

# *Liturgy of Mary*

## *A Holy Hour*



**Prayer Focus:** In this liturgy we reflect on the ever expanding motherhood of Mary. The journey takes us through the significant milestones of her life until she becomes mother of us all.

**Suggested Hymns for Gathering:**

**Contemporary:** Here I am (Psalm 40) (Gather 47); Canticle of the Turning (Gather 376); Let God's dream be born (As One voice 30/2); Hail Mary, full of Grace (Alleluia Aotearoa 58); Our Lady of the Southern Cross (WYD website [www.wyd2008.org](http://www.wyd2008.org) )

**Traditional:** Immaculate Mary; Mary Immaculate Star of the Morning; Mo Maria

## Welcome and Introduction

### Hymn or music

### Opening Prayer

Ever living God, your people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. May Mary's Magnificat, the gift of a mother's love, be the joy of your people. May her hope and her faithfulness kindle courage in our hearts. May her humble response draw your Spirit to rest anew upon us all.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, born of a Virgin and Son of God. **Amen.**

**Luke 1:26-38** *Let it be with me according to your word.* (PAUSE)

### Reflection (Pause after every point)

- Mary, Gabriel journeyed from heaven to earth to herald the beginning of your journey to motherhood of all people. Your strength and openness to God's will allowed you to make such a radical act of faith.
- The Magi journeyed from the East to bring their gifts to your firstborn son. Did you have any inkling of the joys and sorrows that would colour your lives?
- Mary, in all the journeys of your life with Jesus you kept faith with the promise God made to you. Help us to keep faith with God when doubt and fear threaten to overwhelm us.

### Silent prayer

**Luke 1:39-45** *Blessed is she that believed...* (PAUSE)

### Reflection (Pause after every point)

- You "set out and went with haste" to a town in the hills of Judea. What were you thinking as you pondered Gabriel's message?
- Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice, proclaiming your blessings for all to hear. She was filled with the Holy Spirit who came again at Pentecost – a gift to all who share in your Son's life.
- Mary, assumed into heaven, "blessed are you" mother of us all. You continue to journey beside us through the paths of life. Let us never take your care for granted.

**Hymn Suggestions:** O Sanctissima (Sing to the Lord p108), Regina Coeli (Sing Praise 254), Hail Mary, Gentle Woman (Gather 564)

**Luke 2:22-35** *The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said...*

**Reflection** (Pause after every point)

- You and Joseph journeyed to Jerusalem to present your new born son at the Temple. How strange did you find the words of Simeon, spoken to you, devout Jews – that your son would be a light for all peoples, Jew and Gentile, forging a new path to salvation?
- When Jesus was 12 years old, you returned to Jerusalem. What agony did you feel in the loss of your child?
- Mary, you walked with Jesus to Golgotha. You kept watch at the foot of the Cross. How did you sustain your hope?

**Silent Prayer**

**Litany of Praise and Intercession**

Holy God we praise and thank you for the gift of Mary, who in hope and faith consented to become the Mother of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,

**Mother of divine hope, strengthen our hope**

Holy God we praise and thank you for the strength and love of Mary, who in her anguish consented to become our mother also,

**Mother of divine hope, strengthen our faith**

Holy God we praise and thank you for the gift of Mary, who in mercy and love prays for your Church on earth,

**Mother of divine hope, strengthen our love.**

Let us pray:

For families in distress, **R Mother of divine hope, pray for us**

For those isolated from family and friends, **R**

For the poor and starving in our world, **R**

For the sick and suffering, **R**

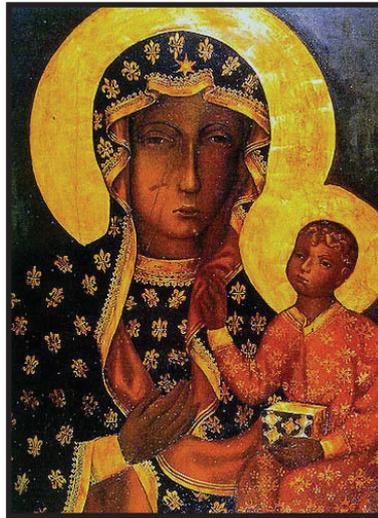
For those who live in fear, **R**

For those who have no faith, **R**

For the Church that we may take the light of Christ to our world, **R**

**We pray together the Memorare:**

Remember, most loving Virgin Mary,  
Never was it heard  
That anyone who turned to you for help  
Was left unaided.  
Inspired by this confidence,  
Though burdened by my sins,  
I run to your protection  
For you are my mother.  
Mother of the Word of God,  
Do not despise my words of pleading  
But be merciful and hear my prayer. Amen



**Proclamation of Mary\***

Mary, Virgin and Mother, Woman for all seasons, we bless and honour you. You received the Word of God in the purity of your heart, and conceiving in your virgin womb, you gave birth to Emmanuel, 'God with us' and so nurtured the Church at its very beginning.

**Response Amen**

You accepted God's parting gift of love as you stood beneath the cross and so became mother of all those who are brought to life through the death of your only Son.

**Response Amen**

You joined your prayers with those of the apostles, as together you awaited the coming of the God's Spirit, and so became the perfect pattern for the Church at prayer.

**Response Amen**

Raised to the glory of heaven, you care for the pilgrim church with a mother's love, following its progress homeward until the day of the Lord dawns in splendour.

**Response Amen**

**Closing Prayer\***

**May we who proclaim the Virgin Mary to be the Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church delight in the life we share through her, with her beloved Son, Jesus the Christ. Amen**

(\*Adapted from the *Preface of Mary, Mother of the Church.*)

**Closing Hymn**

*Suggestions:* Let God's dream be born (As One Voice Vol 2/30); Canticle of the Turning (Gather 376); Regina Coeli (Sing Praise 254)