

Sunday Message

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

THE WORD

Year A • 16 August 2026 • Psalter Week 4

MARY VISITS ELIZABETH

LUKE 1:39-56



Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, who is also miraculously expecting a child. Elizabeth hears Mary's greeting and the child in her womb leaps, and Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit. She acknowledges Mary's blessedness and the divine life growing within her.

Mary's response, the Magnificat, is a hymn of praise that reflects deep insight and personal humility. She exalts God for his mighty deeds, mercy, and faithfulness to Israel, recognising that God lifts the lowly, fills the hungry, and scatters the proud. Mary's words echo Old Testament themes, particularly Hannah's song in 1 Samuel, connecting God's work in her life to God's ongoing plan for salvation.

Luke emphasises the intimate cooperation of Mary with God's will. Her humility, openness, and joy provide a model of discipleship. The Gospel also highlights the role of community: Elizabeth's recognition encourages Mary's faith, showing that God often works through human relationships. The Visitation and the Magnificat invite readers to respond with praise, trust, and an awareness of God's action in the world. ■

REFLECT

The Feast of the Assumption celebrates Mary being taken, body and soul, into heaven. It is a reminder of the destiny God offers to all who live in faith and love. Mary's life, reflected in the Visitation and the Magnificat, shows complete surrender to God's will, profound humility, and joyful service to others. Her Assumption is the crown of that faithful life, a sign of hope for all who follow Christ.

For us, this feast calls us to reflect on our own journey. It invites us to live with openness to God, trusting that even our ordinary acts of love and obedience have eternal significance. Just as Mary's life was marked by praise, care for others, and faithfulness, we too are called to cultivate hearts attuned to God's presence, attentive to the needs around us, and willing to say "yes" in our daily lives.

The Assumption also reassures us that God's plan for humanity is one of fulfilment and glory. It encourages us to persevere through life's struggles, keeping our eyes on the promise of eternal life and striving to reflect Mary's humility, faith, and joy in our own lives. ■

SAY

Mary, Mother of God,
help us to follow your example of
faith, humility, and love.
Guide us to say "yes" to God in our
daily lives and to live with hope in his
promise of eternal life.
Amen.

LEARN

The Church teaches that Mary, preserved from sin and taken body and soul into heaven, is a sign of the destiny God offers all who live in faith. Her Assumption reminds us of the hope of eternal life and calls us to live in holiness and trust in God's plan.

DO

Today, take a moment to reflect on Mary's "yes" to God and consider one way you can say "yes" in your own life – a small act of kindness, service, or trust in God.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

Or

*Let us all rejoice in the Lord,
as we celebrate the feast day in honour of the Virgin Mary,
at whose Assumption the Angels rejoice
and praise the Son of God.*

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son,
body and soul into heavenly glory,
grant, we pray,
that, always attentive to the things that are above,
we may merit to be sharers of her glory.
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.

FIRST READING Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple.

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God.

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 45(44):10. 11. 12. 16. R. 10b

R: *On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.*

1. The daughters of kings are those whom you favour.
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir. **R.**
2. Listen, O daughter; pay heed and give ear:
forget your own people and your father's house. **R.**
3. So will the king desire your beauty.
He is your lord, pay homage to him. **R.**
4. They are escorted amid gladness and joy;
they pass within the palace of the king. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:20-27

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming

those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For 'God has put all things in subjection under his feet.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

R: *Alleluia, alleluia.*

Mary has been taken up into heaven;
the host of angels rejoice.

R: *Alleluia.*

GOSPEL Luke 1:39-56

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring for ever.' And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this oblation, our tribute of homage,
rise up to you, O Lord,
and, through the intercession of the most Blessed Virgin Mary,
whom you assumed into heaven,
may our hearts, aflame with the fire of love,
constantly long for you.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*All generations will call me blessed,
for he who is mighty has done great things for me.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the Sacrament of salvation,
we ask you to grant, O Lord,
that, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
whom you assumed into heaven,
we may be brought to the glory of the resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.