**SATURDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

# TU GLORIA LERUSALEM

Once we wrote: Tu gloria lerusalem, Tu laetitia Israel These words that the Church addresses to the Virgin Mary, in this canticle of praise and blessing, in which all the spiritual beauty of the Mother of God and our Mother is admired, are taken from the Book of Judith. We know the biblical story. Faced with Holofernes, who had set out to raze Jerusalem and all Judea to the ground, destroying and annihilating the Lord's people, the city of Bethulia, situated in a strategic location, decided to oppose the might of the enemy army, refusing to surrender and deliver itself from the hands of the destroying tyrant. We also know what Judith decided for the sake of her people, for their salvation: to kill Holofernes by deception, seducing him with her beauty and the sweetness of her words, which promised him victory without a blow. One night, while Holofernes, drunk as a skunk, lay in his tent, *“Judith stood by Holofernes' bed and said within herself: "O Lord, God of all might, in this hour look graciously on my undertaking for the exaltation of Jerusalem; now is the time for aiding your heritage and for carrying out my design to shatter the enemies who have risen against us." She went to the bedpost near the head of Holofernes, and taking his sword from it, drew close to the bed, grasped the hair of his head, and said, "Strengthen me this day, O God of Israel!" Then with all her might she struck him twice in the neck and cut off his head. She rolled his body off the bed and took the canopy from its supports. Soon afterward, she came out and handed over the head of Holofernes to her maid, who put it into her food pouch; and the two went off together as they were accustomed to do for prayer. They passed through the camp, and skirting the ravine, reached Bethulia on the mountain. As they approached its gates, Judith shouted to the guards from a distance: "Open! Open the gate! God, our God, is with us. Once more he has made manifest his strength in Israel and his power against our enemies; he has done it this very day."”* (Jdt 13,4-11). The news of Holofernes' death threw his entire army into panic and they dispersed. The people were free. Even from Jerusalem they came to congratulate Judith on the work she had accomplished: *“The high priest Joakim and the elders of the Israelites, who dwelt in Jerusalem, came to see for themselves the good things that the Lord had done for Israel, and to meet and congratulate Judith. When they had visited her, all with one accord blessed her, saying: "You are the glory of Jerusalem, the surpassing joy of Israel; You are the splendid boast of our people. With your own hand you have done all this; You have done good to Israel, and God is pleased with what you have wrought. May you be blessed by the Lord Almighty forever and ever!" And all the people answered, "Amen!" ”* (Jdt 15,8-10). Judith is hailed as the one who had saved Israel. She is his glory, his boast, his honour, his shining victory.

The Virgin Mary, with her yes, said to God in an admirable way throughout her life, allowed the crushing, the cutting off of the head of the enemy of all mankind, of the one who enslaves and deports every man into his kingdom of darkness. What is sung for Judith, must be sung multiplied infinitely for the Mother of God. She is our honour, our boast, our glory, our victory, our Mother of Salvation and Redemption. By her yes, from her virginal womb, the One who defeated death, sin, disobedience was born; the One who poured out grace and truth upon the whole world the Holy Spirit. He who comes to take us out of the kingdom of darkness and bring us into the kingdom of light. Jesus is the blessed fruit of the Virgin Mary. Because of this fruit and because of her yes all honour, all blessing, all thanksgiving, all praise goes to Her. Judith exposed herself to martyrdom, but she was not a martyr. Mary is Martyr and Queen of Martyrs because of her immense pain at the foot of the Cross. Judith did not offer her Son to the Father for the salvation of her city. Mary offered her Divine Son to God for our eternal Redemption. Mary is infinitely more than Judith. Another truth that must be said is this: by falling Jerusalem it was the God worshipped in Jerusalem who would lose his glory and honour, his truth of being the only living and true God, the only Lord, the only Creator of heaven and earth. Judith exposed herself for the glory of God. Also, by her yes the Virgin Mary made the Lord victorious over the devil, the only true enemy of man. The glory of God is the only end for which the Virgin Mary lives.

Today we must add that the Christian is no longer the glory of the Church, the glory of Christ Jesus, the glory of the Gospel, the glory of the Father, the glory of the Holy Spirit before the world. Today it is as if the Christian has surrendered himself to Satan's falsehood and lies. It is as if Satan had bewitched him with his falsehoods and lies. It is as if he had made him totally blind, so blind as to make him become a worshipper of Satan himself and of all the idols he daily constructs for him. This very bad corruption of the Christian is due to the fact that he has lost faith in the Word of God, in the Word of Christ Jesus, in the truth of the Holy Spirit, in the sound doctrine of the Apostles, the Fathers and the Doctors of the Church. Without the pure faith in the Word, moral devastation has come. Nothing is no longer sin and nothing is no longer evil. Truly Satan has now become the lord and master of many hearts. They think according to Satan and say they think according to God. If our Mother does not descend from heaven soon, when She comes, She will find only a very small flock that is of pure and holy faith in the Word of her Son. She prophesied some fifty years ago that the world had forgotten the Word of her Son Jesus. But She was not believed. The children of Satan fought Her to the point of declaring her descent among us a figment of imagination and fantasy. History, however, is proving her right. The Word of the Lord is disappearing from the Church and this is not imagination, this is not fantasy, this is not the projection of a sick mind, this is history. Mother of God, come down before it is too late. Come to give glory to your most holy name. Thank you, Mother, for I know that you will come down.

**23 February 2025**