

Mater Dei

Sermon Transcript • May 10, 2026

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Dearest friends, today is the second Sunday in Mary's month, and today we begin a mini-catechesis of the Blessed Virgin.

Toward that end, in a few brief moments, you will stand with me and confess the Creed of Nicaea—you with your mind and heart, and I likewise, but with voice added.

Together, we will profess truths too deep for mortal hearts, unaided, to embrace; too lofty for created minds to apprehend without the assistance of divine grace. Yet, as we approach these truths, as we speak or hear them, we will do so with an uncanny ease. And our ease with these things, too wonderful for words, itself bears witness to the grace which makes it so.

For we speak from the other side of matters first hidden in proverbs, once cloaked in parables, but after the third day unveiled for those chosen to hear plainly, to understand, and to believe.

"At that time Jesus said to His disciples: These things I have spoken to you in proverbs. The hour cometh when I will no more speak to you in proverbs, but will show you plainly of the Father."

So, my dear friends, when we speak and hear the profound truths of our holy religion again—as we utter the unfathomable mysteries of God's interior life, of the Father's creative power, of the Son's Passion, death, and Resurrection, and of the Holy Ghost; as we, with sincerity of heart and simplicity of tongue, make our profession of faith—let us keep always before us the fact that we stand on the other side of the complexity of the knowledge of the One who is, was, and always will be utterly simple.

"And the angel answering said to her: The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee. And therefore also the Holy which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

My dear friends, we did not arrive at this simple confession on our own. We are the heirs of the faithful, humble contemplation of the Fathers, who, as recipients of the divine promise, were given to see the depth of the mystery of the hypostatic union of the two natures of the Only-begotten, as they gazed upon the promised virginal maternity of the Maiden whose Child is the Son of God.

And though it took centuries to mine something of the breadth and depth of the mystery of the Triune God, in fidelity to the promise of the God-man, God the Holy Ghost led them to confess with greater clarity the truth already made real at the Virgin's fiat: that because the Child that was conceived in her womb, whom she bore and to whom she gave birth—because that Child is the Son of God—she, then, is in truth the Mater Dei, the Theotokos, the Mother of God.

For mothers do not give birth to bodies, but to persons.

Therefore, Saint Gregory Nazianzen rightly teaches:

“If anyone does not believe that Holy Mary is the Mother of God, such a one is a stranger to the Godhead.”

And the man who denies the divine maternity of the Blessed Virgin irreparably severs the hypostatic union of the divine and human natures of the Son.

So on this Fifth Sunday after Easter, as we begin our contemplation of the glories of Our Lady, and as we come to receive upon our tongues and in our persons the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, let us beseech God the Father to grant us the grace to humble ourselves before the mystery and to spend the remainder of our days as doers of the word, conforming our minds and our bodies to the same, saying:

“O God, from whom all good things do come, grant to us, Thy humble servants, that by Thy holy inspiration we may think those things that be good, and by Thy merciful guiding may perform the same. Through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.”

Saint Gregory Nazianzen, pray for us.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.