

17 March

Our Lady of the Discovery of the Japanese Christians

Feast

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Lumen gentium, 58

The Blessed Virgin Mary advanced in her pilgrimage of faith,
and faithfully persevered in her union with her Son unto the cross.

Or:

Cf. Mt 2:10-11

The magi were entering the house,
and they saw the child with Mary his mother.
They prostrated themselves and did him homage.

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is said.

COLLECT

Most merciful God,
sustained by your grace,
the Christians of Japan endured cruel persecution
and transmitted their faith for seven generations.
Grant that we, their descendants
who joyfully celebrate their discovery this very day in Nagasaki,
may through the guidance and intercession of 'Santa Maria'
be strong in tribulation
and walk with courage the way of faith.
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.

FIRST READING (Isaiah 9:1-6)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

A son is given to us.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
Upon those who lived in a land of gloom
a light has shone.
You have brought them abundant joy
and great rejoicing;

They rejoice before you as people rejoice at harvest,
as they exult when dividing the spoils.
For the yoke that burdened them,
the pole on their shoulder,
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 fire.
For a child is born to us, a son is given to 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,
Upon David's throne, and over his kingdom,
which he confirms and sustains
By judgment and justice,
both now and forever.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

Or:

(Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavens,
as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world,
to be holy and without blemish before him.
In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ,
in accord with the favor of his will,
for the praise of the glory of his grace
that he granted us in the beloved.
In him we were also chosen,
destined in accord with the purpose of the One
who accomplishes all things
according to the intention of his will,
so that we might exist for the praise of his glory,
we who first hoped in Christ.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 98 [97]: 1, 2-3a)

R. (3b) All the ends of the earth have seen
The salvation of our God.

O sing a new song to the LORD,
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. R.

The LORD has made known his salvation,
has shown his deliverance to the nations.
He has remembered his merciful love
and his truth for the house of Israel. R.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cf. John 19:27

Jesus said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother."

GOSPEL (John 19: 25-27)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

"Behold, your mother."

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 there whom he loved,
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.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, holy Father,
accept the offerings of your Church.
As our ancestors in the faith, sustained by the prayer of 'Santa Maria',
were strong amid the trials of persecution,
may we also offer ourselves to you
in union with the sacrifice of Christ.
Through Christ our Lord.

Preface I -II of the Blessed Virgin Mary

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. *Lumen gentium*, 58

The Blessed Virgin Mary consented with a maternal heart
to the sacrifice of Jesus, the Son of God.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most merciful God,
strengthened by the Bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation,
we thank you and pray.

United to the ardent devotion
with which our ancestors desired to receive this blessed sacrament,
may we, too, like 'Santa Maria', bear witness to the joy of our faith.
Through Christ our Lord.