



ORDER OF CROWNING AN IMAGE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Church has always honored the Blessed Virgin Mary. She is “the Mother of the Son of God... the chosen companion of the Redeemer...the perfect follower of Christ...and the foremost member of the Church” (*Order of Crowning an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, 5). The tradition of depicting Mary with a crown dates to the 5th century and of the tradition of placing a crown on an image of her dates to the 16th century. Currently, the crowning of an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary may take place “within Mass, within the liturgy of the hour at evening prayer, or within a celebration of the word of God” (Ibid., 10).

What follows is the *Crowning of an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary within a Celebration of the Word of God*, which has been adapted for use in homes, led by a member of the household. In parish churches, schools, etc., the liturgy provided in the *Order of Crowning an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary* is to be used.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Song

(stand)

Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing;
You reign now in splendor with Jesus, our King.

Refrain: Ave, ave, ave, María! Ave, ave, María!

In heaven the blessed your glory proclaim;
On earth we, your children, invoke your sweet name. [Refrain]

Your name is our power, your virtues our light;
Your love is our comfort, your prayers our might. [Refrain]

We pray for the Church, our true mother on earth;
And beg you to watch o'er the land of our birth. [Refrain]

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

Brief period of silent prayer.

O God, Father of mercies,
whose Only Begotten Son,
as he hung upon the Cross,
chose the Blessed Virgin Mary, his Mother,
to be our Mother also,
grant, we pray, that with her loving help
your Church may be more fruitful day by day
and, exulting in the holiness of her children,
may draw to her embrace
all the families of the people.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

(sit)

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-6

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.
You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing,
As they rejoice before you as at the harvest,
as men make merry when dividing spoils.
For the yoke the burdened them,
the pole on their shoulder,
And the rod of their taskmaster
you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.
For every boot that tramped in battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
will be burned as fuel for flamed.

For a child is born to us, a son is given us;
upon his shoulder dominion rests.
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.
His dominion is vast
and forever peaceful,
From David's throne, and over his kingdom,
which he confirms and sustains
By judgement and justice,
both now and forever.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

R/. Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.

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Praise, you servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord.
Blessed be the name of the Lord
both now and forever.

R/. Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.

From the rising to the setting of the sun
is the name of the Lord to be praised.
High above all nations is the Lord;
above the heavens is his glory.

R/. Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.

Who is like the Lord, our God, who is enthroned on high
and looks down upon the heavens and the earth below?

R/. Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.

He raises up the lowly from the dust;
from the dunghill he lifts up the poor
To seat them with princes,
with the princes of his own people.

R/. Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia. *Alleluia, Alleluia.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

(stand)

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

RITE OF CROWNING

After a brief period of reflection on the readings, all stand.

Thanksgiving and Invocation

Blessed are you, Lord, God of heaven and earth
for in your mercy and justice you cast down the mighty and exalt the lowly.
Your marvelous wisdom is shown above all in the word made flesh
and in his Virgin Mother.
For he, your Son, who freely humbled himself even unto death on the cross,
now sits at your right hand and is radiant with unending glory,
the King of kings and Lord of Lords;
and she, the Virgin who wished to be called your servant,
was singled out to be Mother of the redeemer and true Mother of all the living:
now she is exalted above the choirs of angels and reigns in glory with her Son,
praying for all of us, the Queen of mercy, pleading for grace.

Merciful Lord, look upon us your servants, who by crowing this image of
the Mother of your Son, proclaim him as King of all creation
and approach her as our queen.
Give us the grace to follow them in serving you;
to do what love demands
for the sake of our brothers and sisters;
to deny ourselves and spend ourselves, so as to win our neighbors for you;
to be lowly on earth, so as to be exalted in heaven where you reward your faithful
servants with a crown of life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Crowning

*A crown is placed on an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary
while a suitable Marian song is sung or played
(e.g., On this Day O Beautiful Mother, Hail Mary, Gentle Woman).*

Litany

(kneel)

Lord, have mercy, *Lord, have mercy.*
Christ, have mercy, *Christ, have mercy.*
Lord, have mercy, *Lord, have mercy.*

God our Father in heaven, *have mercy on us.*
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*
God the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us.*
Holy Trinity, one God, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Mary, *pray for us.*
Holy Mother of God, *pray for us.*
Most honored virgins, *pray for us.*

Chosen daughter of the Father, *pray for us.*
Mother of Christ the King, *pray for us.*
Glory of the Holy Spirit, *pray for us.*
Virgin daughter of Zion, *pray for us.*
Virgin poor and humble, *pray for us.*
Virgin gentle and obedient, *pray for us.*

Handmaid of the Lord, *pray for us.*
Mother of the Lord, *pray for us.*
Helper of the Redeemer, *pray for us.*

Full of grace, *pray for us.*
Fountain of beauty, *pray for us.*
Model of virtue, *pray for us.*

Finest fruit of the redemption, *pray for us.*
Perfect disciple of Christ, *pray for us.*
Untarnished I mage of the Church, *pray for us.*

Woman transformed, *pray for us.*
Woman clothed with the sun, *pray for us.*
Woman crowned with stars, *pray for us.*

Gentle Lady, *pray for us.*
Gracious Lady, *pray for us.*
Our Lady, *pray for us.*

Joy of Israel, *pray for us.*
Splendor of the Church, *pray for us.*
Pride of the human race, *pray for us.*

Advocate of grace, *pray for us.*
Minister of holiness, *pray for us.*
Champion of God's people, *pray for us.*

Queen of love, *pray for us.*
Queen of mercy, *pray for us.*
Queen of peace, *pray for us.*

Queen of angels, *pray for us.*
Queen of patriarchs and prophets, *pray for us.*
Queen of apostles and martyrs, *pray for us.*
Queen of confessors and virgins, *pray for us.*
Queen of all saints, *pray for us.*
Queen conceived without original sin, *pray for us.*
Queen assumed in heaven, *pray for us.*

Queen of all the earth, *pray for us.*
Queen of heaven, *pray for us.*
Queen of the universe, *pray for us.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, *spare us, O Lord.*
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, *hear us, O Lord.*
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, *have mercy on us.*

Pray for us, O glorious Mother of the Lord.
That we may become worthy of the promises of Christ.

God of mercy,
listen to the prayers of your servants
who have honored your handmaid Mary
as mother and queen.
Grant that by your grace
we may serve you and
our neighbor on earth
and be welcomed into
your eternal kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE CONCLUDING RITES

(stand)

Blessing and Dismissal

Make the Sign of the Cross and say:

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil,
and bring us to everlasting life. *Amen.*

Song

Hail, Holy Queen enthroned above, O Maria!
Hail, Mother of mercy and of love, O Maria!
Triumph all ye cherubim!
Sing with us ye seraphim!
Heaven and earth resound the hymn!
Salve, salve, salve, Regina!

Our life, our sweetness here below, O Maria!
Our hope in sorrow and in woe, O Maria!
Triumph all ye cherubim!
Sing with us ye seraphim!
Heaven and earth resound the hymn!
Salve, salve, salve, Regina!

