

**Approved texts for
Mass of Our Lady, Star of the Sea**

Entry antiphon

A great portent appeared in heaven:
a women clothed with the sun, with the moon beneath her feet,
and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

(Apoc 12,1)

Opening Prayer

Lord God, Redeemer and inspiration of souls,
in the Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea,
you have provided a light in the storm;
by her favour and prayer,
grant that we may set a course through these times
to reach our safe haven in heaven with you.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen.

First Reading - Wisdom 14:1-7

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Again, someone else, taking ship to cross the raging sea,
invokes a log even frailer than the vessel that bears him.
No doubt that ship is the product of a craving for gain,
its building embodies the wisdom of the shipwright,
but your providence, Father, is what steers it,
you have opened a pathway even through the sea,
a safe way over the waves,
showing that you can save, whatever happens,
so that even without skill a man may sail abroad.

It is not your will that the works of your Wisdom lie idle,
and hence men entrust their lives to the smallest piece of wood,
cross the high seas on a raft and come safe to port.
Why, in the beginning even, while the proud giants were perishing,
the hope of the world took refuge on a raft
and, steered by your hand, preserved the germ of a new
generation for the ages to come.

For blessed is the wood which serves the cause of virtue.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 106 (107) 2-3.4-5.6-7.8-9

R Trust in the Lord, for his mercy endures for ever.

Let them say this, the Lord's redeemed,
whom he redeemed from the hand of the foe.
and gathered from far-off lands,
from east and west, north and south.

Some wandered in the desert, in the wilderness,
finding no way to a city they could dwell in.
Hungry they were and thirsty;
their soul was fainting within them.

Then they cried to the Lord in their need
and he rescued them from their distress
and he led them along the right way,
to reach a city they could dwell in.

Let them thank the Lord for his love,
for the wonders he does for men.
For he satisfies the thirsty soul;
He fills the hungry with good things.

Gospel Acclamation (Nm 24:17)

A star shall come out of Jacob,
and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel.

Gospel Luke 1:26-38

Priest (or deacon): A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

People: Glory to you, O Lord

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy, and will be called the Son of God. Know this too: your kinswomen Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible for God.' 'I am the handmaid to the Lord.' said Mary 'let what you said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer over the Gifts

Accept, Lord, these gifts which we offer:
as we honour the Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea,
grant us the never-failing light
of the word and example of your only Son
to guide our steps.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Preface

- . The Lord be with you.
- . **And also with you.**
- . Lift up your hearts.
- . **We lift them up to the Lord.**
- . Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- . **It is right to give them thanks and praise.**

Father in heaven, almighty and eternal God,
it is our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

Salvation is in his name alone.
Before his rule every knee shall bow,
in heaven, on earth and under the earth.

In your kind providence
you have established that the name of the Virgin Mary
should be celebrated among the faithful,
to look to her as a star shining in the firmament,
calling upon her in danger,
and flying to her embrace in their needs.

And so we join the angels and saints
in proclaiming your glory as we say:

Holy, Holy, Holy . . .

Communion antiphon

We saw his star rising in the East,
and we have come to pay homage to the Lord.
(cf Matthew 2,2)

Closing Prayer

You have nourished us, Lord, with this sacred banquet
as we celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea.
With the light of Mary to guide us,
may we come to enjoy the splendour of your only Son.
We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

The Office of Readings
Second Reading

From the writings of St Bernard of Clairvaux

(In praise of the Virgin Mary, Hom II, 17:Sch 390, pp168-170)

Depend upon the star, call upon Mary

Let us say a few words on this name, Stella Maris, which means star of the sea, and which is appropriately accorded to the Virgin Mother. Fittingly is she compared to the stars, since just as a star gives light without burning itself out, so the virgin gave birth to her son without stain to herself. As a star's light does not lessen its own brightness, so neither does the Son lessen the Virgin's wholeness. She is therefore that noble *star rising from Jacob* which casts light over the whole world; whose splendour shines to the heavens and reaches down into the deep; which crosses the earth, warming spirits rather than bodies; fostering goodness and purging sins.

And so I say that she is that bright and distinguished star to be raised above this vast ocean, sparkling with merit, shining with character. Whoever you may be, grasp that, as this age runs its course, you are tossed on the waves by gales and storms more than you walk upon dry land; do not turn your eyes from the beam of this star if you do not wish to be swamped by the storm! If the winds of temptation engulf you, if you are running onto the rocks of adversity, depend upon the star, call upon Mary. If you are thrown about on the waves of pride or ambition, speaking ill of others or jealousy, depend upon the star, call upon Mary. If anger or greed or the cares of the flesh batter your soul's boat, depend upon Mary. If you are unsettled by the hideousness of your sins, troubled by a bad conscience, terrified by the horror of the final judgment; if you are beginning to be dragged down into the pit of sadness, into the abyss of despair, reflect upon Mary. In danger, in distress, in doubt, reflect upon Mary, call upon Mary. Let her not leave your lips, let her not leave your heart and do not abandon your dealings with her if you wish to gain the object of your prayer.

Following her, you will not stray; praying to her, you will not despair; reflecting upon her, you will not go wrong. With her taking your hand, you will not fall down; with her protecting you, you will not fear; with her leading you, you will not grow weary; with her favour, you will accomplish; and thus you will learn for yourself how truly it is said: *And the Virgin's name was Mary.*

But now, having paused for a moment, let us all who are passing through this life gaze upon the brightness of such a light. For in the words of the Apostle, *It is good for us to be here*, and it is pleasing to contemplate in silence that which many words fail to explain. In the meantime, while

contemplating devotedly the shining star, the debate will be rekindled in what follows.

Response

R/. Virgin mother of Christ, you brought to birth the very likeness of God; shining star of the sea, watch over and protect us. * As you give birth and rejoice, the hosts of heaven sing praises.

V/. Pray to God for us, O Virgin Mary. * As you give birth...

Benedictus antiphon

Mary and running streams, O bless the Lord: springs of water, O sing to the Lord, alleluia.

Magnificat antiphon

This star is like a blazing fire, which shows the King of kings as God, alleluia.