

36. THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF FAIREST LOVE

FIRST READING

I am the mother of fairest love.

A reading from the book of Sirach

24:17-21

I bud forth delights like the vine,
 my blossoms become fruit fair and rich.
 Come to me, all you that yearn for me,
 and be filled with my fruits.
 You will remember me as sweeter than honey,
 better to have than the honeycomb.
 Whoever eats of me will hunger still,
 whoever drinks of me will thirst for more;
 whoever obeys me will not be put to shame
 whoever serves me will never fail.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Song of Songs 2:10bc and 14ef;
 4:8a and 9a, 11cd and 12, 15

R. (See 4:7) O Mary, you are all fair; there is no blemish in you.

Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one, and come!
 For your voice is sweet,
 and you are lovely.

R. O Mary, you are all fair; there is no blemish in you.

Come from Lebanon, my bride,
 you have ravished my heart, my sister, my bride.

R. O Mary, you are all fair; there is no blemish in you.

And the fragrance of your garments
is the fragrance of Lebanon.

You are an enclosed garden, my sister, my bride,
an enclosed garden, a fountain sealed.

R. O Mary, you are all fair; there is no blemish in you.

You are a garden fountain, a well of water
flowing fresh from Lebanon.

R. O Mary, you are all fair; there is no blemish in you.

ALLELUIA

See Luke 1:28

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Hail, full of grace.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to 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 Mary, the angel said,

“Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.”

But Mary 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.

The gospel of the Lord.