel,  
and to be a sign that will be contradicted  
(and you yourself a sword will pierce)  
so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**

### **or Alternative Gospel Reading**

John 19. 25-27

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*Standing by the cross of Jesus was his mother*

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother  
and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas,  
and Mary of Magdala.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved,  
he said to his mother,

"Woman, behold, your son."

Then he said to the disciple,

"Behold, your mother."

And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Lord,

in the mystery of redemption that we celebrate  
the Blessed Virgin herself took an active part.

Consume our sacrificial gifts  
with the fire of the Holy Spirit,

who destroyed sin and  
opened the door of heaven for us.  
(We ask this) through Christ our Lord.

## **Preface**

*The Father joined the sorrows of the Mother to the sufferings of his Son*

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

Through your only-begotten Son and his Mother,  
you converted sorrow and pain into vessels of glory.

You were concerned for our salvation,  
so you willed to join the sorrows of the Mother  
with the pains her Son  
suffered in his blessed passion.

You graciously received into heaven the Woman  
whose life was marked with a sword of sorrow  
as she faithfully carried out the commandment of love.  
There, redeemed in glory, by her Son,  
she became a servant of compassion,  
mother of forgiveness, and queen of mercy.

And therefore with choirs of angels  
we praise you joyfully, saying: Holy, Holy...

## **Communion Antiphon**

1Peter 4, 13

Rejoice instead in the measure you share Christ's sufferings.  
When his glory is revealed, you will rejoice exultantly.

## **Or**

Blessed the grief of the Virgin Mary through which,  
without dying, she gained the palm of martyrdom at the foot of the cross.

## **Prayer after Communion**

Lord,  
we have shared in the sacrifice of eternal salvation.  
As we remember the compassion  
of Mary, Mother of all the Living,  
help us make up in our own lives  
whatever is lacking in the sufferings of Christ  
for the good of the Church.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## **Solemn Blessing**

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

By the passion of Jesus and the compassion of Mary,  
God gave life to a fallen world.  
May God now fill you with the gifts of His saving love. Amen.

God willed that Mary walk a painful journey  
in faith to the heights of love at the cross of Jesus.  
My God deepen your faith and call you  
to this same fullness of love. Amen.

May you who take up the cross of Christ  
share also in his glory at the hour of death. Amen.

May Almighty God bless you,  
the Father, the Son and + the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Or** Prayer over the People  
Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

May your hearts burn with grateful love  
as you remember the rich gifts of salvation  
which Mary gained for us  
by the bitter sorrows of her life.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May Almighty God bless you,  
the Father, the Son and + the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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