

**MAY 31,  
THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:  
EVENING PRAYER**

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

**A Reading from the Book of Zechariah**

Thus says the LORD of hosts; “Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion; for lo, I come and I will dwell in the midst of you, says the LORD. And many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people; and I will dwell in the midst of you, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. And the LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem.” Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD; for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

*The Reader concludes*

The Word of the Lord.

*The Second Lesson. The Reader begins*

**A Reading from the Gospel according to John**

Now a discussion arose between John’s disciples and a Jew over purifying. And they came to John, and said to him, “Rabbi, he who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you bore witness, here he is, baptizing, and

all are going to him.” John answered, “No one can receive anything except what is given him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him. He who has the bride is the bridegroom; the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice; therefore this joy of mine is now full. He must increase, but I must decrease.”

*The Reader concludes*

The Word of the Lord.