

The feast of **Our Lady of Sorrows** commemorates the seven great sorrows which Mary lived in relation to Her Son, as they are recorded in the Gospels and through Tradition. The Blessed Virgin Mary is portrayed in a sorrowful mood with seven daggers piercing her heart.



First Reading: (Heb 5:7-9) In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and being made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

Ps 30:2-6, 15-16, 20

R./ Save me, O Lord, in your love.

Gospel: (Jn 19:25-27) Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

REFLECTION

In today's gospel John presents Jesus as a man rejected, dejected and derided. There are four women and the disciple whom He loved standing at the foot of the cross as an example of fearless love. As a dying gift to the humanity Mary is entrusted to His disciple. **By presenting His mother to be the mother of humanity Jesus assures the maternal closeness of Mary in the terrifying trials of human life.** St. John wants us to remember that the pre-requisite for the maternal closeness of Mary in our life is the love that we have for Her son Jesus. It was only when Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby He said, "woman behold your son," and vice versa. Today as we reflect on the sufferings of Jesus on the cross, and Mary at the foot of the cross let us search for ways and means by which we can share in the sufferings of our fellow beings, making us one of the 'beloved disciples.'