

Liturgy Alive of ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Solemnity

Greeting

Glory and honor to our risen Lord,
whose victory over death
was shared first by her
who was closest to him,
his Mother, the Virgin Mary.
May her Son, the Lord Jesus, be always with you.

R/ And also with you.

Introduction by the Celebrant

On today's feast of the Assumption we honor Mary not merely for a great privilege. We celebrate God's victory in her faith, her poverty and her unassuming service. As she was sure of God's love, her faith prompted her to accept the unexpected. Humbly and without reservation she served God's plans. She followed her Son in his life and his passion. This is why she is the first of all believers and the model of what the Church is called to be and what is in store for us. This is why she was the first to share in the total victory of her Son over death and is with him in heaven, body and soul. Let us thank God today for Mary.

Penitential Act

It is easy to praise Mary for the great things
which God did for her.
But have we tried with her to believe
and love and render humble service?
Let us examine ourselves.

(PAUSE)

Lord Jesus, you came to serve the Father and us,
and your mother served with you:

Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*

Jesus Christ, you did the will of the Father to the end
and your mother stood by your side:

Christ, have mercy. *R/ Christ, have mercy.*

Lord Jesus, you defeated death
by rising and ascending into heaven,
and you let your mother share in your glory
with her body and soul:

Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*

Almighty God, have mercy on us,
forgive us our reluctant service and poor faith
and take us up, like Mary,

into the joys of everlasting life. *R/ Amen.*

Opening Prayer

Let us thank God with Mary
and ask him for the strength of her faith

(PAUSE)

Lord our God,
you took Mary up into heaven
with her body as well as with her soul,
to share in the definitive triumph over death
of Jesus, your Son,
because on earth she humbly served your plans
as the first of those who believe.
Grant us her attitude
of trusting openness to your will,
that you may overcome evil and death in us
and lead us safely with Mary
into your everlasting joy.

We ask you this through Christ our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

First Reading Introduction : Mary Sums Up the Church

Christ is victorious over evil and is taken up into heaven. The woman of our text is the Church, but as Mary was eminently all that the Church is called to be, the liturgy applies the text to her. She is victorious with her Son.

Second Reading Introduction: Christ, Cause and Firstfruits of the Resurrection

Christ overcame death by his resurrection. He was the first to rise from the dead, but we shall follow him and rise because of him. This is why Mary, who shared in his life, his mission and suffering, could follow him in heaven, even bodily.

Gospel Introduction: God Exalts the Humble

Mary fully responds in humility and service to the plans of God. She recognizes that her greatness comes from God. It is God who exalts her and who will lift her up into heaven at her assumption. She sums up a humble and serving Church.

General Intercessions

With the help of Mary, our mother, let us pray together to our Father in heaven that he may look with favor upon us, his servants and do great things in us. Let us say: *R/ Lord, hear your people.*

- That the Lord may show his love to all those who try to serve him well, and that he may show his forgiving mercy to those who have failed him and one another, let us pray: *R/ Lord, hear your people.*

- That the Lord may show his power and defend the humble people who are trampled upon, and dispose us all to respect and love them, let us pray: *R/ Lord, hear your people.*

- That the Lord may give us the will and the strength to accomplish his word in our life, day after day, single-mindedly and joyfully, let us pray: *R/ Lord, hear your people.*

- That the Lord make us aware of the poverty of our heart, so that he can fill us with his gentleness, his acceptance of people, his care for the poor, let us pray: *R/ Lord, hear your people.*

- That the Lord may see to it that the hungry are fed, and dispose people and the mighty of the world to give everyone a fair share in the earth's goods, let us pray: *R/ Lord, hear your people.*

- That the Lord may take up all our beloved dead into his home of everlasting joy, let us pray: *R/ Lord, hear your people.*

Lord our God, on the feast of Mary's Assumption we pray: fill us with all good things, that we may bless your holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord our God,
in the signs of this bread and this wine
we make ourselves available to you
for giving your Son to the world
as Mary gave him once to us.
Let the world discover the presence of Jesus
in our humble service,
in our efforts to destroy all evil
and to build your world of life and hope.
Do these great things in us

through Jesus Christ our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

With Mary, we thank the Father today for the great things he has done in her and which he keeps doing for us through Jesus our Lord.

Invitation to the Lord's Prayer

In the words of Jesus
we pray to our Father

that his will may be done in us. *R/ Our Father...*

Deliver Us

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil
and from the ultimate enemy, death.
Let your compassion and faithful love
reach from age to age
and fill the hungry with good things,
as we wait in joyful hope
for our final resurrection

at the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. *R/ For the kingdom...*

Invitation to Communion

This is Jesus, the Lord, who said:
Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood
will live for ever
and I will raise them up on the last day.
Happy are we to be invited
to eat the Lord's body

and to share in his victory. *R/ Lord, I am not worthy...*

Prayer after Communion

God, who lifts up the humble,
in Mary you have given us a vision
of a Church that knows how to serve
and to hold on to you in life and in death.
With Mary, and in the strength of her Son,
may we be poor and humble enough
to listen to your word and live by it,
to visit our neighbor in need,
and be to the world the body of your Son,

until you let us share in your glory for ever. *R/ Amen.*

Blessing

What Mary was on earth,
we the Church are called to be:
believing in God's ways and guidance
even without knowing what the future will bring,
open to one another's needs,
serving with all that is in us.
May God give you this strength and bless you:

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *R/ Amen.*

Let us go in peace

to love and serve God in people. *R/ Thanks be to God.*

