

One in prayer with the Apostles as they waited for the promised gift of your Spirit, she became the perfect pattern of the Church at prayer; raised to the glory of heaven, she cares for the pilgrim Church with a mother's love, following its progress homewards until the day of the Lord dawns in splendour.

And so, with the company of Angels and Saints, we sing the hymn of your praise, as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

Communion Song

or Antiphon:

All generations will call me blessed, for God has looked on his lowly handmaid.

Prayer after Communion

O Lord, you have strengthened us at the table of your Word and Sacrament, grant that following in Mary's footsteps we may be hidden and unknown in this world so that the figure of Christ may manifest himself to others in us. Through Christ our Lord.

Solemn Blessing

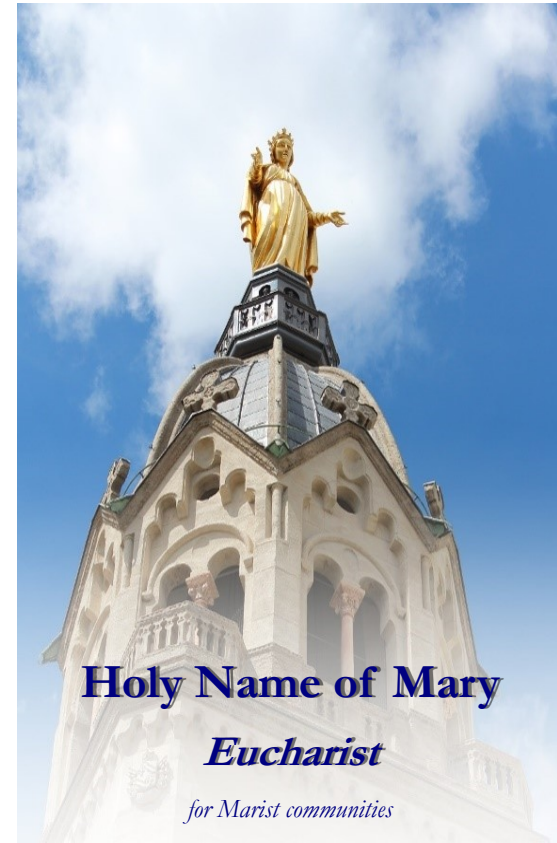
God our all-powerful Father has bestowed on us the name of Mary. In keeping with her example at Nazareth, may we listen with attentiveness to his Word and carry it to fulfilment in all we do. **R. Amen.**

He has given us the Early Church as the only model of our life together: may he make us one in heart and mind with our brothers and sisters. **R. Amen.**

And so, joyfully doing the Father's will, trusting in the power of Christ alone, may we prepare the way for the coming of the Kingdom. **R. Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on us and remain with us for ever. **R. Amen.**

Closing song



Opening Song

or Entrance Antiphon:

Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary, by the Lord God Most High, above all women on earth; for he has so exalted your name that your praise shall be undying on our lips.

Opening Prayer

Grant, we pray, almighty God, to look upon the lowliness of your servants who live and work under the name of Mary; do great things through us, filling us with the spirit of our Mother so that, not seeking our own interests but those of Christ alone, we may lead our fellow men and women to the light of the Gospel. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Zechariah 8: 6-8, 12-13

Thus says the Lord: "It may seem marvellous to the remnant of this people at that time, but will it seem marvellous to me?" declares the Lord Almighty.

"I will save my people from the countries of the east and the west. I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people, and I will be faithful and righteous to them as their God."

"The seed will grow well, the vine will yield its fruit, the ground will produce its crops, and the heavens will drop their dew. I will give all these things as an inheritance to the remnant of this people. Just as you, Judah and Israel, have been a curse among the nations, so I will save you, and you will be a blessing. Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong."

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 112: 1-6, with response:

From the rising of the sun to its setting, praise the name of the Lord

Blessed are those who fear the Lord,
who find great delight in his commands
Their children will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures forever.
Even in darkness light dawns for the upright,
for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous.

Second Reading - Acts 1:12-14

The apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying.

Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

The Word of the Lord

Alleluia Verse

Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled;

Gospel

John 19: 25-28

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

When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. *The Gospel of the Lord*

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept our gifts, O Lord, and enlighten our hearts and minds with you Spirit, so that like Mary we may cling to Christ your Son, living for him alone and pleasing to him in all things. Through Christ our Lord.

Preface

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, and to praise, bless, and glorify your name as we honour the Most Holy Name of Mary.

For she received your Word in the purity of her heart and conceived him in her virgin's womb; she fostered the first beginnings of the Church by giving birth to Christ its Head and Founder; she accepted your parting gift of love as she stood beside the Cross and so became the Mother of all the living, her children brought to new life through the death of her Son.