

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, STAR OF THE SEA



LITURGY GUIDE

MASS AND LITURGY OF THE HOURS

MASS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, *STELLA MARIS*

Entry Antiphon

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

(Apocalypse 12,1)

Opening Prayer

Lord God, redeemer and inspiration of souls,
in the Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea,
you have provided a light in the storm.
By her favor and prayer,
grant that we may set a course through these times
to reach our safe haven in heaven with you.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

1st Reading Wisdom 14:1-7

You have established a steady path through the waves

Again one preparing for a voyage and about to traverse the wild waves cries out to wood more unsound than the boat that bears him. For the urge for profits devised this latter, and Wisdom the artificer produced it. But your providence, O Father! guides it, for you have furnished even in the sea a road, and through the waves a steady path, showing that you can save from any danger, so that even one without skill may embark. But you will that the products of your Wisdom be not idle; therefore men trust their lives even to frailest wood, and have been safe crossing the surge on a raft. For of old, when the proud giants were being destroyed, the hope of the universe, who took refuge on a raft, left to the world a future for his race, under the guidance of your hand. For blest is the wood through which justice comes about;

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 106, 2-3; 4-5; 6-7; 8-9.

R/. Trust in the Lord, for his mercy endures for ever.

Who can tell the mighty deeds of the LORD,
proclaim in full God's praise?
Happy those who do what is right,
whose deeds are always just.

R/. Trust in the Lord, for his mercy endures for ever.

Remember me, LORD, as you favor your people;
come to me with your saving help,
That I may see the prosperity of your chosen,
rejoice in the joy of your people, and glory with your heritage.

R/. Trust in the Lord, for his mercy endures for ever.

We have sinned like our ancestors; we have done wrong and are guilty.
Our ancestors in Egypt did not attend to your wonders.
They did not remember your great love;
they defied the Most High at the Red Sea.

R/. Trust in the Lord, for his mercy endures for ever.

Yet he saved them for his name's sake to make his power known.
He roared at the Red Sea and it dried up.
He led them through the deep as through a desert.

R/. Trust in the Lord, for his mercy endures for ever.

Alleluia

Numbers 24, 17

A star shall come out of Jacob,
and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

Behold, you will conceive and bear a son.

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Prayer over the gifts

Accept, Lord, these gifts which we offer.
As we honor the Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea,
grant us the never-failing light
of the word and example of your only Son
to guide our steps.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Preface

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

Salvation is in his name alone.
Before his rule every knee shall bow,
in heaven, on earth and under the earth.

In your kind providence
you have established that the name of the Virgin Mary
should be celebrated among the faithful,
to look to her as a star shining in the firmament,
to call upon her in danger,
and to fly to her embrace in their needs.

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

Communion antiphon

We saw his star rising in the East,
and we have come to pay homage to the Lord.

(cf Matthew 2,2)

Closing Prayer

You have nourished us, Lord, with this sacred banquet
as we celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea.
With the light of Mary to guide us,
may we come to enjoy the splendor of your only Son.
We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BLESSED VIRGIN, MARY STAR OF THE SEA

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

The Office of Readings

Second Reading

From the writing of St. Bernard of Clairvaux

(In praise of the Virgin Mary, Hom II, 17: SCb 390, PP168-170)

Depend upon the star, call upon Mary

Let us say a few words on this name, Stella Maris, which means star of the sea, and which is appropriately accorded to the Virgin Mother. Fittingly is she compared to the stars, since just as a star gives light without burning itself out, so the virgin gave birth to her son without stain to herself. As a star's light does not lessen its own brightness so neither does the Son lessen the Virgin's wholeness. She is therefore that noble *star rising from Jacob* which casts light over the whole world; whose splendor shines to the heavens and reaches down into the deep; which crosses the earth, warming spirits rather than bodies; fostering goodness and purging sins.

And so I say that she is that bright and distinguished star to be raised above this vast ocean, sparkling with merit, shining with character. Whoever you may be, grasp that, as this age runs its course, you are tossed on the waves by gales and storms more than you walk upon dry land; do not turn your eyes from the beam of this star if you do not wish to be swamped by the storm! If the winds of temptation engulf you, if you are running onto the rocks of adversity, depend upon the star, call upon Mary. If you are thrown about on the waves of pride or ambition, speaking ill of others or jealousy, depend upon the star, call upon Mary. If anger or greed or the cares of the flesh batter your soul's boat, depend upon Mary. If you are unsettled by the hideousness of your sins, troubled by a bad conscience, terrified by the horror of the final judgment; if you are beginning to be dragged down into the pit of sadness, into the abyss of despair, reflect upon Mary. In danger; in distress, in doubt, reflect upon Mary, call upon Mary. Let her not leave your lips, let her not leave your heart and do not abandon your dealings with her if you wish to gain the object of your prayer.

Following her, you will not stray; praying to her, you will not despair; reflecting upon her, you will not go wrong. With her taking your hand, you will not fall down; with her protecting you, you will not fear; with her leading you, you will not grow weary; with her favor, you will accomplish; and thus you will learn for yourself how truly it is said: *And the Virgin's name was Mary.*

But now, having pause for a moment, let us all who are passing through this life gaze upon the brightness of such a light. For in the words of the Apostle, *It is good for us to be here*, and it is pleasing to contemplate in silence what which many words fail to explain. In the meantime, while contemplating devotedly the shining star, the debate will be rekindled in what follows.

Response:

R/. Virgin mother of Christ, you brought to birth the very likeness of God; shining star of the sea, watch over and protect us. *As you give birth and rejoice, the hosts of heaven sing praises.

V/. Pray to God for us O Virgin Mary. *As you give birth ...

Benedictus antiphon:

Mary and running streams, O bless the Lord: springs of water, O sing to the Lord, alleluia.

Magnificat antiphon:

This star is like a blazing fire, which shows the King of kings as God, alleluia.

