

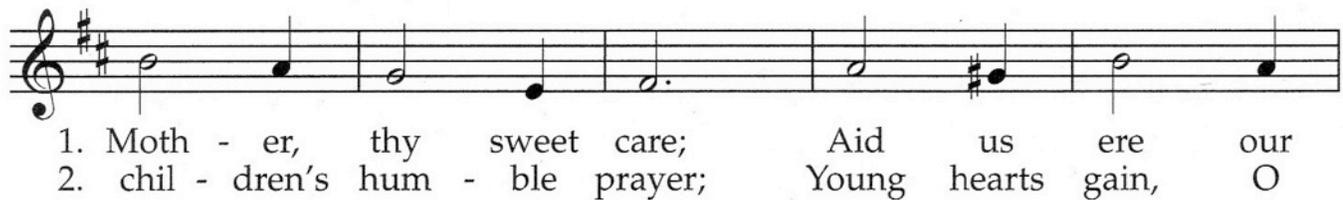
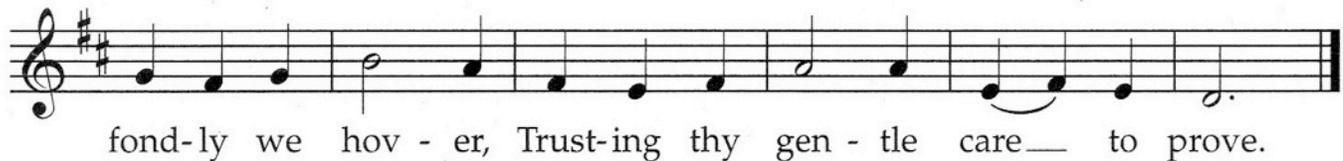
In Honor of Mary, Our Mother and Queen

Call to Prayer: "Prostrate yourself before the Holy Virgin whom God willed to redeem before He created her. Reveal your conscience to her and ask her to obtain for you conversion of life, deliverance from your most urgent needs as well as a greater love for her Son and closer union with His divine humanity." *Spiritual Writings of Louise de Marillac, A.32B, page 735*

"Thought on the Blessed Virgin"



Hymn: "On This Day, O Beautiful Mother"



Reading 1: "Most Holy Virgin, how admirable is your virtue! You are the Mother of God, yet you did not disdain to live in humility and poverty. You did so to confound our pride and to make us esteem the grace of God above all worldly splendors, which are truly worthless in comparison.

Reading 2: "O my God, why am I unable to reveal to the world the beauty which You have shown me as well as the dignity of the Blessed Virgin? Everything is comprised in her title of Mother of the Son of God. How admirable are her deeds! With good reason the Church addresses her as the Mother of Mercy because she is also the Mother of Grace.

Response: (All) "I gaze upon you today, most pure Virgin, Mother of Grace, since it was you who not only provided the matter for the formation of the sacred body of your Son, at a time when you were not as yet actually a mother, but by bringing Him into the world, you have become both Mother of God and Mother of the Man, who at His birth brought a new law to the world, the law which alone leads to eternal life. You are the Mother of the Law of Grace because you are the Mother of Grace incarnate. ... I shall manifest my gratitude to you by the praise I offer, by my zeal in helping others to recognize your greatness and by renewed devotion and trust in your powerful intercession with God."

Spiritual Writings of Louise de Marillac, A.14B pages 774-75, "To the Virgin Mary," between 1647 and 1660



Reflection:

What is my relationship with Mary? Is she a model for me?
How does Mary accompany me in my service as a Lady of Charity? Do I look to her as an intercessor?

Sharing: Pair off and briefly share your reflections.

Closing Prayer: (Pray together.) "Hail Mary ..."

O Mary, conceived without sin,
pray for us who have recourse to you. Amen

Prayer Texts : Luke 1: 26 – 38 "I am the handmaiden of the Lord ..."
John 2: 1 – 11 "Do whatever He tells you."