

from your kindness
whatever is for their good.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Jesus wants to heal us if only we
“want to be well.”

● **What healing would I ask for
today?**

Jesus, heal me...

« Listen to the Savior:

I regenerated you;
I set you free;
I healed you;
I redeemed you.
I will give you life that
is unending, eternal,
supernatural. »

ST. CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA

WEDNESDAY MARCH 25

THE ANNUNCIATION
OF THE LORD



This feast celebrates the wondrous event that binds God and humanity forever. Christ, the Word who becomes the Son of Mary, is enfleshed in her womb, making Mary the Mother of God. The liturgy celebrates the beginning of God’s new redemptive work and recognizes Mary as the “new Eve,” the obedient and faithful woman who agreed to be a participant in God’s plan of salvation. May we imitate her trusting commitment when she gave herself fully to God’s mysterious ways. ●

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

(Hebrews 10:5, 7)

The Lord said, as he entered
the world: Behold, I come to
do your will, O God.

GLORY TO GOD *(page 27)*

COLLECT

O God, who willed that
your Word
should take on the reality
of human flesh
in the womb of the
Virgin Mary,
grant, we pray,
that we, who confess our
Redeemer to be God
and man,
may merit to become
partakers even in his
divine nature.
Who lives and reigns with
you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

READING *(Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10)*

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying: Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!" Then Isaiah said: Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us!"

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Psalm 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11)

**R: Here am I, Lord; I come to
do your will.**

Sacrifice or oblation
you wished not,
but ears open to
obedience you gave me.
Holocausts and sin-offerings
you sought not;

then said I, “Behold,
 I come.” R
 “In the written scroll it is
 prescribed for me,
 To do your will, O my God,
 is my delight,
 and your law is within
 my heart!” R
 I announced your justice
 in the vast assembly;
 I did not restrain my lips,
 as you, O LORD, know. R
 Your justice I kept not hid
 within my heart;
 your faithfulness and
 your salvation I have
 spoken of;
 I have made no secret of
 your kindness and
 your truth
 in the vast assembly. R

SECOND READING (*Hebrews 10:4-10*)

Brothers and sisters: It is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats takes away sins. For this reason, when Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering
 you did not desire,
 but a body you prepared
 for me;
 in holocausts and sin
 offerings you took
 no delight.
 Then I said, ‘As is written
 of me in the scroll,
 behold, I come to do
 your will, O God.’”

First he says, “Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in.” These are offered according to the law. Then he says, “Behold, I come to do your will.” He takes away the first to establish the second. By this “will,” we have been consecrated through the offering of the Body of Jesus Christ once for all.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

(John 1:14b)

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! The Word of God became flesh and made his dwelling among us and we saw his glory. **Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

GOSPEL *(Luke 1:26-38)*

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name

him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "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 called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

PROFESSION OF FAITH (page 28)

Genuflect at the words and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, almighty God,
to accept your Church's
offering,
so that she, who is aware that
her beginnings
lie in the Incarnation of your
Only Begotten Son,

may rejoice to celebrate his
mysteries on this Solemnity.
Who lives and reigns
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

PREFACE:

THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere
to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty
and eternal God,

Today's Good News

The humility of the angel in this gospel scene has always struck me because it reflects the humility of God. God doesn't force things on us. As the years go by and I seem to make no progress on my spiritual path, I must admit to sometimes wishing that God would force things on me. I wish God would make me more compassionate and holy without my having to make the same mistakes over and over again. I sometimes wish I could ride a helicopter to the top of some spiritual mountain. But, alas, the spiritual journey is a journey, not a destination, and God can't do the journeying for me. God can only wait in patience for me to make my tortuous way through my flaws and experiences toward the immense love that sent an angel to reassure a girl. Knowing that love is present with me on the path, no matter how difficult, boosts my strength to carry on. **AILEEN A. O'DONOGHUE**

through Christ our Lord.

For the Virgin Mary heard
with faith
that the Christ was to be
born among men and for
men's sake
by the overshadowing power
of the Holy Spirit.
Lovingly she bore him
in her immaculate womb,
that the promises to the
children of Israel might
come about
and the hope of nations
be accomplished beyond
all telling.

Through him the host of
Angels adores your majesty
and rejoices in your presence
for ever.

May our voices, we pray, join
with theirs
in one chorus of exultant
praise, as we acclaim:
**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God
of hosts...** (page 33)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

(Isaiah 7:14)

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive
and bear a son; and his name
will be called Emmanuel.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Confirm in our minds the
mysteries of the true faith,
we pray, O Lord,
so that, confessing that he
who was conceived of the
Virgin Mary
is true God and true man,
we may, through the saving
power of his Resurrection,
merit to attain eternal joy.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Mary's "yes" set in motion God's
new creation.

- **What fears do I have about
saying "yes" to God's birth in
my heart?**

Jesus, come to live in me so that...