

Mary Mother of the Church
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Today is a memorial for the Blessed Virgin Mary. There are a number of them throughout the Church year. Today's feast day is about celebrating her title as the "Mother of the Church". And, boy, do we need her intercession more than ever. We are in difficult days. We really are. If the pandemic wasn't enough, we now have rioters in the streets. We therefore continue to pray with each other that God will transform all of our hearts so that our country and world will finally know a just peace.

As difficult as these days are, the Church nevertheless has a way of reminding us that life was worse in the first century, as our Gospel reading reminds us by placing us again at the foot of the cross. And as I have shared with you before, John's Gospel is fascinating in its way of occasionally omitting names so that we can see ourselves in the story. Today we have a number of women mentioned by name at the foot of the cross. The one who isn't named is just called the Mother of the Lord. There is another person not named too in this Gospel reading, the Beloved Disciple. Obviously, the Beloved Disciple knew his own name as he also knew the name of Jesus' mother. However, he wants us to see ourselves as the Beloved Disciple too. He also wants us to consider what it feels like to be his mother.

That Jesus entrusts his mother to his beloved disciple and then his beloved disciple to his mother is a very profound moment in the Gospel of John on so many different levels. For one, we have all been welcomed into Jesus' family by his passion, death and resurrection. We have become one with Jesus, and with this, one with God. That is how salvation happens in John's Gospel. However, on another level, the Church is also inseparably one with the Mother of the Lord because we are all meant to see ourselves as the Beloved Disciple. In this sense, the Church is the Beloved Disciple. Jesus entrusts his mother to the Church and the Church to his mother. This is why the feast day today celebrating Mary as Mother of the Church is quite profound.

And, boy we need her right now. We really do. Whenever the Church or world falls into hard times, we need to entrust ourselves to our Mother Mary's care. This is because everything about Mary points us to her son Jesus, who alone is the Prince of Peace, and the way, the truth and the life.