

24 May

Our Lady, Help of Christians (memorial)
Day of Prayer for the Church in China
(during the season of Easter, after Ascension)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The disciples were constantly at prayer together, with Mary the mother of Jesus. (*cf. Acts 1:14*)

OPENING PRAYER

God our Father, you gave the Holy Spirit to your apostles as they joined in prayer with Mary, the mother of Jesus. By the help of her prayers, keep us faithful in your service, and let our words and actions be so inspired as to bring glory to your name.

Grant 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.

FIRST READING (*With one heart the disciples continued in steadfast prayer with Mary, the mother of Jesus.*)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 1:12-14

After Jesus had been taken up into heaven, the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away.

When the apostles entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.—The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (*Lk 1:46-47, 48-49, 50-51, 52-53, 54-55*)

R. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (*R*)

For he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. (*R*)

He has mercy on those who fear him, in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. (*R*)

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. (*R*)

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever. (*R*)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are you, holy Virgin Mary, deserving of all praise; from you rose the sun of justice, Christ our God. (*R*)

GOSPEL (*Woman, this is your son. This is your mother.*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 19:25-34

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

—The word of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Father, as we celebrate the memory of the Virgin Mary, we offer you our gifts and prayers. Sustain us by the love of Christ, who offered himself as a perfect sacrifice on the cross, and is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

PREFACE OF EASTER OR THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Rejoice, virgin mother, for Christ has arisen from his grave, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, may this sacrament strengthen the faith in our hearts. May Mary's Son, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaim to be God and man, bring us to eternal life by the saving power of his resurrection, for he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.