



Hosanna



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SUNDAY LITURGY

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THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY AND
INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Year A

INTRODUCTION

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and also the Independence Day of our country. The Assumption is the greatest feast commemorated in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary because it celebrates all the other mysteries of the Blessed Virgin Mary by which her life was rendered the most beautiful and magnificent. Let us, also, in a special way pray for our country that we may all enjoy and exercise true freedom.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.
(Rev 12:1)

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory, grant, we pray, that, always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit to be sharers of her glory. 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.

FIRST READING

Judith by her faith and courage defeated the designs of the enemies of Israel, and by her courageous act warded off the ruin of Israel. She had been the symbol of Mother Mary who had achieved great victory over the devil by being the Immaculate Mother.

A reading from the Book of Judith 13:18-20;15:9

And Uzziah said to her, "O daughter, you are blessed by the Most High God above all women on earth; and blessed be the Lord God, who created the heavens and the earth, who has guided you to strike the head of the leader of our enemies. Your hope will never depart from the hearts of men, as they remember the power of God. May God grant this to be a perpetual honour to you, and may he visit you with his blessings, because you did not spare your life when your nation was brought low, but have avenged our ruin, walking in the straight path before our God." And all the people said, "So be it, so be it!"

And when they met her they all blessed her with one accord and said to her, "You are the exaltation of Jerusalem, you are the great glory of Israel, you are the great pride of our nation!"

Responsorial Psalm (1 Sam 2:4-7)

R. There is none holy like the Lord, there is no rock like our God.

My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in the Lord. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in thy salvation.

R. There is none holy like the Lord, there is no rock like our God.

The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength. Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.

R. There is none holy like the Lord, there is no rock like our God.

The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, he also exalts.

R. There is none holy like the Lord, there is no rock like our God.

SECOND READING

St. Paul reminds us that we have been called to freedom. Christ has freed us from sin at baptism and we are called to become more free in the spirit every day.

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Galatians 5:1, 13-17

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants of one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another take heed that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires

of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you would. But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law.

ALLELUIA (Lk 1:48)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

All generations will call me blessed.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity for ever."

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Let us pray to our Heavenly Father who kept Mother Mary's body safe from the corruption of the flesh by raising her body and soul to the glory of heaven.

Response: LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

1. Let us pray for our Holy Father Francis, our Archbishop Bernard Moras, priests and religious that God may keep them free from sins, so that they may lead the faithful in the path of true Christian Faith. *Let us pray to the Lord:*

2. Let us pray for our Christian community that they, through their harmonious lives may lead the other non-Christians in the path of love and compassion. *Let us pray to the Lord:*

3. Let us pray for each one of us that we may imitate the Blessed Virgin Mary in loving and serving God. May the life of Mother Mary be a light for our path leading us all to Jesus. *Let us pray to the Lord:*

4. Let us pray for our country and all its leaders that they may all sincerely work for the true independence of our country and for the freedom of the people. That they may encourage the true freedom of thought and choice. *Let us pray to the Lord:*

Celebrant: Heavenly Father! We thank and praise You for the great honour You bestowed on Mother Mary by raising her body and soul into heaven. Grant us the grace to imitate her in all her virtues especially in loving and obeying You. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this oblation, our tribute of homage, rise up to you, O Lord, and, through the intercession of the most Blessed Virgin Mary, whom you as-

sumed into heaven, may our hearts, aflame with the fire of love, constantly long for you. Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE (Assumption)

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, through Christ our Lord.

For today the Virgin Mother of God assumed into heaven as the beginning and image of your Church's coming to perfection and a sign of sure hope and comfort to your pilgrim people; rightly you would not allow her to see the corruption of the tomb since from her own body she marvellously brought forth your incarnate Son, the Author of all life.

And so, in company with the choirs of Angels, we praise you, and with joy we proclaim.

All: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

All generations will call me blessed, for he who is mighty has done great things for me. (*Lk 1:48-49*)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the Sacrament of salvation, we ask you to grant, O Lord, that, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom you assumed into heaven, we may be brought to the glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord.

REFLECTION

Many saints like St. John Damascene, Andrew of Crete, Euthymius, assert that all the disciples and apostles surrounded Mother Mary just before her death. And she addressed them all in these words: “My beloved children, through love for you and to help you my Son left me on this earth. The holy faith is now spread throughout the world, already the fruit of the divine seed is grown up; hence my Lord, seeing that my assistance on earth is no longer necessary, and compassionating my grief in being separated from Him, has graciously listened to my desire to quit this life and to go and see Him in heaven. You all remain here on earth to labour for His glory. If I leave you, my heart remains with you; the great love I bear you I shall carry with me and always preserve. I go to Paradise to pray for you.”

When the apostle pleaded that she should bless them and never forget them, Mother Mary turning her eyes upon them, spoke her last parting words saying, “Adieu, my children! I bless you; fear not, I will never forget you.”

Today as we celebrate the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed

Virgin Mary, let us contemplate on the glory of this great Queen:

1) Mother Mary is Exalted far above the Angels: Of all the creatures of God, Mother Mary from the very moment of her birth had loved God more than all the men and angels put together. Therefore God has exalted her far above the angels. St. Thomas Aquinas said, “Blessed Virgin, who was equal to and even superior in merit to all men and angels, was exalted above all the celestial orders.”

2) Mother Mary is a Great Help in Heaven: As the glory of Mother Mary is greater than all the creatures, so her influence and power of intercession is also the greatest. Though she is no longer with us in her physical form, after her assumption her love and affection for us has never diminished; being nearer to God she knows our miseries well and her pity for us is greater and her help for us now is better.

As we celebrate this feast let us dedicate ourselves to the service of this Heavenly Mother, to honour and love her as much as we can, for she enriches her children with graces, merits and rewards.

- Rev. Fr. John Rose

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