

## CHAPTER 8 PRAYER SERVICE

**All:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Play a Marian hymn, such as “Hail Holy Queen Enthroned Above,” “Sing of Mary (Pure and Lowly),” or “Holy is His Name.” Contemporary, instrumental, and choral versions are available for free on YouTube.*

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, you chose Mary to be the mother of your Son, Jesus. Just as Eve brought sin into the world through prideful doubt, Mary brought salvation into the world through humble trust. May we too increase in humility and trust as we follow Jesus day by day. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Reader 1:** A reading from the book of Genesis.

When they heard the sound of the LORD God walking about in the garden at the breezy time of the day, the man and his wife hid themselves from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. The LORD God then called to the man and asked him: Where are you? He answered, “I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid.” Then God asked: Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat? The man replied, “The woman whom you put here with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, so I ate it.” The LORD God then asked the woman: What is this you have done? The woman answered, “The snake tricked me, so I ate it.” Then the LORD God said to the snake:

Because you have done this,  
cursed are you  
among all the animals, tame or wild;  
On your belly you shall crawl,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.  
I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
They will strike at your head,  
while you strike at their heel.

The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Reader 2:** A reading from the book of Revelation.

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth.

Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems. Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and hurled them down to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth. She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne.

The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Leader:** Mary, you were chosen to be the Mother of God.

**All:** Lead us to Jesus.

**Leader:** Mary, your son Jesus won for us our salvation.

**All:** Nurture our faith as our mother.

**Leader:** Mary, you are now the Queen of Heaven.

**All:** Lead us to Jesus.

**Leader:** Let us offer our prayers and petitions to the Lord through the intercession of Mary. *(Pause for a few moments of silence.)* Let us pray.

**All:** Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,  
our life, our sweetness and our hope.  
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.  
To thee do we send up our sighs,  
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.  
Turn then, most gracious advocate,  
thine eyes of mercy toward us,  
and after this our exile,  
Show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
O clement, O loving,  
O sweet Virgin Mary.

**Leader:** Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

**All:** That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

**All:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.