

# The Eucharist

8 December 2020 ♦ THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



**T**oday's feast celebrates the teaching that 'from the first moment of her conception, the Blessed Virgin Mary was, by the singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of humankind, kept free from all sin'. This expression of belief was formulated in 1854.



*Mary said to the angel Gabriel: 'I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me.'*

## FIRST READING *(Genesis 3:9-15.20)*

The Church places this reading before us today to be heard and understood in connection with the passage from Luke's gospel. Eve is the focus of this excerpt. She is portrayed as the mother of all the living and as someone who did not listen to God, or take account of the place God has in creation.

## SECOND READING *(Ephesians 1:3-6.11-12)*

The sweep of this reading extends back beyond that of the previous one to the time before the world was made. It underlines the belief that the person and role of Jesus the Christ was in place from the beginning and not simply thought up by God the Creator as a consequence of the story from the first reading.

## GOSPEL *(Luke 1:26-38)*

In marked contrast to the reading from Genesis, Mary is portrayed in the Infancy Story of Luke's Gospel as one who did listen to the word of God and who made a place for the person of God in her life. Her call has many of the features of the call of a prophet and this is not surprising because, like them, she proclaimed the greatness of the Lord.

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Antiphon

*(Is 61:10)*

**I rejoice heartily in the Lord,  
in my God is the joy of my soul;  
for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation,  
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,  
like a bride adorned with her jewels.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**And with your spirit.**

### Penitential Act

Brethren (brothers and sisters),  
let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves  
to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

*A brief pause for silence follows.*

**I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,**

*And, striking their breasts, they say:*

**through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

### Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Collect**

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin  
prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son,  
grant, we pray,  
that, as you preserved her from every stain  
by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you foresaw,  
so, through her intercession,  
we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING**

*(Gn 3:9-15.20)*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

After Adam had eaten of the tree, the Lord God called to him. 'Where are you?' he asked. 'I heard the sound of you in the garden', he replied. 'I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.' 'Who told you that you were naked?' he asked. 'Have you been eating of the tree I forbade you to eat?' The man replied, 'It was the woman you put with me; she gave me the fruit, and I ate it.' Then the Lord God asked the woman, 'What is this you have done?' The woman replied, 'The serpent tempted me and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this,

'Be accursed beyond all cattle,  
all wild beasts.  
You shall crawl on your belly and eat dust  
every day of your life.  
I will make you enemies of each other:  
you and the woman,  
your offspring and her offspring.  
It will crush your head  
and you will strike its heel.'

The man named his wife 'Eve' because she was the mother of all those who live.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*(Ps 97:1-4)*

**R** Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation. **R**
2. The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel. **R**
3. All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy. **R**

**SECOND READING**

*(Eph 1:3-6.11-12)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.  
Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of  
heaven in Christ.

Before the world was made, he chose us,  
chose us in Christ,  
to be holy and spotless, and to live through love  
in his presence,  
determining that we should become his adopted sons,  
through Jesus Christ  
for his own kind purposes,  
to make us praise the glory of his grace,  
his free gift to us in the Beloved.  
And it is in him that we were claimed as God's own,  
chosen from the beginning,  
under the predetermined plan of the one who guides  
all things  
as he decides by his own will;  
chosen to be,  
for his greater glory,  
the people who would put their hopes in Christ  
before he came.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*(Cf. Lk 1:28)*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Hail, Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee!**

**Blessed art thou among women.**

**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

*(Lk 1:26-38)*



The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Luke.

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you,' the angel answered, 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary, 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Profession of Faith**

*(Nicene Creed)*

**I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.**

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*At the words that follow, up to and including  
and became man, all bow.*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*The priest introduces the Prayer of the Faithful.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),  
that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good  
and the good of all his holy Church.**

### Prayer over the Offerings

Graciously accept the saving sacrifice  
which we offer you, O Lord,  
on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
and grant that, as we profess her,  
on account of your prevenient grace,  
to be untouched by any stain of sin,  
so, through her intercession,  
we may be delivered from all our faults.  
Through Christ our Lord.

### Eucharistic Prayer III

*(Preface of the Immaculate Conception)*

The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you preserved the most Blessed Virgin Mary  
from all stain of original sin,  
so that in her, endowed with the rich fullness of your grace,  
you might prepare a worthy Mother for your Son  
and signify the beginning of the Church,  
his beautiful Bride without spot or wrinkle.

She, the most pure Virgin, was to bring forth a Son,  
the innocent Lamb who would wipe away our offences;  
you placed her above all others  
to be for your people an advocate of grace  
and a model of holiness.

And so, in company with the choirs of Angels,  
we praise you, and with joy we proclaim:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,  
and all you have created  
rightly gives you praise,  
for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by the power and working of the Holy Spirit,  
you give life to all things and make them holy,  
and you never cease to gather a people to yourself,  
so that from the rising of the sun to its setting  
a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you:  
by the same Spirit graciously make holy  
these gifts we have brought to you for consecration,  
that they may become the Body and  $\text{✠}$  Blood  
of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed  
he himself took bread,  
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,  
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,  
he took the chalice,  
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,  
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:  
TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

Amen.

The mystery of faith.

**Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.**

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial  
of the saving Passion of your Son,  
his wondrous Resurrection  
and Ascension into heaven,  
and as we look forward to his second coming,

we offer you in thanksgiving  
this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church  
and, recognising the sacrificial Victim by whose death  
you willed to reconcile us to yourself,  
grant that we, who are nourished  
by the Body and Blood of your Son  
and filled with his Holy Spirit,  
may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

May he make of us  
an eternal offering to you,  
so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect,  
especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary,

Mother of God,  
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,  
with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs  
(with Saint N.: *the Saint of the day or Patron Saint*)  
and with all the Saints,  
on whose constant intercession in your presence  
we rely for unfailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation,  
we pray, O Lord,  
advance the peace and salvation of all the world.  
Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity  
your pilgrim Church on earth,  
with your servant N. our Pope and N. our Bishop,  
the Order of Bishops, all the clergy,  
and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family,  
whom you have summoned before you:  
in your compassion, O merciful Father,  
gather to yourself all your children  
scattered throughout the world.

To our departed brothers and sisters  
and to all who were pleasing to you  
at their passing from this life,  
give kind admittance to your kingdom.  
There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory  
through Christ our Lord,  
through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command  
and formed by divine teaching,  
we dare to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, ...

**For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ, ...

**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And with your spirit.**

*The priest may invite the people to exchange a sign of peace  
and Christian fellowship. As the priest breaks the consecrated  
Host the following is sung or said:*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.**

*Showing the Host to the people, the priest says:*

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.**

**Communion Antiphon**

(Ps 84:13)

**Glorious things are spoken of you, O Mary,  
for from you arose the sun of justice,  
Christ our God.**

**Prayer after Communion**

May the Sacrament we have received,  
O Lord our God,  
heal in us the wounds of that fault  
from which in a singular way  
you preserved Blessed Mary in her  
Immaculate Conception.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Personal Prayer**

I bless you, Lord, and I thank you. Even before the world  
was made, you planned to create us in your image. You  
made us your children. You sent your only Son into the  
world for our redemption.

You prepared, by special graces, Mary to be his mother.  
Mary was happy when the angel told her that God was  
with her, that she had won his favour and would be the  
mother of the Saviour.

Mary put her trust in God, accepting his will. Lord, your  
call to the Christian life can be difficult. But I know that  
you'll be near me to help me through life. Amen.