

The Collect

Almighty God,
who looked upon the lowliness
of the Blessed Virgin Mary and chose her to be the
mother of your only Son:
grant that we who are redeemed by his blood may
share with her in the glory
of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

First Reading Revelation 11:19 – 12.6

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 there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail. A great portent 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 pangs, in the agony of giving birth. Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born. And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. But her child was snatched away and taken to God and to his throne; and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, so that there she can be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Psalms 45:10-17

Hear, O daughter; consider and incline your ear; forget your own people and your father's house. So shall the king have pleasure in your beauty; he is your lord, so do him honour. **R**

The people of Tyre shall bring you gifts; the richest of the people shall seek your favour. The king's daughter is all glorious within; her clothing is embroidered cloth of gold. **R**

She shall be brought to the king in raiment of needlework; after her the virgins that are her companions. With joy and gladness shall they be brought and enter into the palace of the king. **R**

'Instead of your fathers you shall have sons whom you shall make princes over all the earth. 'I will make your name to be remembered through all generations; therefore shall the peoples praise you for ever and ever.' **R**

Second Reading Galatians 4.4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Gospel Reading Luke 1.46-55

'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 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 powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

cf. v. 17b The peo - ples shall praise you for e - ver.