

The First Apparition of the Risen Jesus

MEANWHILE, our risen Jesus, seen by no other mortal eye, has sped to his most holy Mother. He is the Son of God; he is the vanquisher of death; but he is likewise the Son of Mary. She stood near him to the last, uniting the sacrifice of her mother's heart with that he made upon the Cross. It is just, therefore, that she should be the first to partake of the joy of his Resurrection. The Gospel does not relate the apparition thus made by Jesus to his Mother, whereas all the others are fully described. It is not difficult to assign the reason. The other apparitions were intended as proofs of the Resurrection; this to Mary was dictated by the tender love borne to her by her Son. Both nature and grace required that his first visit should be to such a Mother, and Christian hearts dwell with delight on the meditation of the mystery. There was no need of its being mentioned in the Gospel; the tradition of the holy Fathers, beginning with St. Ambrose, bears sufficient testimony to it; and even had they been silent, our hearts would have told it to us. And why was it that our Savior rose from the tomb so early on the day he had fixed for his Resurrection? It was because his filial love was impatient to satisfy the vehement longings of his dearest and most afflicted Mother. Such is the teaching of many pious and learned writers; and who that knows aught of Jesus and Mary

could refuse to accept it?

But who is there would attempt to describe the joy of such a meeting? Those eyes that had grown dim from wakefulness and tears now flash with delight at beholding the brightness which tells her Jesus is come. He calls her by her name; not with the tone of voice which pierced her soul when he addressed her from the Cross, but with an accent of joy and love, such as a son would take when telling a mother that he had triumphed. The Body which, three days ago, she had seen covered with Blood and dead, is now radiant with life, beaming with the reflections of divinity. He speaks to her words of tenderest affection, he embraces her, he kisses her. Who, we ask, would dare to describe this scene, which the devout Abbot Rupert says so inundated the soul of Mary with joy that it made her forget all the sorrow she had endured?

Nor must we suppose that the visit was a short one. In one of the revelations granted to the seraphic St. Teresa, our Lord told her that when he appeared to his blessed Mother immediately after his Resurrection, he found her so overwhelmed with grief that she would soon have died; that it was not until several moments had passed that she was able to realize the immense joy of his presence; and that he remained a long time with her, in order to console her.

Commentary from The Liturgical Year by Dom Prosper Guéranger, O.S.B. (1805-1875).

Illustration: Christ Appearing to His Mother, c.1435. Rogier van der Weyden (c.1399-1464).



Proper Prayers of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form

Votive Mass of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary (in Eastertide)

Introit (Hebrews 4:16)

ADEÁMUS cum fidúcia ad thronum grátiae, ut misericórdiam consequámur, et grátiam inveniámus in auxílio oportúno. Allelúia, allelúia. *Ps. 44:2.* Eructávit cor meum verbum bonum: dico ego ópera mea Regi. *V.* Glória Patri, et Fílio, et Spirítui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sǎcula sǎculórum. *R.* Amen. — Adeámus ...

LET US COME with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and may find grace in seasonable aid. Alleluia, alleluia. *Psalms.* My heart hath uttered a good word: I speak my works to the King. *V.* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. — Let us come ...

Collect

OMNÍPOTENS sempitérne Deus, qui in Corde beátæ Mariæ Virginis dignum Spiritus Sancti habitáculum præparásti: concede propítius; ut ejúsdem immaculáti Cordis festivitátem devóta mente recoléntes, secúndum cor tuum vívere valeámus. Per Dóminum nostrum ...

ALMIGHTY everlasting God, who in the heart of the blessed Virgin Mary didst prepare a dwelling worthy of the Holy Ghost; grant in Thy mercy, that we who with devout minds celebrate the festival of that immaculate heart, may be able to live according to Thine own Heart. Through our Lord ...

Lesson (Ecclesiasticus 24:23–31)

EGO QUASI VITIS fructificávi suavitátem odóris: et flores mei, fructus honóris et honestátis. Ego mater pulchræ dilectiónis, et timóris, et agnitiónis, et sanctæ spei. In me grátia omnis viæ et veritátis: in me omnis spes vitæ et virtútis.

AS THE VINE I have brought forth a pleasant odor, and my flowers are the fruit of honor and riches. I am the mother of fair love, and of fear, and of knowledge, and of holy hope. In me is all grace of the way and of the truth, in me is all hope of

life and of virtue. Come over to me, all ye that desire me, and be filled with my fruits; for my spirit is sweet above honey, and mine inheritance above honey and the honey-comb. My memory is unto everlasting generations. They that eat me, shall yet hunger; and they that drink me, shall yet thirst. He that hearkeneth to me shall not be confounded, and they that work by me shall not sin. They that explain me shall have life everlasting.

Alleluia

ALLELUIA, Alleluia. (*Luke* 1. 46-47.) My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. Alleluia. All generations shall call me Blessed, because God hath regarded the humility of His handmaid. Alleluia.

Gospel (John 19: 25–27)

AT THAT TIME, there stood by the cross of Jesus His Mother, and His Mother's sister, Mary of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalen. When Jesus therefore had seen His Mother and the disciple standing whom He loved, He saith to His Mother: Woman, behold thy son. After that, He saith to the disciple: Behold thy mother. And from that hour, the disciple took her to his own.

Offertory (Luke 1: 46)

MY SPIRIT hath rejoiced in God my Savior: because He that is mighty hath done great things to me and holy is His Name. Alleluia.

Secret

WE WHO offer to Thy majesty the Lamb without blemish, beseech Thee, O Lord, that our hearts may be kindled by that

Transíte ad me, omnes qui concupiscitis me, et a generati-
onibus meis implémini. Spíri-
tus enim meus super mel
dulcis, et heréditas mea super
mel et favum. Memória mea in
generatiónes sæculórum. Qui
edunt me, adhuc esúrient: et
qui bibunt me, adhuc sítient.
Qui audit me, non confun-
détur: et qui operántur in me,
non peccábunt. Qui elúcidant
me vitam ætérnam habébunt.

ALLELÚIA, Allelúia. V̄. Magní-
ficat ánima mea Dóminum: et
exultávit spíritus meus in Deo
salutári meo. Allelúia. V̄. Beá-
tam me dicent omnes gener-
atiónes, quia ancillam húmi-
lem respéxit Deus. Allelúia.

IN ILLO TÉMPORE: Stabant
autem iuxta crucem Jesu,
mater ejus, et soror matris ejus
María Cléophæ, et María
Magdaléne. Cum vidisset ergo
Jesus matrem, et discipulum
stantem, quem diligébat, dicit
matri suæ: Múlier, ecce filius
tuus. Deínde dicit discípulo:
Ecce mater tua. Et ex illa hora
accépit eam discipulus in sua.

EXULTÁVIT spíritus meus in
Deo salutári meo: quia fecit
mihi magna qui potens est et
sanctum nomen ejus. Allelúia.

MAJESTÁTI tuæ, Dómine, Ag-
num immaculátum offeréntes,
quæsumus: ut corda nostra

ignis ille divínus accéndat, qui
Cor beátæ Mariæ Virgínis
ineffábiliter inflammávit. Per
eúndem Dóminum ...

Preface of the Blessed Virgin Mary

VERE DIGNUM et justum est,
æquum et salutáre, nos tibi
semper, et ubique grátias
ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater
omnípotens, ætérne Deus. Et
te in Festivitate beátæ Mariæ
semper Virgínis collaudáre,
benedicere et prædicáre. Quæ
et Unigénitum tuum Sancti
Spíritus obumbratióne con-
cépít: et virginitátis glória
permanénte, lumen ætérnum
mundo effúdit Jesum Christ-
um Dóminum nostrum. Per
quem majestátem tuam laud-
ant Ángeli, adórant Domin-
atiónes, tremunt Potestátes.
Cæli, cælorúmque Virtútes, ac
beáta Séraphim, sócia ex-
sultatióne concélebrant. Cum
quibus et nostras voces, ut
admítte júbeas, deprecámur,
súpplici confessiόne dicéntes:
— Sanctus.

Communion (John 19: 27)

DIXIT JESUS matri suæ: Múlier,
ecce filius tuus: deinde dixit
discípulo: Ecce Mater tua. Et
ex illa hora accépit eam dis-
cípulus in sua. Allelúia.

divine fire which so ineffably inflamed the heart of the blessed Virgin Mary. Through the same Jesus Christ ...

IT IS TRULY meet and just, right and for our salvation, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to Thee, holy Lord, Father almighty, eternal God: and that we should praise and bless and proclaim Thee on the Festivity of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin: who conceived Thine only-begotten Son by the overshadowing of the Holy Ghost, and the glory of her virginity still abiding, gave forth to the world the eternal Light, Jesus Christ our Lord: through Whom Angels praise Thy Majesty, Dominations worship, Powers stand in awe. The Heavens and the hosts of heaven with blessed Seraphim unite, exult, and celebrate; and we entreat that Thou wouldst bid our voices too be heard with theirs, singing with lowly praise: — Sanctus.

JESUS SAITH to His mother: Woman, behold thy son. After that, He saith to the disciple: Behold thy mother. And from that hour, the disciple took her to his own. Alleluia.

Postcommunion

DIVÍNIS refécti munéribus te,
Dómine, suppliciter exor-
ámus: ut beátæ Mariæ
Virgínis intercessiόne, cujus
immaculáti Cordis solénnia
venerándo égimus, a præ-
séntibus periculis liberáti,
ætérnæ vitæ gáudia conse-
quámur. Per Dóminum ...

REFRESHED by these divine gifts we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord, that by the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary whose immaculate heart we now solemnly celebrate, we may be delivered from present dangers and obtain the joys of eternal life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son ...