

Regina Cæli

Sermon Transcript • May 17, 2026

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

“Beloved, be prudent and watchful in prayers.”

Dearest friends, we are now three Sundays into Mary’s month, and by a happy coincidence today is also the Sunday within the octave of the Ascension—the Sunday of Ascensiontide, that eight-day-long celebration of the return of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the right hand of His Father.

This is a season during which Catholics rejoice, for in and through the events—the facts of history—to which it responds in jubilation, this season makes our faith more sure. And all this is as it should be.

For when the Fathers confessed at Nicaea that He ascended into Heaven, they confessed also that He sitteth at the right hand of the Father; that He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; and that of whose kingdom there shall be no end.

Through this compact summary of the chief tenets of our Catholic religion—the only religion which is holy and pleasing to God—the ancients, the Fathers of Nicaea, summon every man who wishes to glorify God the Father in this life and to be saved for the life to come to confess: Christ is King.

“For which cause God also hath exalted Him, and hath given Him a name which is above all names: that in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in Heaven, on earth, and under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that the Lord Jesus Christ is in the glory of God the Father.”

And by that confession, to acknowledge that Jesus Christ is truly God; that Jesus Christ is truly man; that Jesus Christ is the one, only Redeemer of mankind, for Jews and Gentiles alike; that Jesus Christ is mankind’s lawgiver, its judge, and its ruler; that the kingdom of Jesus Christ is both spiritual and social; and that, as King, individual men, societies, and nations owe their private and public obedience to Jesus Christ.

“Nor is there any difference in this matter between the individual and the family or the State; for all men, whether collectively or individually, are under the dominion of Christ. In Him is the salvation of the individual. In Him is the salvation of society.” —Quas Primas, no. 18

Put another way, every fraternity established between men and by the genius of men, and which is premised upon any motive other than that of the kingship of Jesus Christ, dishonors God the Father and is destined to fail.

As Pope Pius XI taught on the 11th of December, 1925:

“When once men recognize, both in private and in public life, that Christ is King, society will at last receive the great blessings of real liberty, well-ordered discipline, peace, and harmony.”

But as in previous installments of our mini-catechesis on the Blessed Virgin, you might be asking: How does any of this relate to the glory of the Blessed Virgin? And once again, the answer is both simple and straightforward.

For the man who acknowledges and confesses Christ is King simultaneously and necessarily—though implicitly—confesses also that the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of the King, is herself Queen.

And the Saints never stop singing of her queenship. So Saint Ephraim the Syrian sings:

“Majestic and heavenly Maid, Lady, Queen, protect us under your wing.”

To which Saint Gregory of Nazianzen adds:

“The Mother of the King of the universe; Virgin Mother who brought forth the King of the whole world.”

And to Saint John Damascene:

“When she became Mother of the Creator, she truly became Queen of every creature.”

The Blessed Virgin Mary is Queen of Heaven because she is the Mother of the King. She is Queen of Heaven because of her intimate association with the New Adam, the Redeemer, as the New Eve. She is Queen, endowed with the fullness of grace and intercessory power, making her the Mediatrix of all graces.

And thus it is that Pope Pius XII still teaches what he taught on the 11th of October, 1954:

“From the earliest ages of the Catholic Church, a Christian people, whether in time of triumph or, more especially, in time of crisis, has addressed prayers of petition and hymns of praise and veneration to the Queen of Heaven. And never has that hope wavered which they placed in the Mother of the Divine King, Jesus Christ; nor has that faith ever failed by which we are taught that Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, reigns with a mother’s solicitude over the entire world, just as she is crowned in heavenly blessedness with the glory of a Queen.”

My dear friends, when by His own power Our Lord ascended into Heaven, He made manifest that He who was King by nature—by receiving His human nature from the Blessed Virgin—had established Himself, through the victory of the Roman gibbet, as King by conquest. And in doing so, this loyal Son also established the queenship of His Holy Mother, too.

“Therefore, since we be risen with Christ, let us seek the things that are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Let us mind the things that are above, not the things that are upon the earth.”

Today is the Sunday within the octave of the Ascension, and on this day Holy Mother Church bids us to consider the glory of Our Lord Jesus Christ as God the Son, by His own power, takes leave of the earth and returns to the right hand of God the Father.

And because this day falls within Our Lady’s month, our Heavenly Father rejoices, too, as we are made to see anew the unutterably great honor that He has lavished upon the beloved and holy Mother of His only-begotten Son.

So on this holy day, as we continue our contemplation of the glory 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 rejoice in the queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary; the grace to honor her through liturgy, Rosary, consecration, and song; the grace to imitate her virtues—her humility, her obedience, and her faith; and the grace always to seek her protection as we make our way to this valley of tears.

Let us beg of our God the Father to grant us these unmerited graces, and so make us fit to share in the glory of the Ascension of His only-begotten Son, saying:

“Grant, we beseech, Almighty God, that we who believe Thine only-begotten Son, our Redeemer, to have ascended into Heaven, may also ourselves dwell in mind amid heavenly things.”

“Almighty and eternal God, give us a will ever dedicated to You, and a true heart to serve Your Majesty. Through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Our Lord, who with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, God, world without end. Amen.”

Saint Paschal Baylon, 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.