

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8 December

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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

A reading from the book of Genesis.

When the man had eaten from the tree,
the Lord God called to him, and said, "Where are you?"
The man said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden,
and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."

God said, "Who told you that you were naked?"

Have you eaten from 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 from 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 tricked me, and I ate."

The Lord God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon 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 hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel."

The man named his wife "Eve,"
because she was the mother of all the living.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 97:1-4

R. Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous deeds.

O sing to the Lord a new song
for he has done marvellous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought him victory. **R.**

The Lord has made known his victory;
He has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love
and faithfulness to the house of Israel. **R.**

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. **R.**

Second Reading Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,
just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world
to be holy and blameless before him in love.

He destined us for adoption as his children
through Jesus Christ,
according to the good pleasure of his will,
to the praise of his glorious grace
that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance,
having been destined according to the purpose of him
who accomplishes all things
according to his counsel and will,
so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ,
might live for the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation cf Luke 1:26-38

Alleluia, alleluia!

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God
to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,
to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph,
of the house of David.

The virgin's name was Mary.

And he came to her and said,
"Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you."

But she was much perplexed by his words
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favour with God.

And now, you will conceive and bear a son,
and you will name him 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 ancestor David.

He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel,
"How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel said to 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 holy;
he will be called Son of God.

And now, your relative Elizabeth
in her old age has also conceived a son;
and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.
For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said,
"Here am I, the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word."
Then the angel departed from her.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.