

**FRIDAY AFTER THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
MARY AT THE CROSS OF JESUS**

*Feast*

**Entrance Antiphon**

John 19,25

Near the cross of Jesus there stood his Mother, his Mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas and Mary Magdalene.

*or*

Baruch 4, 12

Let no one gloat over me, a widow bereft of many: for the sins of my children I am left desolate because they turned from the law of God.

**Prayer of the Assembly**

Lord God, you decreed that the mother of your Son should stand by his cross, suffering with him. Safeguard in your family the fruits of your great work of redemption and in your goodness, make them grow daily more and more. 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 Alternative Prayer of the Assembly*

Lord our God, in your mysterious wisdom, you fill out the passion of Christ through the suffering that his members endure in the many trials of this life. As you chose to have the Sorrowful Mother stand by your son in his agony on the cross, grant that we too may bring love and comfort to our brothers and sisters in distress. 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**

Romans 8, 31b-39

an alternative first reading is given below

A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?  
Since he did not spare his own Son,  
but gave him up for the sake of all of us,  
then can we not expect that with him  
he will freely give us all his gifts?  
Who can bring any accusation  
against those that God has chosen?  
When God grants saving justice who can condemn?  
Are we not sure that it is Christ Jesus,  
who died, yes and more, who was raised from the dead  
and is at God's right hand,  
and who is adding his plea for us?

Can anything cut us off from the love of Christ,  
can hardships or distress, or persecution,  
or lack of food and clothing, or threats or violence;  
as scripture says:  
For your sake we are being massacred all day long,  
treated as sheep to be slaughtered?  
No; we come through all these things  
triumphantly victorious,  
by the power of him who loved us.  
For I am certain of this:  
neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,  
nothing already in existence and nothing still to come,  
nor any power, nor the heights nor the depths,  
nor any created thing whatever, will be able to come between us  
and the love of God,  
made known to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

#### **Alternative 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

Genesis 22, 1-3, 9-13, 15-18

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

It happened some time later that God put Abraham to the test.  
"Abraham, Abraham!" he called. "Here I am," he replied. God said,  
"Take your son, your only son, your beloved Isaac, and go to the  
land of Moriah, where you are to offer him as a burnt offering on  
one of the mountains which I shall point out to you."  
When they arrived at the place which God had indicated to him,  
Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he  
bound his son and put him on the altar on top of the wood.  
Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.  
But the angel of Yahweh called to him from heaven.  
"Abraham, Abraham!" he said. "Here I am," he replied.  
"Do not raise your hand against the boy," the angel said.  
"Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God.  
You have not refused me your own beloved son."  
Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a  
bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in  
place of his son.  
The angel of Yahweh called Abraham a second time from heaven.  
"I swear by my own self, Yahweh declares, that because you have  
done this, because you have not refused me your own beloved son,  
I will shower blessings on you and make your descendants  
as numerous as the stars of heaven  
and the grains of sand on the seashore.  
Your descendants will gain possession of the gates of their  
enemies. All nations on earth will bless themselves by your  
descendants, because you have obeyed my command."

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

## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 17 (18) 2-3, 5-7, 19-20

### **R/. In my anguish I called to the Lord**

I love you, Lord, my strength, my Rock,  
my fortress, my saviour.  
My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.

### **R/. In my anguish I called to the Lord**

The waves of death rose about me;  
the torrents of destruction assailed me;  
the snares of the grace entangled me;  
the traps of death confronted me.

### **R/. In my anguish I called to the Lord**

In my anguish I called to the Lord;  
I cried to my God for help.  
From his temple he heard my voice –  
my cry came to his ears.

### **R/. In my anguish I called to the Lord**

They assailed me in the day of my misfortune,  
but the Lord was my support.  
He brought me forth into freedom,  
He saved me because he loved me.

### **R/. In my anguish I called to the Lord**

## Optional Sequence “Stabat Mater”

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 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 all<br>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 of<br>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,<br>defiled, 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!  
Touch my spirit from above,  
make my heart with thine accord.

10. Make me feel as thou has felt;  
make my soul to glow and melt  
with the love of Christ my Lord.

11. Holy Mother, pierce me through;  
in my heart each wound renew  
of my Saviour crucified.

12. Let me share with thee his pain,  
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**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
There stood in grief by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ  
our blessed Lady, the Queen of Heaven.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

### **Gospel Reading**

John 19, 25-27

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother  
and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas,  
and Mary of Magdala.  
Seeing his mother  
and the disciple whom he loved standing near her,  
Jesus said to his mother, "Woman, this is your son."  
Then to the disciple he said, "This is your mother."  
And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

In your mercy, Lord,  
take these offerings of your family  
and change them into  
the sacrament of our redemption  
whose generous collaborator Mary became  
at the altar of the cross,  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

### **Preface I**

Alternative Preface below

*The Mother of Christ and Helper in the Work of Redemption*

Father all-powerful and ever-living God,  
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks:

In your wisdom you mercifully joined  
the Virgin Mother with your only-begotten Son  
as a companion in restoring the human race.  
She, who became his Mother by the action of the Holy Spirit,  
also became by a new gift of your love,  
his helper in the work of redemption.

And thus she, who felt no pain in the birth of her son,  
now through the anguish endured at the Cross,  
has given new birth to us.

Therefore with angels and archangels  
and all the company of heaven,  
we glorify your holy name,  
ever more praising you and saying: Holy. Holy...

**Preface II**

*Mary remains faithful beside the cross of her Son*

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

In your loving providence  
you decreed that Mary, the mother of your Son,  
should stand faithfully beside his cross  
and so fulfill in her person  
the prophecies of old,  
and enrich the world  
with her own witness of living faith.

At the cross the Blessed Virgin appears as the new Eve,  
so that, as Eve shared in bringing death,  
so Mary would share in restoring life.

At the cross with motherly love  
she embraces her scattered children,  
reunited through the death of Christ,  
and she fulfills the mystery of the mother of Sion.

At the cross she stands  
as a model of the Church, the Bride of Christ,  
which draws inspiration from her courage  
and keeps constant faith with its Bridegroom,

undaunted by peril and unbroken by persecution.

In our joy we sing to your glory  
with all the choirs of angels: Holy, holy, holy...

### **Postcommunion Prayer**

Lord God,  
we have received the pledge of our salvation  
and now we pray that the Holy Spirit,  
so abundantly present in your Church,  
may come down upon all peoples.  
For it was Christ our High Priest who made  
his Mother a sharer in his passion  
and gained for us his Spirit  
by the sacrifice of the cross.  
(We ask this) through Christ our Lord.

### **Closing Blessing I**

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

May God,  
who gave us an example of steadfast love  
in the life of the Sorrowful Mother,  
make you constant in faith, and generous in love! Amen.

May God,  
who willed that Mary should stand  
near the cross of her Son  
and share in His sufferings,  
give you the strength to take up the cross each day  
and share in the passion of Christ! Amen.

With Mary you have shared in the passion of Christ  
may you share also in his joy  
when he is revealed in glory. Amen.

And may the blessing of God,  
the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit,  
come down upon you and be with you always. Amen

or

### **Closing Blessing II**

Bow your heads, pray for God's blessing.

Lord, protect your people  
who celebrate the memory of  
the Blessed Virgin Mary  
at the foot of the cross  
and support them

with the abundance of your heavenly grace.  
Increase their faith,  
deepen their love for Christ  
and strengthen their hope of eternal life.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord! Amen

And may the blessing of God,  
the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit,  
descend upon you and remain with you always. Amen

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