**To all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem**

**WEDNESDAY DICEMBER 30 (Lk 2,36-40)**

Redeemer of every son of Abraham, but also of every son of Adam, is the Lord, his Creator and God. He redeems by liberation, ransom and also by new creation. It redeems man from all slavery, but does not leave him in his old nature. He redeems him by creating a new life for him, a new garden of Eden which is the body of Christ, in which he can dwell by drawing from Christ the Lord, all life for the soul, the spirit, the body. This is the amazing work of our Creator, Lord, the one true God: *“But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, offspring of Abraham my friend - You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth and summoned from its far-off places, You whom I have called my servant, whom I have chosen and will not cast off - Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed; I am your God. I will strengthen you, and help you, and uphold you with my right hand of justice. Yes, all shall be put to shame and disgrace who vent their anger against you; Those shall perish and come to nought who offer resistance. You shall seek out, but shall not find, those who strive against you; They shall be as nothing at all who do battle with you. For I am the LORD, your God, who grasp your right hand; It is I who say to you, "Fear not, I will help you." Fear not, O worm Jacob, O maggot Israel; I will help you, says the LORD; your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel. I will make of you a threshing sledge, sharp, new, and double-edged, To thresh the mountains and crush them, to make the hills like chaff. When you winnow them, the wind shall carry them off and the storm shall scatter them. But you shall rejoice in the LORD, and glory in the Holy One of Israel. The afflicted and the needy seek water in vain, their tongues are parched with thirst. I, the LORD, will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. I will open up rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the broad valleys; I will turn the desert into a marshland, and the dry ground into springs of water. I will plant in the desert the cedar, acacia, myrtle, and olive; I will set in the wasteland the cypress, together with the plane tree and the pine, That all may see and know, observe and understand, That the hand of the LORD has done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it.” (Cfr. Is 41,1-29).* The prophetess Anna speaks in the temple of the child to those who awaited the redemption of Jerusalem.

*There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.*

The heavenly Father not only accomplishes the redemption of Jerusalem, but of humanity and the entire universe through his Word made flesh and the Holy Spirit. The Incarnate Word with his death on the cross not only atones for sin and all guilt and obtains the Father's forgiveness for us, but also from his pierced side brings forth the grace of eternal life and the Holy Spirit who must work in every person who believes. in Christ, in his truth, in his Word, a new creation. By the Spirit, fruit of the incarnate Word's death on the cross, in the waters of baptism we are born as new creatures, we are made the body of Christ, children of the Father in his Son, partakers of the divine nature, justified by all guilt, sanctified, rich in grace and truth, because we begin the journey that must lead us to true worship of our God and Lord. Redemption is not just a juridical act, a declaration that we no longer have a debt with God. Redemption is purification, resurrection, new birth, freedom from all slavery to sin and death. In redemption we dress in Christ to live in him, with him, for him, to manifest and to give him to every other man. The redemption is exceedingly great. It is the work of the Father, the Incarnate Son, the Holy Spirit and the body of Christ which is the Church. Without the body of Christ there is no redemption.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us true body for the redemption of the world.