

The Blessed Virgin Mary

16 August 2020

Hymn



**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his Word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy Name, the Lord, the mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his Word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and for evermore!**

Timothy Dudley-Smith b.1926

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Rev 12.1

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.

Greeting

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Penitential Act

The choir sings

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

The priest, deacon, or another minister says

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Silence. Then all say

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The priest says:

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness
to all who turn to him in faith:
pardon ✠ you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

Priest or Cantor All



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, hea-ven-ly King, al-migh-ty God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you,
we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je-sus Christ,
on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand
of the Fa - ther: re-ceive our prayer. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ,
with the Ho-ly Spi - rit, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Collect

Let us pray.

Loving God,
who chose the blessed virgin Mary
to be the mother of your incarnate Son:
grant that we, who are redeemed by his blood,
may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 61.10 – 62.3

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes

what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

For the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 113 (R.v.2)

R. Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.

- 1 Praise, O servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.
- 2 Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time on and forevermore. **R.**
- 3 From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- 4 The Lord is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens. **R.**
- 5 Who is like the Lord our God,
who is seated on high,
6 who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth? **R.**
- 7 The Lord raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
8 to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people. **R.**

Second Reading

Galatians 4.4-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

For the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Assumpta est Maria

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Mary has been taken up into heaven;
all the choirs of angels are rejoicing.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2.1-7

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

For the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Fr Graeme Kaines

REFLECTION ON OUR LADY

Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary, is honoured and revered as the Mother of our Lord., and we now have her very prominently in our liturgical Calendar in the Anglican Church. It is helpful to identify why we think so highly of her, almost apart from the fact that she is such an important mother.

In the Gospels we can read only snippets of information about Mary. The Gospels are principally about Jesus and references to others in his earthly story are for interest. So the Gospels have no interest in Mary for her own sake but only in relation to Jesus.

The Visit to Cousin Elisabeth. Mary does this to confirm the message she received from the Archangel, Gabriel is true. The fact that Elisabeth is expecting a child confirms for Mary that the Archangel was not a dream but Elisabeth is a sign to her that her own pregnancy is real and a birth will happen. Nevertheless we can also see in this visit an indication of Mary's thoughtfulness and generosity in going to look after Elisabeth.

Barren Women Pregnant. There is no suggestion that Mary is naturally incapable of giving birth to children. Elisabeth had never given birth previously and hers was an unexpected pregnancy. She belongs to a line of childless women who eventually gave birth to great biblical people who carried out God's plans in history. The birth of Jesus is of a different order which is unique.

Jesus Praises Mary for Who and What She Is A woman in a crowd suddenly cries out to Jesus, "Happy the womb which bore you!" and so on and Jesus responds "Still happier are they who hear the word of God and keep it!" Some take this as a put down of Mary but just as easily it affirms Mary as a model disciple for reasons which matter. We might say to someone how wonderful they are because of something they have done and someone else might reply that people who do a number of things, all of which the person has done, are wonderful.

Mary is regarded as first among the disciples – not because she is the mother of Jesus but because she was attentive to the Jesus’ words and put them into action. If we are looking for an ideal follower of Christ to imitate, Mary is our example and in her entrance into the heavenly presence of God we can see the future glory which God has in store for those who try their best to follow the way of Jesus.

Profession of Faith

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation,
he came down from heaven;
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life for the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The beginning of spring is upon us. Every year I am in awe at the bursting forth of the daffodils you see before you. They remind me that in the earth, cradled in darkness, and dirt, the bulbs sit for nine months seemingly they die, but then life begins to open in them.

And from this core of brown, uninspiring clod, comes a brilliant, perfectly formed, beautifully arrayed yellow piece of wonder.

Pretty much every time this happens I am moved to pray that every person could see themselves in this wonder-filled act of life -the bringing forth of beauty and light from dirt, dark, ordinariness even apparent death.

I'd invite you today, if you feel so inclined to keep your eyes open and dwell in the beauty of this flower that I hope might represent our prayers for the world much more effectively than my words.

Let us pray:

In the winding around of so many difficulties at this time in the world's history -of the pandemic, and its devastation in deaths, in illness, in fear, in social disarray, in human disconnection: that intertwined with the rising world unrest that seems to reflect both geopolitical and socio-racial distress, plus the incredible challenge of economic instability; capped by the continued alarm that is climate change; and all this straddled by the daily toll of life on our dear planet -Beirut, a disaster that should never have happened but has, refugees, homelessness, and our personal garden varieties of distress and challenge...relational, physical emotional, so many needs.

In all that, creator God, we would want to see in the simple daffodil before us the hope and promise of a life that is lived under the proposition of you in our lives -that there is a beauty and a hope so astounding that it can change everything for each human' each creature, each piece of flora, the very earth herself.

And while we are blessed in such a way that we see that beauty and wonder in this simple flower and know it tells a greater story -we would pray now that every one comes to know that story too, and that in recognising it, they and we are transformed by it; that it might bring courage, wisdom, comfort, possibility, creativity and love.

We ask that you sustain this world with your power.

It might seem trite but this daffodil is the work of The Creator of our world, and of every one of us. If this daffodil is, then we can believe in the prayers of our hearts for every person, creature, plant, and rock on our planet today.

Because this daffodil is a miracle, then the miracles we ask for in the name of those most in need, are more than a hope, they are a wonder we can hold.

Lord hear our prayers.

Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ.
God's Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

During the preparation of the gifts, the chant is sung. Please note that there will be no Collection taken up: offerings of money can be left in the Collection plates at the front and rear of the pews.

Canon

1. Ma-gni-fi-cat, ma-gni-fi-cat, 2. ma-gni-fi-cat a-ni-ma me-a Do-mi-num.

3. Ma-gni-fi-cat, ma-gni-fi-cat, 4. ma-gni-fi-cat a-ni-ma me - a.

Jacques Berthier 1923-1994

When all is prepared, the priest says,

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God, the Father almighty.

**May the Lord accept our sacrifice
for the praise and glory of God's name,
for our good, and the good of all God's holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

God of mercy,
receive all we offer you this day.
May we share with the Virgin Mary
the joys of your eternal kingdom,
and live with you in unending love.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, it is our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

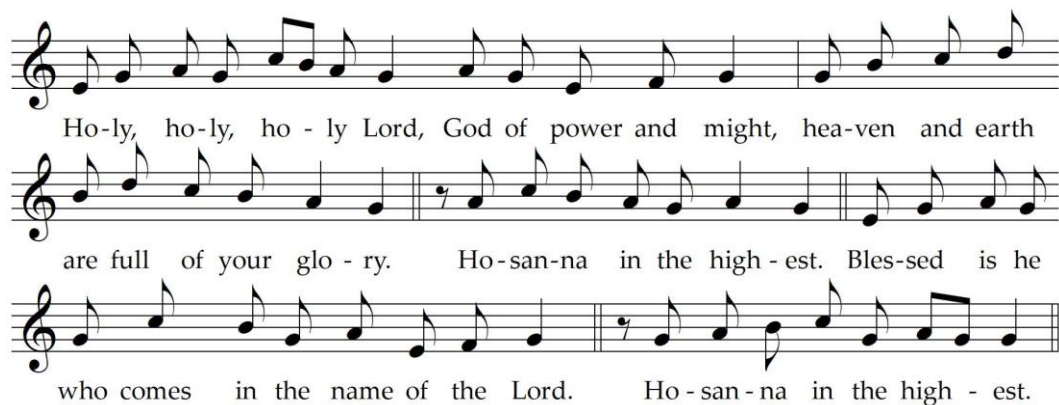
He is the Word through whom you made the universe,
the Saviour you sent to redeem us.

By the power of the Holy Spirit
he took flesh and was born of the Virgin Mary.
For our sake he opened his arms on the cross;
he put an end to death
and revealed the resurrection.

In this he fulfilled your will
and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks
because through the power of the Holy Spirit
the Blessed Virgin Mary, in obedience to your will,
became the mother of your Son,
who is for ever the Saviour of the world.

And so we join the angels and the saints
in proclaiming your glory as we say:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, hea-ven and earth
are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est. Bles-sed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Lord, you are holy indeed,
the fountain of all holiness.
Let your Spirit come upon these gifts
to make them holy,
so that they may become for us
the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Before he was given up to death,
a death he freely accepted,
he took bread and gave you thanks.
He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
'Take this, all of you, and eat it:
this is my body which will be given up for you.'

When supper was ended, he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks and praise,
gave the cup to his disciples, and said:
'Take this, all of you, and drink from it:
this is the cup of my blood,
the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.
It will be shed for you and for all

so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in memory of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



In memory of his death and resurrection,
we offer you, Father,
this life-giving bread,
this saving cup.

We thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.
May all of us who share
in the body and blood of Christ
be brought together in unity by the Holy Spirit.

Lord,
remember your Church throughout the world;
make us grow in love,
together with Geoffrey our bishop,
and all who minister in your Church.

Remember our brothers and sisters
who have gone to their rest
in the hope of rising again;
bring them and all the departed
into the light of your presence

Have mercy on us all;
make us worthy to share eternal life
with Mary, the virgin mother of God,
with the apostles,
and with Mary Magdalene and all the saints
who have done your will throughout the ages.
May we praise you in union with them,
and give you glory
through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through whom, with whom, in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
almighty Father,
for ever and ever. Amen

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

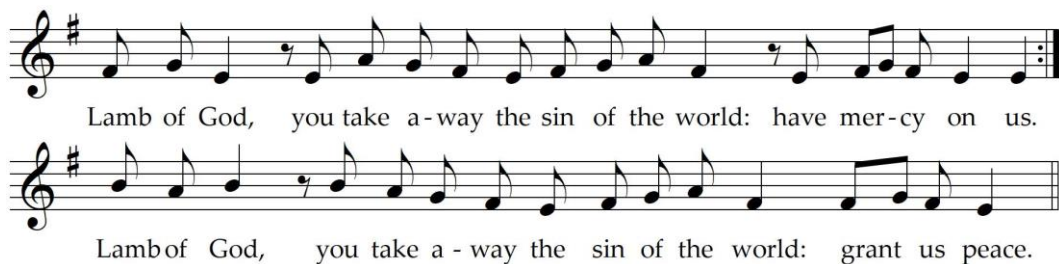
**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The priest breaks the bread, saying –

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

While the bread is broken Agnus Dei is sung –



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: grant us peace.

All receive Holy Communion.

Communion will be administered in one kind only.

Communicants are asked to approach the priest in single file, maintaining physical distance, returning to their places via the side aisles.

Those who are not to receive the Blessed Sacrament are invited to unite themselves with Jesus by making a Spiritual Communion.

Act of Spiritual Communion

St Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Communion Antiphon

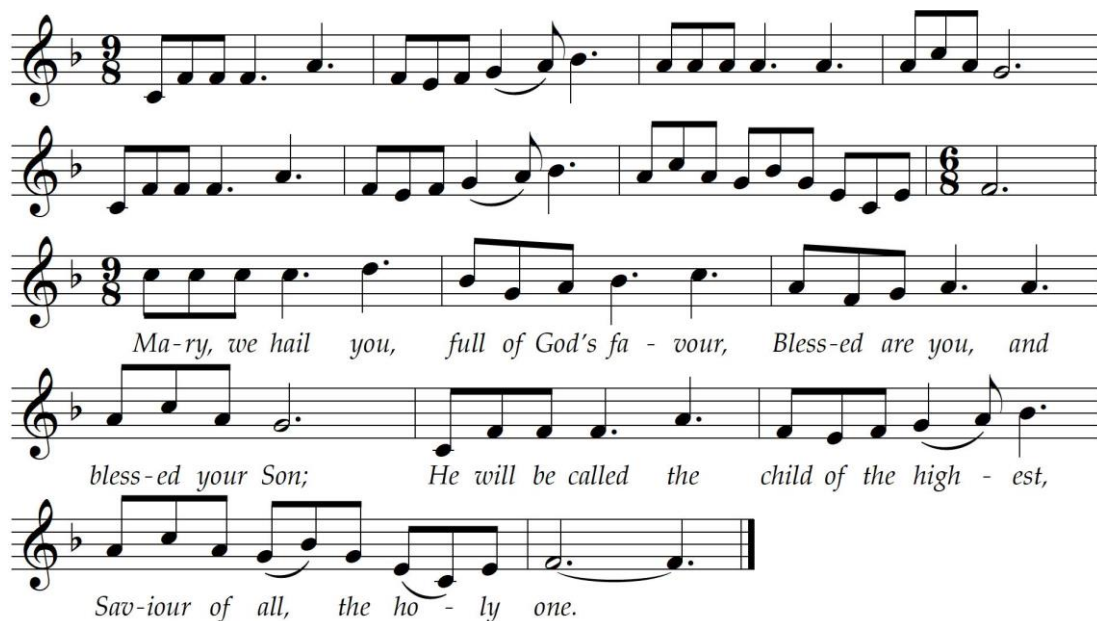
Luke 1.48-49

All generations will call me blessed,
for he who is mighty has done great things for me.

Prayer after Communion

God of grace,
today we raise our voices
to magnify your holy name,
and, in our own generation, to call her blessed
who became the mother of our Saviour Jesus Christ.
May we who have shared this holy food
continue, with her, in your glorious kingdom,
founded and established in Jesus Christ our Lord.
We ask this in his name. **Amen.**

Hymn



Ma-ry, we hail you, full of God's fa - vour, Bless-ed are you, and
bless-ed your Son; He will be called the child of the high - est,
Sav-iour of all, the ho - ly one.

**Heavenly message, brought by an angel
Coming to life the hopes of the earth;
Bringing to Mary humble and lowly,
God's invitation to give the Christ birth.**

*Mary, we hail you, full of God's favour,
Blessed are you, and blessed your son;
He will be called the child of the highest,
Saviour of all, the holy one.*

**Mary replied to Gabriel's message,
"I am the servant, maid of the Lord.
Let it be done just as you have spoken.
My soul rejoices in God's saving word."**

**In the beginning, when God had spoken,
Through God's own Word all things came to be;
Now by that Word, embodied through Mary,
God's glory blazes, that our eyes may see.**

Paul Gibson b.1932

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

God give you grace to follow Mary and all the saints
in faith and hope and love;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The priest, deacon, or another minister says

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.