

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

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

The mystery of faith. **When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
until you come again.**

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

REFLECTION:

Mary was a humble person. Humble people care nothing for acclaim. They receive praise and honour the way a clean window receives the light of the sun. The brighter and more intense the light is, the less you see of the glass. It retains nothing of the light for itself but lets it all shine through. Mary attributed everything to God: 'The Almighty has done great things for me; holy is his name.' Mary will help us to be humble, open and trusting before God. Then God will enrich us, and we too will sing his praises.

*Prayer after Communion:*

Having received the sacrament of our 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. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Final Blessing:*

The Lord be with you.  
May Almighty God bless you:  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
Go forth, the Mass is ended.

**And with your spirit.**

**Amen.**

**Thanks be to God.**

Life could be compared to a stream. In its journey to the sea a stream cannot always advance by the shortest route, but has to twist and turn, and pause a while here and there, without ever coming to a complete stop. And yet in spite of all this dallying, in spite of all these detours, how quickly life's stream runs down to the sea. Lord, may your gentle hand guide us, so that in spite of doubts, difficulties and dangers, we may keep the stream of our lives flowing towards your kingdom.

*A Prayer:* I don't suppose I shall ever understand, Lord, why you made men and women so that so much could go wrong with them, and they could deliberately or by stupidity cause so much hurt, harm and upset. I don't understand, but I still try to trust you. Is this what they call faith? Because, if so, it's the hardest test of stupidity over common sense I've ever met! Lord, I still try to believe. Help that part of me that can't believe!

## The Assumption of Our Lady



Entrance Antiphon: **A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.**

We celebrate today the taking up of Mary into the fullness of God's life. Mary's Assumption teaches us what will happen if we respond to God's invitation, to live well in the here and now. We give thanks to God for the gift of our physical life. We turn to God who, as Mary said, is rich in love and mercy.

Lord, your mercy reaches those who revere you. Lord, have mercy.  
You fill the hungry with good things. Christ have mercy.  
You raise up the powerless who trust in you. Lord, have mercy.

**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Let us pray:

Almighty and 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 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. **Amen.**

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse. **Apocalypse 11:19;12:1-6.10**  
The sanctuary of God in heaven opened, and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it. Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken

straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready. Then I heard a voice shout from heaven: 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 44

**Response: On your right stands the queen,  
in garments of gold.**

The daughters of kings are among your loved ones.

On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words:

forget your own people and your father's house. **Response**

So will the king desire your beauty:

He is your lord, pay homage to him.

They are escorted amid gladness and joy:

they pass within the palace of the king. **Response**

SECOND READING

A reading from St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

1 Cor 15:20-26

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-56

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glorify to you, Lord.**

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said: 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? From the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid. Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him. He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart. He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away. He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy - according to the promise he made to our ancestors - of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

*Offertory:*

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

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

*Prayer over the Offering:*

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

*Preface:*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just.**

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 was 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 marvelously brought forth your incarnate Son, the Author of all life.