



January 1st, 2010

Mary Mother of God

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray: God our Father, may we always profit by the prayers of the Virgin Mother Mary, for you bring us life and salvation through Jesus Christ her Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

(God reveals to Moses His graciousness and benevolence towards the people of Israel.)

A reading from the Book of Numbers (6:22-27)

The Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron and his sons, 'Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.' So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

This is the Word of the Lord

PSALM (66)

Response: O God, be gracious and bless us.

God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. R./

Let the nations be glad and exult, for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. R./

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing, till the ends of the earth revere him. R./

SECOND READING

(St Paul stresses the self-humiliation of the Son of God who deigned to be born of a mother like any human child. He also reminds Galatians to live in mature freedom because the Son has redeemed us.)

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Galatians (4:4-7)

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

This is the Word of the Lord

ACCLAMATION (Heb 1:1-2)

Alleluia, alleluia! In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

(St Luke mentions Mary’s part in the wonderful mystery of God’s love for human beings—the Incarnation—and invites us to live reflectively like Mary.)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke (2:16-21)

The shepherds went with haste to Bethlehem and they found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

This is the Gospel of the Lord