**SATURDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

# REGINA COELI, LÆTARE, ALLELUIA

The last time we encounter the Virgin Mary is at the feet of the Cross, when Jesus makes Her Mother of the disciple, entrusting the one to the other: *“Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.”* (Jn 19,25-27). With this solemn act, the true spiritual testament of the Son of the Most High, Mary becomes Mother of Redemption, Mother of the Church, Mother of the humankind to be saved and led into the Kingdom of God. After this event, the Scripture is almost silent. As for the rest, there are only three references to the Virgin Mary. The first is historical information. The other two are revelations about her comprehensive mystery. *“Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.” (Act 1,12-14). “I mean that as long as the heir is not of age, he is no different from a slave, although he is the owner of everything, but he is under the supervision of guardians and administrators until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were not of age, were enslaved to the elemental powers of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption. As proof that you are children, God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" (Gal 4,1-6). “A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth. Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems. Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and hurled them down to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth. She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne. The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God, that there she might be taken care of for twelve hundred and sixty days.” (Rev 12,1-6).*

This prayer invoking the Mother of God as Queen of Heaven is very belated. It was composed when the figure of the Virgin Mary had already been theologised and even dogmatised. She is proclaimed Queen of Heaven, applying to Her what is revealed in Psalm. *“You are the most excellent of men and your lips have been anointed with grace, since God has blessed you forever* *In your majesty ride forth victoriously in the cause of truth, humility and justice You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy. All your robes are fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia; from palaces adorned with ivory the music of the strings makes you glad. Daughters of kings are among your honored women; at your right hand is the royal bride in gold of Ophir. Listen, daughter, and pay careful attention: Forget your people and your father’s house. Let the king be enthralled by your beauty; honor him, for he is your lord. All glorious is the princess within her chamber; her gown is interwoven with gold. In embroidered garments she is led to the king; her virgin companions follow her— those brought to be with her. Led in with joy and gladness, they enter the palace of the king. I will perpetuate your memory through all generations; therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever.”* (Cf. Psal 45 (44) 1-18). In this prayer, it is as if the Church, the Apostles, and the faithful were announcing to the Virgin Mary the resurrection of her Divine Son and inviting Her to rejoice. It is as if what happened at the beginning of her mission as Mother were being repeated. At that time, the Angel Gabriel invited Her to rejoice. ‘*Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.*’ Now the Church invites Her to rejoice. The Church has understood the mystery of the Son of God and announces it to his Mother. Why does the Church feel the need to announce the resurrection of her Son Jesus to Mary? She feels this need because the faith of the Church is the faith of Mary, and the faith of Mary is the faith of the Church. By proclaiming her faith to Mary, the Church wants to be perpetually rooted in this faith and to live in it every day of her life. Indeed, the resurrection of Christ Jesus is the key, the door, the way to our true hope. The Risen Christ is the true solution to all our historical and eternal problems. His victory makes us victorious, and his obedience makes us triumph over evil and sin.

Today, only one wonderful piece of news should be announced to the Virgin Mary, the same news that was announced by the Prophets in Jerusalem, deprived of her children. Paraphrasing the Prophecy of Baruch: *“Mary, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: Wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship. Up, Mary! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children Gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God. Led away on foot by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones. For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, And that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God. The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God's command; For God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company. (Bar 5,1-9).* Mother of God and Mother, make our Heavenly Father haste, through your intercession, to manifest the entire splendour of your glory on earth, in his Church and in the world. You shall manifest your glory and many children of yours will turn back to You as the exile turned back to Jerusalem. Obtain this grace and manifest Yourself without further delaying. We need You to perform this wondrous mighty deed. **03 August 2025**