



Liturgy Cycle C

The Immaculate Conception, 8th December Mary: A Translucent Person

Introduction

Today, we celebrate the holiness of Mary. Right from the first moment of her existence she lived in the light. No trace of darkness ever touched her soul. We know that are souls are in darkness, not only by original sin, but also by personal sin. By our Baptism we are enabled to walk in the light of Christ.

First Reading (Genesis3: 9-15, 20)

When man and woman disobeyed God and fell into sin, God promised salvation from sin through another man and woman, namely, Christ and his Mother.

Second Reading (Ephesians1: 3-6, 11-12)

In his love for us God has adopted as his sons and daughters. Hence we too are called to a holy and blameless life.

Gospel (Luke1: 26-38)

Mary's greatness and holiness are due to God's grace and her cooperation with that grace.

Prayer Of The Faithful

From her first moment Mary, the Immaculate Virgin, became a temple of God, and was filled with the light of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray that, after her example, we may walk humbly but steadfastly in the path traced by her Son.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

That all Christians may experience the love of Mary in their lives and draw inspiration from her life to follow her Son more closely. Let us pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For all those who hold public office: that in the world darkened by greed and selfishness they may fulfill their responsibilities worthily. Let us pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.



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God made Mary blessed among women. Let us pray that in society and the Church may recognize the rights of women and give them their rightful place and role. Let us pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

That like Mary we may be concerned about the needs of those around us, and thus the light of God will shine out through us. Let us pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

Communion Reflection

**We gain a better understanding of Mary
if we look at her through the eyes of the poor,
especially the poor of the third world.**

**She experienced uncertainty and insecurity
when she said 'yes' to the angel.
She knew what oppression was
when she couldn't find a room in which to give birth to Jesus.
She lived as a refugee in a strange land,
with a strange language and strange customs.
She knew the pain of having a child
who does not follow the accepted path,
but who causes controversy wherever he goes.
She knew the loneliness of the widow,
and the agony of seeing her only son executed.**

**Mary is the friend of all the poor,
oppressed and lonely women of our times.
Every word about her in the Scriptures
points to her close connection
with all those who are rejected, despised and pushed around.**

**She gives hope to those who struggle for a more just world,
and challenges us all to live a simpler life,
a life of unconditional trust in God's loving care.**