

Family Prayer Service in Honor of Mary, Our Blessed Mother



Parent: By the example of Mary, the Mother of God, we learn how to follow Jesus. She is the first and greatest disciple, because she believed and trusted in God's promise to her.

To begin our prayer service, we will sing the hymn "Immaculate Mary." The refrain is "Ave Maria." Ave means "Hail." It is a way to greet someone. Maria is another form of the name, "Mary." So in the refrain we are saying "Hail, Mary!" Let's stand now for a song of Mary.

The music can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsoVBQvaLDM>

Song: Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing,
You reign now in splendor with Jesus our King.
Ave, ave, ave Maria! Ave, ave, Maria!

In heaven, the blessed your glory proclaim.
On earth we, your children, invoke your sweet name.
Ave, ave, ave Maria! Ave, ave, Maria

We pray for the Church, our true Mother on earth,
And beg you to watch o'er the land of our birth
Ave, ave, ave Maria! Ave, ave, Maria

Parent: Let's listen to the story of the Visitation—Mary's visit to her relative Elizabeth, who was also going to have a baby soon.

Reader One: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke:

During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Luke 1:39–42). The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Parent: We use the words of Elizabeth in the Hail Mary prayer. Let's pray the Hail Mary together now.

All: Hail Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women. And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God. Pray for us sinners, Now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Parent: In the Hail Mary, we use one title for Mary—Holy Mary, Mother of God. Over the centuries people have also given Mary other titles that tell us why she is important in our lives. Let's hear some of them now as we ask Mary to intercede for us with God. After the reader speaks each title, please say, "Pray for us." We call this kind of prayer a "litany," and this particular litany is part of the Litany of Loreto.

Reader Two:

All:

Holy Mary	Pray for us
Holy Mother of God	Pray for us
Mother of Christ	Pray for us
Mother most pure	Pray for us
Mother of the Church	Pray for us
Virgin most faithful	Pray for us
Seat of wisdom	Pray for us
Cause of our joy	Pray for us
Health of the sick	Pray for us
Help of Christians	Pray for us
Queen of all saints	Pray for us
Queen of families	Pray for us
Queen of peace	Pray for us

Parent: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

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

Parent: Let's close now by singing, As I Kneel Before You (<https://youtu.be/0xp0WiYt5Bw>)

As I kneel before you,	All I have I give you,	As I kneel before you,
As I bow my head in prayer,	Every dream & wish are yours,	And I see your smiling face,
Take this day, make it yours	Mother of Christ, Mother of	Ev'ry thought, ev'ry word
And fill me with your love.	mine, present them to my Lord.	Is lost in your embrace.

Refrain:

Ave Maria,
Gratia plena,
Dominus tecum,
Benedicta tu

Translation:

Hail Mary
Full of grace
The Lord is with you
Blessed are you