

Reading for the Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

22nd August 2025

First reading

Ruth 1:1, 3-8, 14b-16, 22

‘Naomi returned with Ruth the Moabite and came to Bethlehem.’

In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife, Naomi, and his two sons.

Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the Lord had visited his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, ‘Go, return each of you to her mother’s house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.’ Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. And Naomi said, ‘See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.’ But Ruth said, ‘Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.’

So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 146(145):5-6b. 6c-7. 8-9a. 9b-10. R1b

My soul, give praise to the Lord.

or: Alleluia.

Blessed is he who is helped by Jacob’s God,
whose hope is in the Lord his God,
who made the heavens and the earth, the seas and all they contain.

It is the Lord who preserves fidelity for ever,
who does justice to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who opens the eyes of the blind,
the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down.

It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord who protects the stranger.

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow, but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever,
your God, O Sion, from age to age.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 25(24):4b, 5a

Alleluia, alleluia.

My God, teach me your paths
and guide me in your truth.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 22:34-40

‘You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.’

At that time: When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’

These are the readings for the memorial

First reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

‘A son is given to us.’

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace,
there will be no end
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 113(112):1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8. R cf. 8

*The Lord set him in the company of princes of his people.
or: Alleluia.*

Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!

May the name of the Lord be blest
both now and for evermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting,
praised be the name of the Lord!
High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,
who dwells on high,
who lowers himself to look down
upon heaven and earth?
From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from the ash heap he raises the poor,
to set them in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people.

Gospel Acclamation

cf. Lk 1:28

Alleluia, alleluia!
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!
Blessed art thou among women.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

‘Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son.’

At that time: The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!’ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’

And Mary said to the angel, ‘How will this be, since I am a virgin?’ And the angel answered her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ And Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.’ And the angel departed from her.

Short reflection on the reading for today

Our Church has a long tradition of honouring Mary alongside Jesus, her son. As early as the fourth century Saint Ephrem used the term “Queen” in praise of Mary, and later church usage continues applying this title to her. Marian Hymns of the 11th to 13th centuries have phrases like “Hail, Holy Queen” and “Hail, Queen of Heaven.” The fifth decade of the rosary as well as numerous invocations in the litany of Loreto celebrate her queenship. The bishops at Vatican II urged us to persevere in prayer to the Mother of God and Mother of mankind. “Let them implore her that as she helped the beginnings of the Church by her prayers she may now, exalted above all the saints and angels in heaven, intercede with her Son in the fellowship of all the saints.” (*Constitution on the Church*, 69).

When Pius XII proclaimed this feast in 1954 he pointed out that Mary deserves the title “Queen” as the Mother of God, for three reasons:

1. her close association with Jesus’ redemptive work;
2. her preeminent perfection of holiness and

3. her intercessory power on our behalf.

The themes for the feast are drawn from Holy Scripture, when the angel announced that Mary's Son would *receive the throne of David* and would *rule forever*. At the Visitation, Elizabeth calls Mary "mother of my Lord." In her whole life, Mary was closely associated with Jesus, so that in popular devotion her queenship is a share in his kingship. We may note how in the Old Testament the mother of the king has great influence in court life, as when Batsheba secured the kingship for her son, Solomon. The feast is linked to that of the Assumption and is now celebrated on the octave day, that feast. As Jesus was to be king of all creation, Mary, in faithful dependence on Jesus, was to be its queen. As Jesus was king by serving his Father and by compassion to others, so is Mary a queen as the handmaid of the Lord and the mother of mercy.