

# Readings: Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

First Reading: Revelation 4:1-11

I, John, had a vision of an open door to heaven,  
and I heard the trumpetlike voice  
that had spoken to me before, saying,  
"Come up here and I will show you what must happen afterwards."  
At once I was caught up in spirit.  
A throne was there in heaven, and on the throne sat one  
whose appearance sparkled like jasper and carnelian.  
Around the throne was a halo as brilliant as an emerald.  
Surrounding the throne I saw twenty-four other thrones  
on which twenty-four elders sat,  
dressed in white garments and with gold crowns on their heads.  
From the throne came flashes of lightning,  
rumblings, and peals of thunder.  
Seven flaming torches burned in front of the throne,  
which are the seven spirits of God.  
In front of the throne was something that resembled  
a sea of glass like crystal.  
In the center and around the throne,  
there were four living creatures  
covered with eyes in front and in back.  
The first creature resembled a lion, the second was like a calf,  
the third had a face like that of a man,  
and the fourth looked like an eagle in flight.  
The four living creatures, each of them with six wings,  
were covered with eyes inside and out.  
Day and night they do not stop exclaiming:  
"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and who is, and who is to come."  
Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks  
to the one who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,  
the twenty-four elders fall down  
before the one who sits on the throne  
and worship him, who lives forever and ever.  
They throw down their crowns before the throne, exclaiming:  
"Worthy are you, Lord our God,  
to receive glory and honor and power,  
for you created all things;

because of your will they came to be and were created."

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Responsorial Psalm: Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6

R/ Holy, holy, holy Lord, mighty God!

Praise the Lord in his sanctuary,  
praise him in the firmament of his strength.  
Praise him for his mighty deeds,  
praise him for his sovereign majesty.  
R/ Holy, holy, holy Lord, mighty God!

Praise him with the blast of the trumpet,  
praise him with lyre and harp,  
praise him with timbrel and dance,  
praise him with strings and pipe.  
R/ Holy, holy, holy Lord, mighty God!

Praise him with sounding cymbals,  
praise him with clanging cymbals.  
Let everything that has breath  
praise the Lord! Alleluia.

R/ Holy, holy, holy Lord, mighty God!

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Gospel Reading: Lk 19:11-28

Jesus was now near Jerusalem and the people with him thought that God's reign was about to appear. So as they were listening to him, Jesus went on to tell them a parable. He said, "A man of noble birth went to a distant place to have himself appointed king of his own people, after which he would return. Before he left, he summoned ten of his servants and gave them ten pounds. He said: 'Put this money to work until I get back.' But his compatriots who disliked him sent a delegation after him with this message: 'We do not want this man to be our king.'

"He returned, however, appointed as king. At once he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, to find out what profit each had made. The first came in and reported: 'Sir, your pound has earned ten more.'

"The master replied: 'Well done, my good servant. Since you have proved yourself capable in a small matter, I can trust you to take charge of ten cities.' The second reported: 'Sir, your pound earned five more pounds.' The master replied: 'Right, take charge of five cities.'

"The third came in and said: 'Sir, here is your money which I hid for safekeeping. I was afraid of you for you are an exacting person; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.' The master replied: 'You worthless servant, I will judge you by your own words. So you knew I was an exacting person, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow! Why, then, did you not put my money on loan so that when I got back I could have collected it with interest?'

"Then the master said to those standing by: 'Take from him that pound, and give it to the one with ten pounds.' They objected: 'But, sir, he already has ten!' I tell you: everyone who has will be given more; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for my enemies who did not want me to be king, bring them in and execute them right here in my presence."

So Jesus spoke, and he went on ahead of them, on his way to Jerusalem.

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