

AUGUST 15, ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM

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Among the feasts of the Blessed Virgin that of the *dormitio sanctae Mariae*, or of her bodily assumption into heaven, was from very early times the most solemn and the most widely observed. In the time of Pope Sergius I a solemn procession proceeded to St. Mary Major, where Mass was celebrated. It was customary to carry images of the Savior and of His Blessed Mother in this procession; outside of Rome a similar ceremony was observed.

It should, however, be borne in mind that though the divine maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary may be regarded as the immediate reason of her Assumption into heaven, yet the first and formal reason of this privilege is to be sought in her Immaculate Conception. It is true, indeed, that the dignity of the Mother of the Incarnate Word was the primary reason for which God preserved the Immaculate Conception of Mary from all stain of original sin – and in this sense the Gregorian Sacramentary rightly attributes the reason of the bodily resurrection of the Blessed Virgin to her prerogative as Mother of the Word – but in order to express this truth with perfect accuracy, it is necessary to say that the formal reason for the preservation of her body from corruption was precisely her immunity from all stain of original sin.

INTROIT Apocalypse 12: 1

Signum magnum appáruit in cælo: mûlier amicta sole, et luna sub pèdibus ejus, et in cápite ejus coróna stellárum duódecim. (Ps. 97: 1) Cantáte Dómino cánticum novum: quóniam mirabilia fecit. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Signum magnum appáruit in cælo: mûlier amicta sole, et luna sub pèdibus ejus, et in cápite ejus coróna stellárum duódecim.

COLLECT

Omnípotens sempitérne Deus, qui immaculátam Virgíne[m] Mariám, Filii tui genitricem, córpore et ánima ad cæléstem glóriam assumpsísti: concéde, quæsumus; ut, ad superna semper inténti, ipsíus glóriæ mereámur esse consórtes. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Judith 13: 22-25; 15: 10

Benedíxit te Dóminus in virtúte sua, quia per te ad níhilum redégit inimicos nostros. Benedícta es tu, fíliá, a Dómino Deo excelso, præ ómnibus muliéribus super terram. Benedíctus Dóminus, qui creávit cælum et terram, qui te direxit in vúlnera cápitis princípis inimicórum nostrórum; quia hódie nomen tuum ita magnificávit, ut non recédát laus tua de ore hóminum, qui mémoires fúerint virtútis Dómini in ætérnum, pro quibus non pepercísti ánimæ tuæ propter angústias et tribulatió[n]em géneris tui, sed subvenísti ruínæ ante conspéctum Dei nostri. Tu glória Jerúsalem, tu lætítia Israél, tu honorificéntia pópuli nostri.

GRADUAL Psalms 44: 11-12, 14

Audi, fíliá, et vide, et inclína aurem tuam, et concupíscit Rex pulchritúdinem tuam. Tota decóra ingréditur fíliá Regis, textúræ aureæ sunt amíctus ejus.

LESSER ALLELUIA

Allelúja, allelúja. Assumpta est María in cælum: gaudet exércitus Angelórum. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Luke 1: 41-50

In illo témpore: Repléta est Spíritu Sancto Elisabeth et exclamávit voce magna, et dixit: Benedícta tu inter mulieres, et benedíctus fructus ventris tui. Et unde hoc mihi ut véniat mater Dómini mei ad me? Ecce enim ut facta est vox salutatió[n]is tuæ in áuribus meis, exultávit in gáudio infans in útero meo. Et beáta, quæ credidísti, quóniam perficiéntur ea, quæ dicta sunt tibi a Dómino. Et ait María: Magnificat ánima mea Dóminum; et exultávit spíritus meus in Deo salutári meo; quia respéxit humilitátem ancillæ suæ, ecce enim ex hoc beátam me dicent omnes generatió[n]es. Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est, et sanctum nomen ejus, et misericórdia ejus a progénie in progénies timéntibus eum.

OFFERTORY Genesis 3: 15

Inimicitias ponam inter te et mulierem, et semen tuum et semen illius.

SECRET

Ascéndat ad te, Dómine, nostræ devotió[n]is oblátio, et, beatíssima Virgíne María in cælum assumpta intercedénte, corda nostra, caritátis igne succénsa, ad te júgiter ádspirent. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF THE BVM

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper et ubíque grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnípotens, ætérne Deus: Et te in Festivitate beátæ Mariæ semper Virgínis collaudáre, benedícere et prædicáre. Quæ et Unigénitum tuum Sancti Spíritus obumbratió[n]e concépit: et, virginitátis glória permanénte, lumen ætérnum mundo effúdit, Jesum Christum, Dóminum nostrum. Per quem maiestátē tuam laudant Ángeli, adórant Dominatió[n]es, tremunt Potestátes. Cæli cælórúmque Virtútes ac beáta Séraphim sócia exsultatió[n]e concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces ut admitti júbeas, deprecámur, súplici confessió[n]e dicéntes:

COMMUNION Luke 1: 48-49

Beátam me dicent omnes generatió[n]es, quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est.

POSTCOMMUNION

Sumptis, Dómine, salutáribus sacraméntis: da, quæsumus; ut, méritis et intercessió[n]e beátæ Virgínis Mariæ in cælum perducámur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

A great sign appeared in heaven: A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. (Ps. 97: 1) Sing ye to the Lord a new canticle: because He hath done wonderful things. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. A great sign appeared in heaven: A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

Almighty everlasting God, who hast taken body and soul into heaven the Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of Thy Son: grant, we beseech Thee, that by steadfastly keeping heaven as our goal we may be counted worthy to join her in glory. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

The Lord hath blessed thee by His power, because by thee He hath brought our enemies to nought. Blessed art thou, O daughter, by the Lord the most high God, above all women upon the earth. Blessed be the Lord who made heaven and earth, who hath directed thee to the cutting off the head of the prince of our enemies. Because He hath so magnified thy name this day that thy praise shall not depart out of the mouth of men who shall be mindful of the power of the Lord, for ever: for that thou hast not spared thy life, by reason of the distress and tribulation of thy people; but hast prevented our ruin in the presence of our God. Thou art the glory of Jerusalem, thou art the joy of Israel, thou art the honor of our people.

Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear: and the King shall greatly desire thy beauty. All beautiful is the King's daughter as she comes in, robed in cloth of gold.

Alleluia, alleluia. Mary has been assumed into heaven: the angelic host rejoices. Alleluia.

At that time: Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost. And she cried out with a loud voice and said: Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed art thou that hast believed, because those things shall be accomplished that were spoken to thee by the Lord. And Mary said: My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. Because He hath regarded the humility of His handmaid: for behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. Because He that is mighty hath done great things to me: and holy is His name. And His mercy is from generations to generations to them that fear Him.

I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed.

May our offering of due service rise unto Thee, O Lord: and through the prayer of the most Blessed Virgin Mary, assumed by Thee into heaven, may our hearts be set on fire with love and ever yearn for Thee. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation that we always and everywhere give thanks unto Thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God: and that we should praise and bless, and proclaim Thee, in this feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, ever Virgin: Who also conceived Thine only-begotten Son by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, and the glory of her virginity still abiding, gave forth to the world the everlasting Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through whom the Angels praise Thy majesty, the Dominations adore, the Powers tremble: the heavens and the hosts of heaven, and the blessed Seraphim, together celebrate in exultation. With whom, we pray Thee, command that our voices of supplication also be admitted in confessing Thee saying:

All generations shall call me blessed. Because He that is mighty hath done great things to me.

Through the merits and prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, by Thee assumed into heaven, may we, O Lord, who have received the sacraments of salvation, come to the glory of the resurrection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.