

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*.

Communion (Isaias 7:14, 15)

BEHOLD a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel.

Postcommunion

POUR FORTH, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts: that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of the Resurrection. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord ...

adórant Dominatiónes, tremunt Potestátes. Cæli, cælorúmque Virtútes, ac beáta Séráphim, sócia exsultatióne concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces, ut admitti júbeas, deprecámur, súpplici confessióne dicéntes: — *Sanctus*.

ECCE Virgo concípíet, et páriet filium: et vocábitur nomen ejus Emmánuel.

GRÁTIAM TUAM, quæsumus, Dómine, méntibus nostris infúnde: ut qui, Ángelo nuntiánte, Christi Filii tui incarnatiónem cognóvimus; per passiónem ejus et crucem, ad resurrectiÓnis glóriam perducámur. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum ...

“Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign.”

THE PROPHET is speaking to a wicked king, who refused to accept a miraculous proof of God’s merciful protection over Jerusalem; and he makes this an opportunity for announcing to Juda the great portent which we are celebrating today: A virgin shall conceive and bear a son. And when was it that God fulfilled the prophecy? It was in an age when mankind seemed to have reached the highest pitch of wickedness, and when idolatry and immorality reigned throughout the whole world. “The fullness of time came,” and the tradition, which had found its way into every country, that a virgin should bring forth a son, was exciting much interest. Today we are celebrating the sublime mystery; let us adore the power of God, and the fidelity wherewith he fulfills his promises. The author of the laws of nature suspends them; he acts independently of them: virginity and maternity are united in one and the

same creature, for the Child that is to be born is God. A virgin could not bring forth other than God himself: the Son of Mary is, therefore, called *Emmanuel*, that is, *God with us*.

Let us adore this God, the Creator of all things visible and invisible, who thus humbles himself. Henceforth, he will have every tongue confess, not only his divinity, but also his human nature, which he has assumed in order that he might redeem us. From this day forward, he is truly the Son of Man. He will remain nine months in his Mother’s womb, as other children. Like them, he will, after his birth, be fed on *milk and honey*. He will sanctify all stages of human life, from infancy to perfect manhood, for he is the New Man, who has come down from heaven that he might restore the old. Without losing anything of his divinity, he shares in our weak finite being, that he may make us “partakers of the divine nature” [II PET. 1:4].

Commentary from *The Liturgical Year* by Dom Prosper Guéranger O.S.B. (1805-1875).
Illustration: *The Annunciation*, 1433-34, by Fra Angelico (c.1395-1455).



Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Proper Prayers of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form

MARCH 25:
The Annunciation of
the Blessed Virgin Mary
(*in Lent*)

Introit (Psalm 44:13, 15, 16)

VULTUM TUUM deprecabúntur omnes dívites plebis: adducéntur Regi virgines post eam: próximæ ejus adducéntur tibi in lætítia et exsultatióne. *Ps. ibid.* 2. Eructávit cor meum verbum bonum: dico ego ópera mea Regi. *V.* Glória Patri, et Filio, et Spirítui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. — Vultum Tuum ...

ALL THE RICH among the people shall entreat Thy countenance: after her shall virgins be brought to the King: her neighbors shall be brought to thee in gladness and rejoicing. *Psalm.* 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. — All the rich ...

Collect

DEUS, QUI de beátæ Mariæ Virginis útero Verbum Tuum, Ángelo nuntiánte, carnem suscipere voluísti: præsta supplicibus tuis; ut, qui vere eam Genitricem Dei crédimus, ejus apud te intercessiÓnibus adjuvémur. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum ...

O GOD, who didst will that Thy Word should take flesh, at the message of an Angel, in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, grant to Thy suppliant people, that we who believe her to be truly the Mother of God, may be helped by her intercession with Thee. Through the same, our Lord Jesus Christ ...

Today, the feria of Lent is to be commemorated here, and below at the Secret and the Postcommunion.

Lesson (Isaias 7:10–15)

IN DIÉBUS ILLIS: Locútus est Dóminus ad Achaz, dicens: Pete tibi signum a Dómino Deo tuo in profúndum inférni, sive in excélsum supra. Et dixit Achaz: Non petam, et non tentábo Dóminum. Et dixit: Audite ergo, domus David:

IN THOSE DAYS the Lord spoke to Achaz, saying: Ask thee a sign of the Lord thy God, either unto the depth of hell, or unto the height above. And Achaz said: I will not ask, and I will not tempt the Lord. And He said: Hear ye therefore, O house of David: Is it a

small thing for you to be grievous to men, that you are grievous to my God also? Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign. Behold a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel. He shall eat butter and honey, that He may know to refuse the evil, and to choose the good.

Gradual (Psalm 44:3, 5)

GRACE IS poured abroad in thy lips; therefore hath God blessed thee for ever. *V.* Because of truth and meekness, and justice; and thy right hand shall conduct thee wonderfully.

Tract (Psalm 44:11, 12)

HEARKEN, O DAUGHTER, and see, and incline thine ear: for the King hath greatly desired thy beauty. *V.* All the rich among the people shall entreat thy countenance: the daughters of kings in thine honor. *V.* After her shall virgins be brought to the King: her neighbors shall be brought to thee. *V.* They shall be brought with gladness and rejoicing: they shall be brought into the temple of the King.

Gospel (Luke 1:26–38)

AT THAT TIME: The Angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David: and the virgin's name was Mary. And the Angel being come in, said unto her: Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. Who having heard, was troubled at his saying: and thought with herself what manner of salutation this should be. And the Angel said to her: Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found grace with God: behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and shalt bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His Name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God shall

Numquid parum vobis est, molestos esse hominibus, quia molesti estis et Deo meo? Propter hoc dabit Dominus ipse vobis signum. Ecce virgo concipiet, et pariet filium, et vocabitur nomen ejus Emmanuel. Butyrum et mel comedet, ut sciat reprobare malum, et eligere bonum.

DIFFUSA EST GRATIA IN LABIIS tuis: propterea benedixit te Deus in æternum. *V.* Propter veritatem, et mansuetudinem, et justitiam: et deducet te mirabiliter dextera tua.

AUDI, FILIA, et vide, et inclina aurem tuam: quia concupivit Rex speciem tuam. *V.* Vultum tuum deprecabuntur omnes divites plebis: filiae regum in honore tuo. *V.* Adducuntur Regi virgines post eam: proximæ ejus afferentur tibi. *V.* Adducuntur in lætitia, et exultatione: adducuntur in templum Regis.

IN ILLO TEMPORE: Missus est Angelus Gabriel a Deo in civitatem Galilææ, cui nomen Nazareth, ad Virginem desponsatam viro, cui nomen erat Joseph, de domo David, et nomen Virginis Maria. Et ingressus Angelus ad eam dixit: Ave gratia plena: Dominus tecum: benedicta tu in mulieribus. Quæ cum audisset, turbata est in sermone ejus, et cogitabat qualis esset ista salutatio. Et ait Angelus ei: Ne timeas, Maria, invenisti enim gratiam apud Deum: ecce concipies in utero, et paries filium, et vocabis nomen ejus Jesum. Hic erit magnus, et Filius Altissimi vocabitur, et dabit illi Dominus Deus sedem David

patris ejus: et regnabit in domo Jacob in æternum, et regni ejus non erit finis. Dixit autem Maria ad Angelum: Quomodo fiet istud, quoniam virum non cognosco? Et respondens Angelus, dixit ei: Spiritus Sanctus superveniet in te, et virtus Altissimi obumbrabit tibi. Ideoque et quod nascetur ex te sanctum, vocabitur Filius Dei. Et ecce Elisabeth cognata tua, et ipsa concepit filium in senectute sua: et hic mensis sextus est illi, quæ vocatur stérilis: quia non erit impossibile apud Deum omne verbum. Dixit autem Maria: Ecce ancilla Domini, fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum. — *Credo.*

AVE, MARÍA, gratia plena: Dominus tecum: benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui.

IN MENTIBUS nostris quæsumus, Dómine, veræ fidei sacramenta confirma: ut, qui conceptum de Virgine Deum verum et hominem confitemur; per ejus salutiferæ resurrectionis potentiam, ad æternam mereamur pervenire lætitiæ. Per eundem ...

VERE DIGNUM et justum est, æquum et salutare, nos tibi semper, et ubique gratias agere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnipotens, æternæ Deus. Et te in Annuntiatione beatæ Mariæ semper Virginis colaudare, benedicere et prædicare. Quæ et Unigenitum tuum Sancti Spiritus obumbratione concepit: et virginittatis gloria permanente, lumen æternum mundo effudit Jesum Christum Dóminum nostrum. Per quem majestatem tuam laudant Angeli,

give unto Him the throne of David His father: and He shall reign in the house of Jacob for ever, and of His kingdom there shall be no end. And Mary said to the Angel: How shall this be done, because I know not man? And the Angel answering, said to her: The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee. And therefore also the Holy which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And behold thy cousin Elizabeth, she also hath conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her that is called barren: because no word shall be impossible with God. And Mary said: Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to thy word. — *Creed.*

Offertory (Luke 1:28, 42)

HAIL MARY, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

Secret

STRENGTHEN in our minds, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the mysteries of the true faith; that we who confess Him who was conceived of a Virgin to be true God and man, may deserve by the power of His saving resurrection to attain eternal happiness. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord ...

Preface of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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 Annunciation 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