Reading for the Presentation of Our Lady

21st November 2026

First reading

Zechariah 2:10-13

'Rejoice, O daughter of Sion, behold, I come.'

Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Sion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the Lord. And many nations shall join themselves to the Lord in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. And the Lord will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem.'

Be silent, all flesh, before the Lord, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:46-47. 48-49. 50-51. 52-53. 54-55. ℟49

The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
For he has looked upon his handmaid in her lowliness; for behold, from this day forward,
all generations will call me blessed.
For the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
His mercy is from age to age for those who fear him.
He has made known the strength of his arm, and has scattered the proud in their conceit of heart.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted those who are lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, and has sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel, mindful of his mercy,
even as he promised to our fathers, to Abraham and his descendants for ever.

Gospel Acclamation **Lk11:28**

Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy are those
who hear the word of God
and keep it.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 12:46-50

'Stretching out his hand towards his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers and sisters!" '

At that time: While Jesus was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers and sisters stood outside, asking to speak to him. But he replied to the man who told him, 'Who is my mother, and who are my brothers and sisters?' And stretching out his hand towards his disciples, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers and sisters! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.'

Short reflection on the reading for today

Today's feast celebrates an important truth about Mary: From the beginning of her life, she was dedicated to God, given over to God's purposes. Because of her dedication to God from an early age, she was called by God to become a greater temple than the magnificent temple in Jerusalem. If the temple in Jerusalem was the house of God, the place where God was believed to be present in a special way, Mary

became the house of the Lord in an even greater way, because she carried the Lord in her womb until she give birth to him. God came to dwell in her, through Jesus, because she was open to God's presence from the earliest years of her life. She is the prime example of the group that Jesus refers to in today's gospel as those "who do the will of my Father in heaven." Today's feast celebrates the fact that from her childhood Mary did the will of God, and was therefore ready to become the temple of God's Son at the time of God's choosing. We too are called to do the will of the Father in heaven so that we too can become temples of the Lord, people who carry Lord's presence to others. Writing to the church in Corinth, Paul says, "Do you not know that you are God's temple?" We ask Mary to pray for us now so that we may always do the will of the Father and so become temples of God as she was.