



# At Home Rorate Caeli

A RORATE CAELI MASS IS AN ADVENT VOTIVE MASS IN HONOR OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY. IT IS THE ADVENT COUSIN OF THE HOLY WEEK OFFICE OF TENEBRAE.

IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS, WHILE STILL DARK, THIS MASS IS SAID BY CANDLELIGHT UNTIL THE SUN RISES, SIGNIFYING CHRIST COMING AS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. ITS NAME IS TAKEN FROM THIS MASS' INTROIT FOUND IN ISAIAH 45:8:

“RORATE, CAELI, DESUPER, ET NUBES PLUANT JUSTUM; APERIATUR TERRA, ET GERMINET SALVATOREM.” SEE THE INTROIT IN ENGLISH BELOW. A VOTIVE MASS IS A SET OF MASS PROPERTS THAT MAY BE SAID ON DAYS WHEN THERE IS NO ASSIGNED FEAST. LIGHT SOME CANDLES & USE THIS MINI MISSAL TO PRAY THE RORATE CAELI PROPERTS WITH YOUR FAMILY. THIS MASS IS USUALLY CELEBRATED ON A SATURDAY DURING ADVENT, BUT FIT IT IN WHEN YOUR FAMILY IS ABLE THIS SEASON.

## INTROIT:

Drop down dew, you heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just: let the earth be opened and bud forth a Savior. (Ps. 84:2.) Thou hast favored, O Lord, Thy land; Thou hast restored the well-being of Jacob. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Drop down dew, you heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just: let the earth be opened and bud forth a Savior.

## COLLECT:

Ÿ. The Lord be with you.

Ŕ. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O God, Who willed that by the message of an angel Thy Word shouldst take flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, grant that we, Thy suppliants who believe her to be truly the Mother of God, may be helped by her intercession with Thee. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who with Thee, livest and reignest in the unity of the same Holy Ghost, God, forever and ever. Amen.

## EPISTLE:

### Isaiah 7: 10-15

In those days, the Lord spoke to Achaz: “Ask for a sign from the Lord, your God; let it be deep as the nether world, or high as the sky!” But Achaz answered, “I will not ask! I will not tempt the Lord!” Then he said, “Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary men, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you this sign: the Virgin shall be with Child, and bear a Son, and shall name Him Emmanuel. He shall be living on curds and honey by the time He learns to reject the bad and choose the good.”

## GRADUAL & ALLELUIA:

Lift up, O gates, your lintels; reach up, you ancient portals, that the King of glory may come in! Ÿ. Who can ascend the mountain of the Lord? or who may stand in His holy place? He whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean.

Alleluia, alleluia. Ÿ. Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women. Alleluia.

## GOSPEL:

**STAND**

Ÿ. The Lord be with you.

Ŕ. And with thy spirit.

Ÿ. A continuation of the holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Ŕ. Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

### Luke 1: 26-38

At that time, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And when the angel had come to her, he said, “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women.” When she had heard him she was troubled at his word, and kept pondering what manner of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for thou hast found grace with God. Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shall bring forth a Son; and thou shalt call His name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of David His father, and He shall be King over the house of Jacob forever; and of His Kingdom there shall be no end.” But Mary said to the angel, “How shall this happen, since I do not know man?” And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee; and therefore

## GOSPEL CONT..

the Holy One to be born shall be called the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth thy kinswoman also has conceived a son in her old age, and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month; for nothing shall be impossible with God." But Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to thy word."

## HOMILY:

### **St. Ambrose of Milan on the Annunciation**

The mysteries of God are unsearchable, as is especially declared in the prophetic words: What man is he that can know the counsel of God? or who can think what the will of the Lord is?

Nevertheless, some things have been revealed to us.

And hence we may gather, from the words and works of our Lord and Savior, that there was a special purpose of God in the fact that she who was chosen to bring forth the Lord was espoused to a man.

Why did not the power of the Highest overshadow her before she was so espoused? Perhaps it was lest any might blasphemously say that the Holy One was conceived in fornication.

And the Angel came in unto her. Let us learn from this Virgin how to bear ourselves: let us learn by her devout utterance ; above all let us learn by the holy mystery to be timid, to avoid the advances of men, and to shrink from men's addresses. Would that our women would learn from the example of modesty here set before us. She upon whom the stare of men had never been fixed was alone in her chamber, and was found only by an Angel. There was neither companion nor witness there, that what passed might not be debased in gossip; and the Angel saluted her.

The message of God to the Virgin was a mystery so great that it must needs not be uttered by the mouth of man, but only by an Angel. For the first time on earth the words are spoken: The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee. The holy maiden heareth, and believeth.

At length she saith: Behold the handmaiden of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. Here is an example of lowliness, here is a pattern of true devotion. At the very moment she is chosen to be the Mother of the Lord she declareth herself to be his

handmaid. The knowledge that she was chosen to this high vocation wrought in Mary only an act of humility.

## OFFERTORY:

Ÿ. The Lord be with you.

Ŕ. And with thy spirit.

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

## COMMUNION:

Isaiah 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel.

## POST COMMUNION:

Ÿ. The Lord be with you.

Ŕ. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy Grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may, by His Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who with Thee, livest and reignest in the unity of the same Holy Ghost, God, forever and ever. Amen

NOW A HYMN MAY BE SUNG OR BYRD'S RORATE CAELI

HEARD HERE: [HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/132P\\_RUBFDW](https://youtu.be/132P_RUBFDW)

## RECESSIONAL HYMN:

**The Angel Gabriel** TRANS. REV. SABINE BARING-GOULD

The angel Gabriel from heaven came  
His wings as drifted snow his eyes as flame  
"All hail" said he "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

"For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honor thee,  
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold  
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."  
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!