

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### *Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer*

#### **The Motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you laid the foundations of the world  
and have arranged the changing of times and seasons;  
you formed man in your own image  
and set humanity over the whole world in all its wonder,  
to rule in your name over all you have made  
and for ever praise you in your mighty works,  
through Christ our Lord...

#### **Communion Antiphon**

*(to be recited privately)*

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord,  
by which you have given me hope.  
This is my comfort when I am brought low.

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“And having your might unassailable,  
deliver me from all danger  
so that I may cry unto Thee:  
Rejoice, O Bride unwedded.”

*(from the "Akathistos" of the Eastern Liturgy)*

## OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR MILLPORT

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26<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY SUNDAY (A)

27 SEPTEMBER 2020

### Readings



“Which of the two did the father’s will?”

(Matthew 21: 31)

## FULLNESS

*Have you ever quoted an angel? Think carefully before you reply! The answer is a definite yes: “Hail, Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with you.” So, you see, you are quoting the Archangel Gabriel every day, often many times a day! It might interest you to note, though, that Gabriel did not actually say, “Hail, Mary, full of grace” but “Rejoice, you who have been filled with grace!” That’s what St. Luke says in his Gospel (Luke 1:28). What we say in the Hail Mary is the result of a pious rendering of the words of Gabriel and St. Elizabeth, to make it easy to pray.*

*Luke’s exact words are very interesting, because they show us that God’s proper name for Mary was, not Mary, but “you who have been filled with grace.” God sees into the heart and soul and pronounces her name as He sees it. He had given her the fullness of grace in her Immaculate Conception. That fullness of grace, though, came to her from the (future) saving death and resurrection of her Son. For her, God “anticipated” the outcome of Jesus’ mission, which was to make the fullness of grace available for every human being. Such is the tremendous and beautiful privilege of the Mother of God.*

*That fullness, though, is not just a personal privilege that Our Lady keeps jealously to herself. With Mary, fullness is her lifestyle, fullness is her style, fullness is her “M.O.,” her “modus operandi,” her way of working. Think of her response to Gabriel: “let your word happen to me” – that’s fullness of obedience, of docility. Think how she lived out that fullness so fully by walking the Way of the Cross. Think how her fullness of commitment led to the fullness of her salvation, body and soul, in heaven.*

*With regard to her children, she is no less fulsome in her “M.O.” We see it in today’s Gospel reading. She perceives the need of the young couple at the wedding feast. She always perceives all our needs. With the fullness of her maternal attentiveness she intuitively understands the fullness of our situation. Then, echoing her own plenitude of obedience, she commends the same to the servants, “do whatever He tells you.” They do, and what is the result? Six very large vessels brimming over with the best wine! Mary received the fullness of grace from her Son and obtains the fullness of his gifts for her children – if we “do whatever He tells us.”*

*On this Feast Day of Our Lady, Patroness of St. Mary’s, be in no doubt that she perceives all the needs, spiritual and temporal, of every one of us. Turn to her and give her the joy of obtaining for you, through your obedience to Christ, the fullness of grace.*

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading

### Philippians 2:1-5

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people’s interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

### Responsorial Psalm 24(25):4-9

*Remember your mercy, Lord.*

### Gospel

### Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, ‘What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, “My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today.” He answered, “I will not go,” but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, “Certainly, sir,” but did not go. Which of the two did the father’s will?’ ‘The first’ they said. Jesus said to them, ‘I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.’

*The Gospel of the Lord.*