

A Prayer Service for Mary as we celebrate Mother's Day

(A compilation of prayer services from various CWL resources and members)

As the prayer service begins, a voice is heard singing Hail Mary...only a statue of Mary is seen on the screen....

Introduction (Leader One)

Today we are gathering in a unique way to celebrate Mary, Our Blessed Mother as we celebrate Mother's Day in our own extraordinary fashion.

Very often our thoughts turn to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and her example to all people. The Blessed Mother of Jesus is the greatest example of motherhood ever known. She loved, protected, nourished, supported, encouraged, and taught Jesus. She is also a woman who makes a very strong choice for God in her life, whose vocation, like ours, was to bring Christ to the world. We pause in remembrance of Mary and the grace she brings to us through her Son as we continue our work in the Catholic Women's League.

Hymn: Gentle Woman (chorus only)

Reader One

When the Angel Gabriel asked Mary, a young woman, if she would be the mother of the Saviour, Mary responded without hesitating: "I am the Lord's servant, may it be done to me as you have said." (Luke 1: 38)

Reader Two

When Jesus was twelve years old, he stayed behind after the family had visited the Temple. Just as any parent whose child is missing, Mary let Jesus know she was very concerned. "When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

(Luke 2: 48)

Reader Three

When Jesus grew up, Mary stayed close. She was responsible for his first public miracle. "On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Mother, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

(John 2: 1-5)

Reader Four

As Jesus died, Mary stood at the foot of the cross, faithful as ever. At that time Jesus gave his mother to John and thus to us. "When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, his disciple took her into his home.

(John 19: 26 - 27)

Leader One: Little more is found in the Bible about Mary, but prayerful reading of what is there can help us to learn much about her and what she can teach us about being faithful followers of God our Father. Let us listen to the prayer with words that Mary spoke to her cousin Elizabeth, a prayer that has come to exemplify all that our Blessed Mother has come to mean.

Reader Five:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Hymn: Gentle Woman (Verse one only)**Reader Six**

It is truly fitting, Mary, that we should honour you, for God chose to honour you by making you the mother of His Son.

The prophets of old spoke your praises and called you “the glory of Israel” and “the glory of womanhood.”

The angel bowed in reverence as he addressed you, who was chosen to be the mother of God.

And all generations have called you blessed. So joyfully, Mary, we praise you.

We praise you in your spotless chastity, which made you worthy to bear the Saviour of the world.

We praise you in your virginity, which you kept so precious together with your motherhood.

We praise you in your openness to God’s will for your life, and in your perfect following of that will.

We praise you in your courage in facing hardships, misunderstandings and criticisms your vocation brought upon you.

We praise you in the honour you have brought to motherhood throughout the ages and for the example you give to mothers.

We praise you in your motherhood, which by God’s decree has made you the mother of us all.

Yes, always and at all times and in all places, we will praise and bless you, Holy Mother of God, ever Blessed Virgin, Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Reader Seven

Our Lady invites us to bring to her all our concerns for ourselves, our families, our parishes and all God’s children the world over.

Response: ***Mother of Mercy, hear and answer our prayers.***

O Mary, Mother of Mercy, bestow blessings upon mothers throughout the world. Give them the grace to know how to raise their children, in the love, peace, mercy and grace of God. **R**

O Mary, Mother of Mercy, we pray and ask you to remember the sorrowful and suffering in your heart, take their petitions to your Son, and comfort them in their struggles. **R**

O Mary, Mother of Mercy, we cling to your loving protection. Look not on hearts filled with hate, envy, jealousy, and disgust; but, see the pain deep in their hearts. Please pray to Jesus and ask Him to fill them with Mercy, love and peace. Give the unloved ones someone who will love them, and let your merciful heart be the way that will bring these souls back to your Son. **R**

Reader Eight

O Mary, Mother of Mercy, we pray for those who are separated from ones they love. Have pity on the loneliness of their hearts. Please pray to your Son that they may receive His merciful strength and peace of soul. **R**

O Mary, Mother of Mercy, we pray for our Holy Father, bishops and priests that they may be held in the care of your loving heart and live well their calling to be leaders of the faith. **R**

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I turn to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your Mercy hear and answer me. Amen

Hymn Gentle Woman (Verse Two only)

Prayer of Consecration to Mary

My Queen, My Mother, I offer myself entirely to you. I give to you today, my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart, my whole being without reserve. Mary, Mother of Mercy I am your own. Please keep me, guard me, protect and strengthen me as your own.

Hymn Gentle Woman (Chorus only)