The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

December 8





Antiphon: <u>I</u> <u>will</u> greatly rejoice in <u>the</u> Lord,* my soul shall exult <u>in</u> my God,

> For God has clothed me with the garments of <u>sal</u>vation,* and has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bride adorns <u>her</u>self with her jewels.

Psalm. I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have <u>lift</u>-ed me up,* and have not let my enemies tri-<u>umph</u> over me.

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Gloria Patri. <u>Glo</u>-<u>ry</u> to the Father, and to the Son↓
and to the <u>Ho</u>ly Spirit, *
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever,
For all ages <u>of</u> ages. Amen
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Antiphon:

The Kyrie or Litany

The Collect:

O Lord, we ask you to bestow on us your servants the gift of your heavenly grace; that as our salvation began by the childbearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary, so this devout solemnity of her conception in the body of her mother Anne, may afford us an increase of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*

Or

O God, who by the Conception of the Virgin Mary, prepared a worthy dwelling for the coming gestation of your Son, that she would contain within her, He whom the world cannot contain, grant that, by the celebration of this feast, we too, may be filled with the dwelling of Christ within us and present him to the world; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*

The First Reading: Genesis 3:9-15,20

But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel. The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

The Gradual Cantate Domino ... fecit, Psalm 98:1, vs 1,2/3,4/5,6



V. He remembers his mercy and faithfulness

and all the ends of the earth have seen

the victory of our God. Antiphon.

to the house of Israel, *

V. Shout with joy to the LORD, <u>all</u> you lands; * lift up your voice, <u>rejoice</u>, and sing.
V. Sing to the <u>LORD</u> with the harp, * with the harp and <u>the</u> voice of song. Antiphon.

The Epistle: Ephesians 1:3-6,11,12

Brethren: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.



The GospelLuke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, '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 holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

The Nicene Creed



V. Hail, <u>Mary</u>, full of grace, the Lord is <u>with</u> you; * blessed are you among women, <u>al</u>leluia.

The Prayer over the gifts:

Lord, accept this sacrifice on the feast of the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. You chose her to be the Mother of your Son from the first moment of her life but waited for her obedient response. Help us by her prayers and free us from our sins; Through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. *Amen*.

Preface of The conception of Mary (Ambrosian Rite)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, Always, here, and everywhere to give you thanks, O Lord Holy Father, almighty and eternal God:

You endowed the Virgin Mary with the fullness of your grace So as to make her a worthy mother of your Son. In her you mark the beginning of your Church, Which is to be presented to Christ as his fair and spotless bride.

Purest of Virgins, she was to bear your Son, the innocent Lamb, who takes away our sins. You chose her before all other women To be for your people an advocate of grace and a pattern of holiness.

Therefore, we your people bound to her in love, Give thanks for the virtues of our holy Mother And together with her and the powers of heaven we worship you In their unending hymn of praise...

The Blessing before the Pax Domini:

R. May the Son of God who was born of the Virgin Mary, and redeemed mankind enrich you with his blessings. **V**. *Amen*.

R. May you, who received the Author of life through Mary, always rejoice in her loving care. **V**. *Amen*.

R. May you who have come to rejoice at Mary's feast, be filled with the joys of the Spirit and the gifts of your eternal home. **V**. *Amen*.

R. And the peace of the Lord be always with you!

V. And with your spirit!



V. Glorious things are spoken of you, O Mary, * for the Almighty has done great things for you.

The Postcommunion Collect:

O God, you chose that your Word should be made flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the message of an angel: Grant that we, your humble servants, believing her to be truly the Mother of God, may, by her intercession, find favor in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

Hymn:

1. Mary most pure, O star of the morning, chosen before the creation began, chosen to bring, for your bridal adorning, woe to the serpent and rescue to Man.

2. Here, in an orbit of shadow and sadness veiling your splendour, your course you have run; now you are throned in all glory and gladness, crowned by the hand of your Saviour and Son.

3. Sinners, we honour your sinless perfection; fallen and weak, for your pity we plead; grant us the shield of your sovereign protection, measure your aid by the depth of our need

4. Frail is our nature, and strict our probation,Watchful the foe that would lure us to wrong:Strengthen our souls in the hour of temptation,Mary most holy, most tender and strong.

See how the wiles of the serpent assail us,
 See how we waver and flinch in the fight:
 Let your most holy and pure prayer avail us,
 Make of our weakness a proof of your might.

6. Bend from your throne at the voice of our crying, bend to this earth which your footsteps have trod; stretch out your arms to us living and dying, Mary most pure, O Mother of God.