

Salve Regina (Liturgy #10)  
Hymn to Virgin Mary  
(Keeping Festival 1<sup>st</sup>)

Salve Regina

A hymn to Our Lady today, to celebrate this festival day of her Assumption into heaven, one of the principal feast-days of Mary in the year. It's a day that should be one of special joy and of hope for all of us, for Mary is one of us and her going away from this world of ours to share body & soul in the life and joy of God's eternal home is a signal & a sign of our destiny too, in Christ. In what has happened to her we have a sample and a proof of what all Christians profess as their faith: we believe in ... the resurrection of the ~~dead~~ <sup>dead</sup> ... and life everlasting: and this is body & soul. There's an idea around, which keeps on being repeated, that the Church/Christianity is anti-body - there have indeed been heresies on those lines, and no doubt at certain times in history there have been exaggerated positions. But the Creeds are clear, and so is the constant witness of Christian belief, from very early on, in Mary's 'Dormition' or 'Assumption': different names & words but indicating that already in the person of Mary the victory of Christ over sin and death is completed in her as it's destined to be in each of us called by God to share Christ's saving love. So we rejoice today, on this festival day of Mary, mother of Christ and mother of us all. "It is indeed right to praise thee, O mother of God"

Lit. Chant Brth.  
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MUSIC (id.) 2:12

PRAYERS - from an

8<sup>th</sup> Century Ethiopian liturgical prayer: OQ. § 82 (Sing Joys of Mary)

And a poem written for Aug 15<sup>th</sup> 1945 OQ. Season Spirit p225

Today's feast

of the Assumption or the passage of Mary to heaven, originated in the church of Jerusalem in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. The first sermon on the feast appears to be one dating from about 600 AD by a bishop of a small town in Palestine, a place called Livias, which

French Chant Plur  
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MUSIC (Poulenc)

PRAYERS

is no longer in existence. In this sermon, <sup>partly</sup> recently discovered in a manuscript found in the Sinai, the bishop affirms belief in the mystery of the bodily assumption of Mary into heaven. About the year 600, a decree of the Emperor Maurice directed the celebration of the feast to be on 15<sup>th</sup> August, in all the churches of his empire. And the date has remained ever since, in both Eastern & Western churches. So now from the western tradition, a setting of the hymn Salve Regina, Hail Holy Queen Mother of Mercy...

"God our Father, you crowned the Blessed Virgin Mary on the day of her assumption with a glory beyond compare. You had looked on her lowliness and had made her the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ your Only-begotten Son. Grant that by her prayers we may be saved by the mystery of your redemption and share with her in the glory of eternal life. We make our prayer thro' O.L. Jes. Christ

Here again is the wonderful day on which the Virgin Mary was taken up into heaven. We all praise her with the words: Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Blessed are you holy Virgin Mary, and most worthy of praise: through you has risen the Sun of justice, Christ our God: Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with 12 stars on her head for a crown: The Holy Mother of God is exalted for ever: She has been raised up above the choir of angels to the kingdom of heaven. Let us pray: Almighty ever-living God, you have taken the Mother of your son, the immaculate Virgin Mary, body and soul into the glory where you dwell. Keep our hearts set on heaven so that with her, we may share in your glory, thro' Christ O. Lord. Amen.

Born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Son of God redeemed mankind. May He enrich you with His blessings:

You received the author of life through Mary. May you always rejoice in her loving care:

You have come to rejoice at Mary's feast. May you be filled with the joys of the Spirit and the gifts of your eternal home.

May almighty God bless you, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

MUSIC (to start)