

15 August – Assumption

This feast originated in Jerusalem before the fifth century as the “Falling-Asleep of the Mother of God.” It was adopted in Rome in the mid-seventh century and was renamed the “Assumption” in the next century. It celebrates Mary’s passing over, body and soul, from this world into the glory of her risen Son.

First Reading † Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6.10

I saw a woman clothed with the sun and with the moon beneath her feet.

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

Then the temple of God in heaven opened, and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside his temple. Then came flashes of lightning, peals of thunder and an earthquake and violent hail.

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, robed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying out in the pangs of childbirth. Then another sign appeared in the sky: there was a huge red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads seven diadems. Its tail swept away a third of the stars from the sky and hurled them to the ground, and the dragon took its stand in front of the woman as she was at the point of giving birth, so that it could eat up the child as soon as it was born. The woman gave birth to a son, a male child who was to shepherd all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was snatched away and taken to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where she has a place prepared by God so that she can be nourished there for twelve hundred and sixty days.

Then I heard a loud voice from heaven,

‘Now have come salvation and power and kingship of our God and authority for his Messiah.’

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial † Psalm 44:10-12.16

The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

The daughters of kings are those whom you favour.
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.
Listen, O daughter; pay heed and give ear:
forget your own people and your father’s house.

The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

So will the king desire your beauty.
He is your lord, pay homage to him.
They are led on amid gladness and joy;
they pass within the palace of the king.

The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

Second Reading † 1 Corinthians 15:20-27a

As members of Christ all people will be raised, Christ first, and after him all who belong to him.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

In fact, however, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have died. As it was by one man that death came, so through one man has come the resurrection of the dead. Just as in Adam all die, so in Christ will all be brought to life, but each in the proper order: Christ the first-fruits, and then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

After that comes the end, when he hands over the Kingdom to God the Father, when he has done away with every ruler, every authority and power. For he must reign *until he has put all his enemies under his feet*, and the last enemy to be done away with is death, for *he has put all things under his feet*.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Mary is taken up to heaven, and the angels of God shout for joy.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel † Luke 1:39-56

The Almighty has done great things for me; he has lifted up the lowly.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Mary set out at that time and went with haste into the hill country to a town in Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now it happened that when 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,

'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? Look, as soon as your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And, blessed is she who believed that what was said to her from the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
and my spirit *rejoices in God my Saviour*;
since *he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant*.

For see, from now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Almighty has done great things for me,
and *holy is his name*,
and *his mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear him*.

He has exerted the power of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their heart.
He has taken down princes from thrones and raised up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

*He has come to the help of Israel his servant,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
of his mercy to Abraham and his descendants for ever.'*

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

The Gospel of the Lord.