

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

She was part of the first Gospel Promise. She was the woman through whom the Seed of Abraham would take root, the shoot from the stump of Jesse springing forth from her. Isaiah prophesied of her. Archangels spoke of her and to her. And God chose her to bear Him. The angels visited her for, like the cherubim, they worship the God that dwelt for a time upon the mercy seat of her womb. She was full of grace as Love incarnate grew inside of her

The inspired Word of God clearly reports the angelic salutation “Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you, blessed art thou among women.” Her response, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be unto me according to your word”, has been an example for men of faith since she spoke it. And if anything or anyone was ever blessed, it is the ever-blessed Fruit of her womb.

Faith sees Mary too in the sun-clothed woman revealed to St. John, the moon at her feet, wearing a garland of twelve stars, giving birth to the Savior. The superlative description of the Savior being brought forth reminds us that while it is the Church that brings Him forth, yet is the Lion born of Judah’s Virgin Daughter.

But John sees that Woman cry out in the pains of labor. He sees her give birth in pain. If this is Mary, then the Only-begotten Son of God opens her womb. So we see that as with the brazen serpent on the pole that Moses held before Israel, fallen men will confuse the deliverance God gives through means - with the means itself. For just as men would later wrongly worship the bronze serpent, so have fallen men attributed to the Virgin Mary much that Scripture does not assert. It is the way of the sinful flesh to craft idols from even the best gifts that God gives, and of those He gives them through.

But the Word of God prevents those with faith in Christ from seeking intervention from any other, even from an angel, even from the sainted Mother of God. Saving faith trusts in Christ alone, faith prays to God alone, knowing that He alone is worthy of prayer and that He alone can answer prayer. Again, while Christ is conceived and born without sin of the Virgin Mary, Scripture nowhere speaks of her immaculate conception.

The holy angels neither need nor seek a queen. They have more than they need for eternity in their King, through whom they were made. The title “Queen of Angels” is of men, not of Holy Writ. So too the title “Coredemptrix”, which places those who really believe it outside of the catholic and Apostolic faith. And just because the death of the Blessed Virgin is nowhere recorded in Scripture, we cannot therefore assert that she joined Enoch and Elijah in avoiding death. In light of Scripture’s silence on the end of Mary’s earthly life, we best teach that the prophesied Virgin Mother of God went the way of all the believing sons and daughters of Judah, for she was of Judah’s flesh. So she was like you. She was born of earthly father. She was, like David her father, conceived and born in sin.

Although death surrounds them, fallen men delusionally imagine that they can avoid or conquer death. Through medical advances and physical fitness and organic foods and vegan diets and pills and mantras and yoga, dying men scurry feverishly to avoid death. They can't, of course. For the wages of sin is death. Each of us knows the pain and loss of death, and yet sinful men live on in the hallucination that they might overcome it. None do. For all have sinned, as have you. But the first death, physical death, holds no terror compared with the second death, spiritual death, the unending fire which all sinners must face.

But in the great mercy of God, Mary found favor with Him. She did not die in her sins. For by grace God the Father blessed the Mother of God with a Son by the Holy Spirit, a Son born to save her by the forgiveness of her sins. By grace He blessed her with the Son born to save you by the forgiveness of your sins. By Divine Word she conceived and bore in the Ark of her womb the only One worthy to fill the Holy of Holies, the One that kept the Commandments scribed on those stone tablets, the true Bread from Heaven, the lifeless Staff that budded forth to new life, the God Man, the Suffering Servant, the Lamb of God, David's Son yet David's Lord.

Enveloped in the brilliance of the heavens, He stooped to be wrapped in the darkness of Mary's womb, through which the Only begotten of the Father before all things, the One being of one substance with the Father, was born of the Virgin, through whom the Light was made the Life of men. But her womb was not the last time that Light would know darkness. For Golgotha held a deeper darkness than men have ever known. And that pervasive, fatal darkness spilled off that stony hill and flowed into the waiting tomb, enveloping the lifeless Savior in the sealed darkness of death.

But God promised that the Virgin would conceive and bear a Son, and call His Name Immanuel, God With Us. And He is still God with us. For just as He was delivered alive from the darkness of the Virgin's womb, so also did He discard that garden tomb empty, and useless, and bring again the Light of Life to the world.

God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Believing in Christ, believing that His death and resurrection are for you, you will never die. For in Him is there forgiveness and life for all who believe – for Mary, for you, for the life of the world. So on this day when we commemorate the dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the day on which we remember her falling asleep in Christ, we do so in the sure hope that we too will either see our Lord return, or sleep in the sign of faith until He does.

And still this day the Virgin's Son comes to you, not filling water jars with wine, but making wine His Blood, for you His Bride to drink. The Body born of Mary He makes your Food, as you eat and drink Christ, as He feeds you the Medicine of Immortality, as the Blood of the living Son of God streams that eternal life into you, that eating and drinking, your sins, and your death, are removed.

Luke 10:38-42

The Feast of the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 2011 A.✠ D.

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