

# Reading for the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

May 25<sup>th</sup> 2026

## First reading

**Genesis 3:9-15, 20**

**‘I will put enmity between your offspring and the offspring of the woman.’**

After Adam had eaten of the tree: The Lord God called to the man and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ And he said, ‘I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.’ He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.’ Then the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this that you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’

The Lord God said to the serpent,  
‘Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field;  
on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.’

The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 87(86):1-2. 3, 5. 6-7. R3**

*Of you are told glorious things, you, O city of God!*

Founded by him on the holy mountain,  
the Lord loves the gates of Sion,  
more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

Of you are told glorious things,  
you, O city of God!

‘But of Sion it shall be said,  
“Each one was born in her.” ’

He, the Most High, will establish her.

In his register of peoples the Lord writes,  
‘Here was this one born.’

The singers cry out in chorus,  
‘All my wellsprings are in you.’

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

O joyful Virgin, who gave birth to the Lord;  
O blessed Mother of the Church,  
who nurture in us the Spirit  
of your Son Jesus Christ!

Alleluia.

## **Gospel**

## **John 19:25-34**

### **'Behold, your son! Behold, your mother!'**

At that time: Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold, your son!' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!' And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the Scripture), 'I thirst.' A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, 'It is finished', and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.

### **Short reflection on the reading for today**

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is the only character in the gospels around Jesus who is present at the birth and infancy of Jesus, during his public ministry, at the foot of the cross and with the disciples of Jesus after he rose from the dead. She is associated in the gospels with every moment of the story of Jesus. In the two readings for this feast, we find her at the foot of the cross and with the disciples in the aftermath of Easter Sunday just prior to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

In the gospel reading, Jesus declares that from now on his mother is to be the mother of the beloved disciple, and the beloved disciple is to be her son. This disciple is never given a name in this gospel. He stands in for us all, who are the Lord's beloved disciples. We can each give him our own name. Jesus is giving his mother as the mother of us all. He is drawing us into his family; we become his brothers and sisters, calling God his Father, our Father, and Mary his mother, our mother. At the cross, Mary is proclaimed mother of disciples, mother of the church.

In the first reading for this feast, we find Mary exercising this motherly role among the disciples. She is praying with them, as they wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit, whom the risen Lord promised to send. She doesn't stand above them, but she is among them, as any mother would be among her children. She is among them, lending her prayer to theirs, as they all prepare for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Mary as mother is among us today, praying with us, praying for us, supporting us as we wait for the promised Holy Spirit. Mary is the Lord's gift to us, one of the greatest gifts he could possibly give us. On this feast of Mary, mother of the church, we renew our appreciation of this gift of Mary, and we receive this gift of the Lord more fully into our lives.