

**Today, Catholics pray the Regina Caeli in place of the Angelus during the season of Easter.** Like the Angelus, it is a prayer that holds both Mary and heavenly angels at its core. Instead of focusing on the Annunciation and the Incarnation, however, this prayer focuses on the Resurrection and the joy of salvation.

So during the easter season we recite the Regina Caeli instead of the Angelus three times each day. Filled with the many recitations of “Alleluia,” the Regina Caeli celebrates the joy of the Resurrection with the Virgin Mary as Queen of Heaven.

In 1742 the Pope asked the church to pray the Regina Caeli instead of the Angelus during Easter, but the words of the prayer actually predate the formation of the Angelus as far back as the sixth century. According to legend, Pope Gregory the Great heard an angel singing some of the words of the Regina Caeli during an epidemic in Rome.

## **The Regina Caeli**

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

The Son whom you merited to bear, alleluia,  
has risen as he said, alleluia.

Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, who have been pleased to gladden the world  
by the Resurrection of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
grant, we pray,  
that through his Mother, the Virgin Mary,  
we may receive the joys of everlasting life.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.