

The First Glorious Mystery ~ The Resurrection of Jesus



Our Father Who art in Heaven...

The Resurrection of Easter Morning - Jesus has gone through death to the other side where there is full life, light, new energy and joy. And he has returned to us changed and new!

Hail Mary full of grace...

Jesus has not returned to impress us but to invite us. His brightness seems to say, *put selfishness and hate away and come with me into the new life of love.*

Hail Mary full of grace...



Since he died on the cross the women friends of Jesus have been getting ready to return to the tomb. The women have continued doing the things of love. Love spreads like ripples in water when it's touched.

Hail Mary full of grace...

An angel greeted the women of Easter Morning. He sat on the stone which had been rolled away from the front of the tomb. "Jesus is not here," the angel said, "Go and tell the apostles he will meet them in Galilee!" Heaven begins each new day with the news that Christ is Risen!

Hail Mary full of grace...

It is wonderful news that Jesus is Risen from the dead. But it is also news that we can all become a new kind of human being. And Jesus has shown the way, with hearts of kind feeling for all who suffer - even for the animals, the plants, the air and the water.

Hail Mary full of grace...

Easter isn't just for one Sunday each year. The Resurrection of Jesus is my new way of life. Look for signs of resurrection each day: building friendships, forgiving people, a new willingness to learn from others, a deep respect for living things.

Hail Mary full of grace...



Easter comes at the time of year when plants begin to grow again, baby animals are born and ice melts. All of this says, "See, we can change!"

Hail Mary full of grace...



There is a great candle in church during the Easter time to announce that Jesus lives and has left the tomb empty. And at my Baptism I was given my own candle which carries this Easter light. I will keep the Easter flame alive and burning brightly in my heart.

Hail Mary full of grace...

When Jesus rose from the dead the guards in front of the tomb fell to the ground in a great crashing of shields, spears, helmets and armor. The way of Jesus is not about power but about helpful service to others.

Hail Mary full of grace...

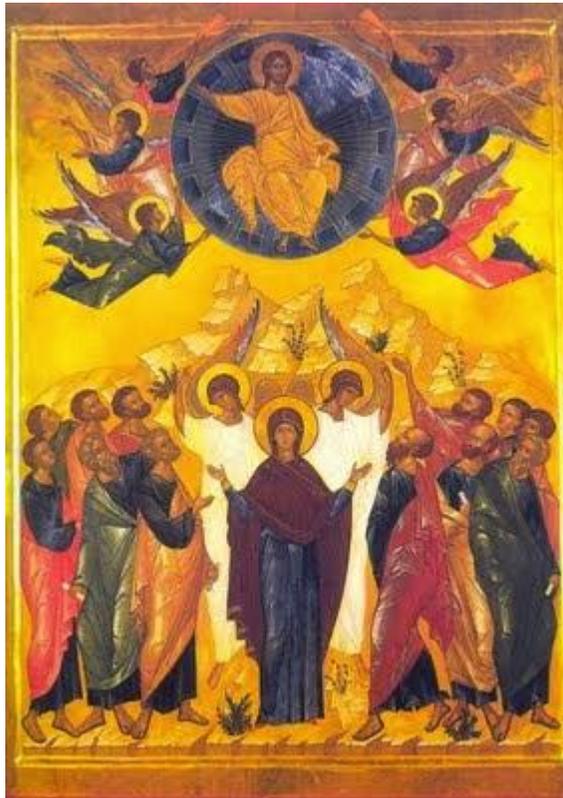


On Easter night two apostles were walking on the road to a place named Emmaus. They met the risen Jesus along the way, but didn't recognize him until they went in to eat and he broke the bread and gave it to them to eat. Then they knew him and were glad. *Me too!*

Hail Mary full of grace...

Glory be to the Father...

The Second Glorious Mystery ~ The Ascension



Our Father Who art in heaven...

Jesus remained for forty days with the apostles after his Resurrection from the dead. During that long time he showed his wounds to them and explained the parts of the bible that spoke about him long before. One morning, he made breakfast for them on the beach. How wonderful it would have been to be there!

Hail Mary full of grace...

Ascension means that Jesus went *up* to heaven. He is sitting inside a *mandorla* - a circle of light. Something is happening that is beyond my understanding - something wonderful beyond my normal sight. Six angels go with Jesus. Some of them even blow horns. The air is alive with brightness. Jesus is light for my mind.

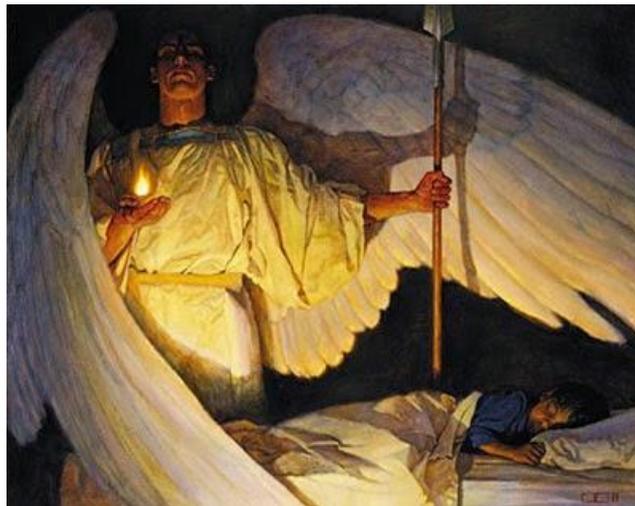
Hail Mary full of grace...

The bible says, "*The Lord has gone up with a shout; the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.*" There's lots of shouting today: shouting at the soccer match, shouting while we argue over the remote, shouting at our parents and siblings (that's sad), shouting on the playground. What about a happy shout-out for Jesus, who rose from the dead, to raise us up to God's *new idea* of joy and love.

Hail Mary full of grace...

And while Jesus ascends to heaven, he carries all human beings to the higher heavens with him. He carries us to his promise of full living. He wants us to see the complete plan that God has had for every person from the very first moment. God gets everything out of the way that can keep us from being grown-up all the way.

Hail Mary full of grace...



There are angels in white telling the apostles *not to be afraid, Jesus will return*. Angels come to give us a message of peace. So if I am ever afraid of the darkness or being alone - I will say *hello, welcome and thank you* to the angel who cares for me.

Hail Mary full of grace...

Here in the icon, Jesus is blessing us with his right hand. He wants me and my family to be happy, safe and well. But maybe his outstretched hand reminds us that we are small and sometime or other we all need a helping hand. I can count on Jesus.

Hail Mary full of grace...

One bible page tells us that during the forty days Jesus ate *fish and honey* with the apostles. Fish are silent, and Jesus was silent during the terrible time of his suffering. And bees make honey - life with Jesus is pleasurable and sweet. Bees also make wax for candles that give light. The light of Jesus pushes away the darkness - especially the darkness that gets inside hearts and minds.

Hail Mary full of grace...

Mary is here too, in the middle with the apostles. Wasn't her suffering terrible when she stood underneath the cross and all the friends ran away except John? Now Jesus gives Mary the great joy of seeing him alive and returning to heaven. It's a joy that is equal to her sorrow.

Hail Mary full of grace...

The apostles were *eye-witnesses* when Jesus ascended. And the word *apostle* means, one who is *sent out*. So when we put the two together, the apostles went out to tell people what they saw and heard from Jesus. We're apostles too - sent out to tell other people that God is good and true to his promise of friendship.

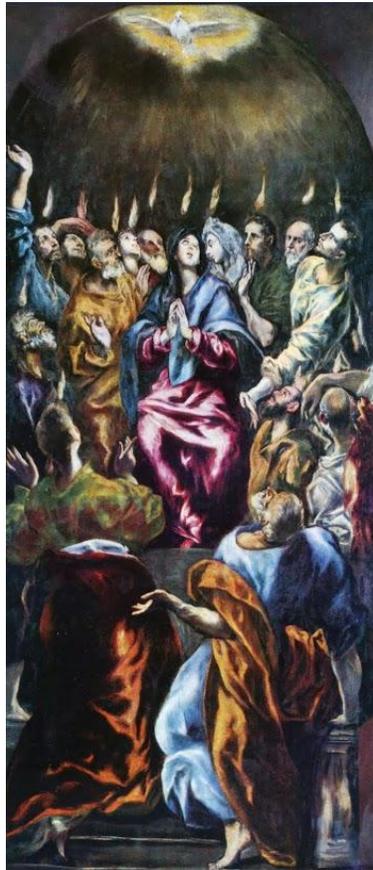
Hail Mary full of grace...

Jesus said, "*I go to prepare a place for you, so that where I am you also may be.*" We live on this earth which can be very wonderful, but in the end, we're citizens of heaven! We can throw off the silly things that belong just to earth and dress ourselves in goodness - the bright clothing of heaven.

Hail Mary full of grace...

Glory be to the Father...

The Third Glorious Mystery ~ The Coming Down of the Holy Spirit ~ Pentecost



Our Father Who art in heaven...

Pentecost was a Jewish feast day celebrating the harvest time when the fruit was ready to be picked. Now the Spirit of Jesus comes to make us *fruitful in good deeds* that give glory to God.

Hail Mary full of grace...

God is the thing that matters most! And Pentecost, God's Holy Spirit came to the apostles with a great wind. *What does this mean?* God, like the wind, is everywhere. And so while God is to be met in my church and so wonderfully in Holy Communion, I will also meet God on the playground, at home with my family, wherever I see and hear what's beautiful.

Hail Mary full of grace...



A bright flame came down on the head of each apostle. What does *this* mean? Flames give light! I ask God's Holy Spirit to bring light to my mind so that I will think kind thoughts, helpful, loving thoughts of fairness and care for other people.

Hail Mary full of grace...

Flame also gives heat, doesn't it? I will ask the Holy Spirit to warm the hearts of the people of the whole world. I'll ask the Spirit to warm the hearts of people to love God. I'll ask the Spirit to warm the hearts of people to love those who are different.

Hail Mary full of grace...

The apostles gathered in an upstairs room. Jesus was gone and they were not sure what to do. Then the strength of the Holy Spirit visited them and they went out to others. My upper room is in my heart. *Surely the Holy Spirit will make it clear to me what to do for Jesus.*

Hail Mary full of grace...

When God made the first human beings a long time ago, he blew his God-breath into them and they became alive. When the Risen Easter-Jesus visited the apostles, who were very afraid, he exhaled a deep breath on them and they became hopeful, brave, joyful and ready to do anything for the love of God.

Hail Mary full of grace...

When the Holy Spirit came to the apostles they went out into *Jerusalem*, the Holy City. Peter stood up and spoke about Jesus, and all the people understood him even though they spoke different languages! *Isn't that amazing?* Peter made *unity* happen. Even though people have lots of different opinions and beliefs, we can make a *unity of love*. God would be very happy if we'd try that.

Hail Mary full of grace...

The Holy Spirit gives me wonderful powers. Some people only see what's bad and wrong with people. It causes them to dislike others. But at Baptism I was given the power to see God's Spirit present and working everywhere. I will look to see the goodness and beauty in people - *even if they can't see it in themselves*.

Hail Mary full of grace...

On Pentecost day, when the Holy Spirit came to the apostles, three-thousand people were *converted*. This means they turned their hearts and minds to accept Jesus. I'll be converted a little bit more today and tomorrow - each day more a true friend of Jesus.

Hail Mary full of grace...

In Baptism, like a flood, I was soaked with the Spirit-Life of Jesus. Every human person has a one-of-a-kind life given by God. I want to live my own life brightly and beautifully, as Jesus lived his own.

Hail Mary full of grace...

Glory be to the Father...

The Fourth Glorious Mystery ~ The Assumption of Mary



Our Father Who art in heaven...

When Mary died the apostles came together from many places to bury her. Here they hold a long and beautiful cloth at her head and feet. They will wrap her carefully and with thankfulness in their hearts for having known her. She must have been like a mother to them all. *And to us!*

Hail Mary full of grace...

It seems that Thomas was far away when Mary died. When he arrived, Mary had already been buried. And so the apostles took him to Mary's grave. She had followed her Son to heaven. Flowers and a beautiful fragrance filled the air when her tomb was opened. Following Jesus is all about life! There is nothing to fear!

Hail Mary full of grace...



Assumption means *taken up*. Assumption is Mary's Easter. And so it is a time of flowers. Mary's Easter feast is celebrated on August 15, a time when the garden is giving one last big push of beauty. The flowers seem to say: *There is an Easter for everyone - be glad about the life Jesus promises.*

Hail Mary full of grace...

Mary is taken up into heaven - even in her body - and the angels are glad. The humans are glad too! Heaven is our forever home. The joy Jesus promised is for all of us.

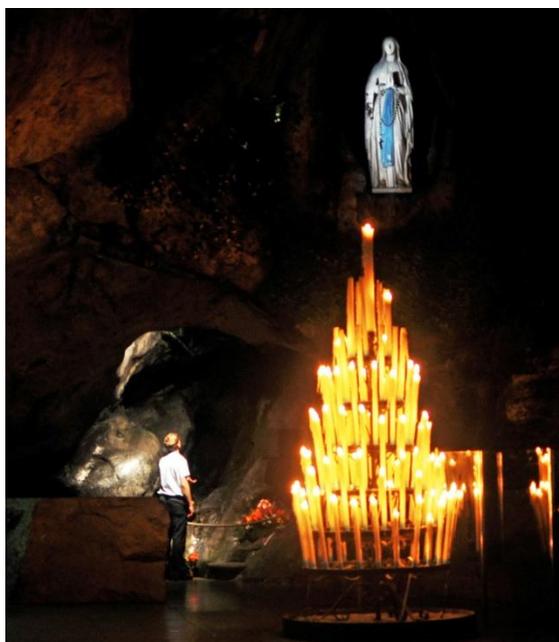
Hail Mary full of grace...

In the painting Jesus blesses his Mother as he stands over her. She is asleep in death. *But who is the little baby Jesus holds all dressed in white?* It is Mary's soul. Every human being has a one of a kind soul. This is my *inner* person. It is the place where God has the deepest knowledge of who I am - a secret inside place very precious to God.

Hail Mary full of grace...

Some people say that Mary isn't important. *Oh no!* Mary makes an atmosphere around Jesus. She teaches us to be generous with God. Closeness to Mary is like stepping into a cloud of fresh and bright air. I want to be part of that life-breathing!

Hail Mary full of grace...



Here is a picture of the grotto at Lourdes in France, where the Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette eighteen times in 1858. Sometimes when Bernadette would ask a question, the Lady from Heaven would only smile. There's so much anger and crying ~ *don't we need more smiles in our world?*

Hail Mary full of grace...

Just as at Easter, the Assumption word is *Alleluia!* It reminds us of the sounds a baby makes who can't speak yet. There are no words to describe how wonderful friendship with God is.

Hail Mary full of grace...

Jesus said, "*I call you my friends.*" And this is what Mary does in heaven now. She has entered the Father's House and experiences God's deepest friendship.

Hail Mary full of grace...



Mary is clothed with the sun. At Guadalupe in Mexico, when Mary appeared to Juan Diego, she stood in front of the sun. Nothing dims her brightness. She is walking towards us. Stop for a moment and imagine her greeting.

Hail Mary full of grace...

Glory be to the Father...

The Fifth Glorious Mystery ~ Mary Is Queen



Our Father Who art in heaven...

A queen's crown is a sign of her having inner *spiritual light*. It is a sign of honor, glory and beauty like the sun. A crown can also be a sign of being a champion - as Mary is a champion in saying "*Welcome, Jesus*" when it would have been so easy to say "*No*".

Hail Mary full of grace...

Mary is Queen and a queen sits on a throne. But more importantly, now *MARY is* the throne as the Infant Jesus sits on his Mother's lap. And from that throne Jesus looks out at our world. He smiles and blesses us.

Hail Mary, full of grace...



About 500 years ago all the flowers in England were given names to help us think of Mary. This flower is still named *Marigold* which means *Mary's Gold*. That's very lovely, isn't it?

Hail Mary, full of grace...

Saint Ambrose tells us that there are nine kinds or choirs of angels, each with its own name: *Angels, Archangels, Thrones, Virtues, Powers, Dominions, Principalities, Cherubim, Seraphim*. Even though each group serves God in its own way, they all call us to join the song of love around Jesus and Mary.

Hail Mary full of grace...

Our minds make a lot of thoughts each day. Some of the thoughts are kind and helpful, other thoughts might be nasty or small. Thoughts about Mary help to keep our thoughts good. Mary is called *Regina Pacis - Queen of Peace*. Let's place our thoughts under Mary's care, because the world needs peace very badly.

Hail Mary full of grace...

A lot of people wear unhappy faces everyday. On Easter morning, when Mary learned that Jesus had been raised from the dead, her smile must have been beautiful and great. Let's ask Mary to give us the smile of Easter Joy - not just at Easter, but everyday.

Hail Mary full of grace...

Mary is a queen for the whole world - showing people in every place how beautiful human beings can be when they love Her Son and are gentle, kind, generous and good.

Hail Mary full of grace...

Atmosphere is the air and the energy that is all around us. A spring atmosphere is soft and warm. When people are arguing the energy is troubled and negative. A new baby creates an atmosphere of quiet peace. Mary makes an atmosphere of joyful love around Jesus.

Hail Mary full of grace...

When mothers wipe away tears they sometimes say, "*There now, don't cry.*" Mary understands tears, remember she stood under the cross of Jesus. She sees the tears of people all around the world. But she also cried tears of joy when Jesus rose from the dead on Easter morning. "*I know. Don't cry. I am here with you,*" Mary says.

Hail Mary full of grace...

A good queen stays very close to her people in times of danger. During the Second World War night-time bombs dropped on London, England. Even though Queen Elizabeth could have gone to her country home away from danger, she stayed with her people. The next morning she went to see them to give them hope. *Mary is like that for the whole world.*

Hail Mary full of grace...

Glory be to the Father...