

## Scripture Reading

### **A Reading of the Gospel According to John (John 19:26-27)**

When Jesus saw His Mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to Her, “Woman, here is Your Son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your Mother.” From that time on, this disciple took Her into his home. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Reflection – His Last Gift to Us**

**Jesus gives His Mother to us.** It was His last gift to us while dying on the Cross. John represented humanity, and the words of Jesus made Mary the mother of all mankind. It was fitting that Jesus bequeathed His gift through John the beloved, Jesus’ best friend, the only apostle standing by His Cross when He died. It was not meant to be a personal gift to John and did not merely constitute a personal request to John to take care of Mary. As can be expected, the intention and love of Jesus was much wider and deeper. Otherwise the gift would have been given away privately and not in public for everyone to witness. Why did Jesus give His Mother to us?

**Mary - Christ’s route from God to us - God’s chosen way of salvation.** God in His absolute power and infinite wisdom could easily have done without Mary in the eternal plan of salvation. Nonetheless, God chose Mary to be the channel through which Jesus came into the world. Coming from the decree of God, this method is the best, the most perfect. Likewise, Jesus is pointing to us the shortest, easiest and sweetest way back to Him – His own beloved Mother, the one God has chosen to entrust with His most prized possession, Jesus Christ His only Son. Let us learn to trust Mary like God the Father did.

**The way of Mary - Humility which is holy fear of the Lord.** Mary won God’s favour through Her humility. *..for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant (Luke 1:48).* Humility is the glue that connects the heart to holy love which leads to union with God’s will. Without the solid foundation of humility all the other virtues are compromised. Humility opens the heart to God, acknowledges God as God - all in all, above all - and oneself as nothing before God. *..for dust you are and to dust you will return (Genesis 3:19).* Thus, the humble soul knows its rightful place before God. It has a right standing with God, which will fundamentally determine her thoughts, words and actions.

**The way of Mary - Obedience which is acceptance of God’s will.** Mary, the new Eve, through Her obedience to God, provided remedy for Eve’s disobedience and reversed the fate of mankind through Her acceptance to be the Saviour’s Mother in God’s eternal plan of salvation. *“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to Me be fulfilled.” (Luke 1:38).* Mary placed God’s request ahead of her own fears of harsh and dangerous consequences of being an unwed mother.

**The way of Mary - Purity which is the state of the soul worthy of the presence of God.** During the Annunciation, Archangel Gabriel greeted Mary with: *“Greetings, You who are highly favoured! The Lord is with You.” (Luke 1:28).* Can oil dissolve in water? Can grace abide with sin? God has to choose a pure vessel in which to give birth to His sinless Son. Mary is such a vessel. “The Lord is with You” signifies the state of Mary’s soul - worthy of the presence of God. Only those who are pure can be in the company of God. Thus heaven is only for saints who are formerly sinners but who have washed themselves spotless in the Blood of the Lamb.

**The way of Mary - Protection which is great power against evil.** After the sin of Adam and Eve, God confronted the ancient serpent: *“And I will put enmity between you and the Woman, and between your offspring and Hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel.” (Genesis 3:15).* God named as the enemies of Satan none other than Jesus and Mary. As such, Mary has great power from God in order to help bring down the kingdom of Satan.

**The way of Mary - Full of the presence of the Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit worked closely with Mary to bring about the incarnate birth of Jesus. Being closely associated with the Holy Spirit, Her heavenly Spouse, Mary brings the presence of the Holy Spirit to those She visits. Thus, when She visited Her cousin Elizabeth, Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit who enlightened her that the Child Mary was bearing was none other than the Lord.

### **Conversation with Mary**

Dearest Mother Mary, thank You for accepting to be Jesus’ and my Mother. I praise the infinite wisdom of God that elevates You to the highest dignity accorded to a human person. In union with Your Immaculate Heart, I rejoice and thank God for His great goodness and generosity towards You, the Masterpiece of His creation. Teach me the ways of God that I may always appear little in His eyes. Teach me Your virtues so that one day my soul will also be worthy of the presence of our Lord. Mother Mary, Your power to intercede is stronger than that of all the saints. Pl. pray for me. I love You, Blessed Mother. [www.twoheart.hk](http://www.twoheart.hk)