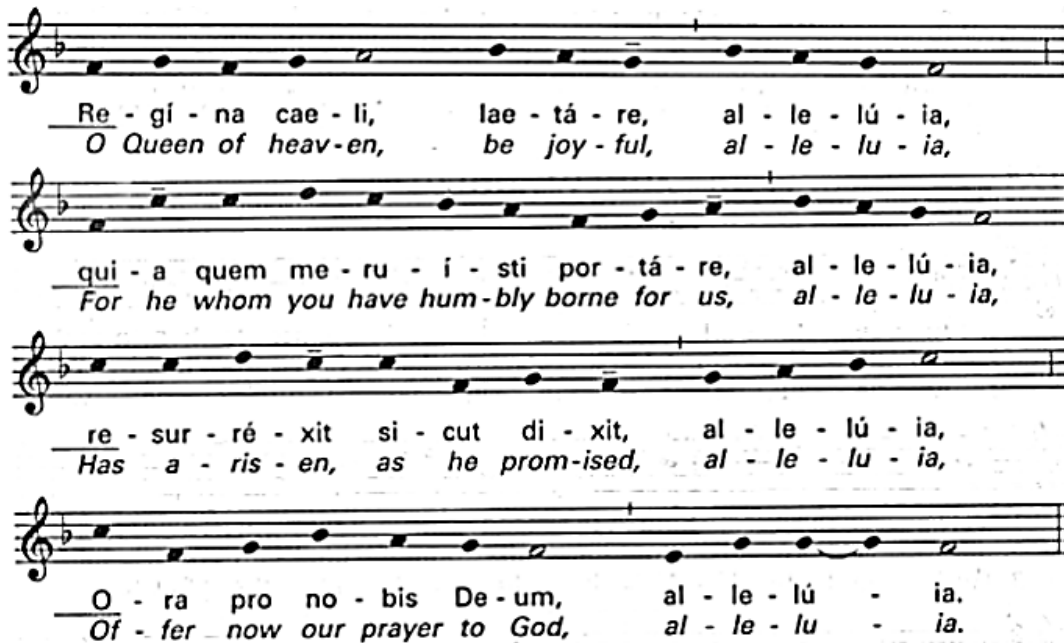


Mary, Our Mother

Call to Prayer Leader: “Each of our days is marked with the protection of Mary, who is exceedingly anxious to be our mother, when we desire to be her children.”
St. Vincent de Paul Vincentian Calendar April 12

Hymn: “*Regina Caeli*/O Queen of Heaven” (sing in Latin)



Re - gí - na cae - li, lae - tá - re, al - le - lú - ia,
O Queen of heav-en, be joy - ful, al - le - lu - ia,

qui - a quem me - ru - i - sti por - tá - re, al - le - lú - ia,
For he whom you have hum-bly borne for us, al - le - lu - ia,

re - sur - ré - xit si - cut di - xit, al - le - lú - ia,
Has a - ris - en, as he prom-ised, al - le - lu - ia,

O - ra pro no - bis De - um, al - le - lú - ia.
Of - fer now our prayer to God, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Irregular; Latin, 12th cent.; tr. by C. Winfred Douglas, 1867-1944, alt.
Music: Chant, Mode VI; fr. the *Liber Cantualis*, 1983.

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O Mary, we
crown thee ...
Queen of Angels,
Queen of the May

Magnificat (Alternate sides, please.)

My soul is stilled in the recesses of time and isolation,
pondering, reflecting the mystery of your plan, O God.

Yes, day by day, as the reality of the present time sinks into my consciousness
my awareness of my need for you intensifies.

Holy is this time and patience and forbearance are your gifts.
You have changed my life in many subtle ways.

Then, I am caught up in busy-ness; serving those I am sent,
close to them, face to face, I listened.

Determining what must be done, here and now, to alleviate their suffering.
Often with touch of comfort, my physical presence is more important
than the material things I may provide.

Now, still caught up in a different form of busy-ness;
listening to those whose cries need to be heard, not able to touch them;

Yet able to give them the comfort of silent companionship,
where words may be scant, but a powerful testament of care and solidarity.

You embrace us gently, mercifully, lovingly, O God, raising our hopes for the nearness of the moment when once again, all will be well.

Glory be ... As it was ... *adapted from Magnificat of Sheltering in Place*

Reading: A Mother’s oldest son was having a rough time with his college classes. The Mom mentioned to him that, when she was upset, she simply imagined God sitting on a big throne and into his lap, she put all her worries. The Mother wasn’t sure the words made any difference, but at least she had tried. More than a year later, when the Mom was going through a difficult time, this same son came home with a shoebox for her. “Open it,” he said. Inside was a statue he had made of Mary, Jesus’ mother, seated with her arms encircling her lap, holding a little basket full of black stones. “*This is for your worries, Mom,*” he told her. Since then, the Mother has regularly placed a stone or two in Mary’s lap, freeing her to stop worrying and to do what needs to be done. *adapted from Tom McGrath, Daily Meditations for Busy Parents September 19, pages 184-85*



Reflection and Sharing: (Pause for silent reflection then sharing.)

When do I seek Mary’s help in my daily life?

As Lady of Charity, do I look to Mary as a model of service?

Response: “Regina Caeli/O Queen of Heaven”

(sing in English with optional Crowning of Mary)

Memorare ALL: Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but hear and answer me. Amen.

Prayer Leader: Mary, you are such a powerful intercessor with your son. We commend to you, today, all the most urgent needs and desires of our hearts, knowing you will obtain for us what we need most. We pray this in the name of your Son, our brother, Jesus, through the Spirit. **ALL: Amen.**

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Prayer Texts: Luke 1: 26-38 “I am the handmaid of the Lord ...”
Revelation 12: 1-9 “... a woman clothed with the sun ...”