

# Mothering Sunday

## Family Holy Communion

Sunday 18 March 2011

Mothering Sunday is a popular day when Christians choose to use the occasion to think about all things which concern motherhood. We give thanks for the Church as Mother, the Virgin Mary as the mother of Jesus, we remember that God cares for us like a mother and last but not least we give thanks for our own mothers. Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Lent and it is a time of special thanksgiving. It is a day in Lent when flowers abound in all churches and when people are encouraged to share a time of refreshment in the penitential season.

### Welcome

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
*All* **and also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.  
*All* **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires  
known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration  
of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



*To make us feel secure  
They lose their life in ours;  
And what they mean to us is more  
Than we can say with flowers.*

## Hymn

Our Father God in heaven  
On whom our world depends,  
To you let praise be given  
For families and friends;  
For parents, sisters, brothers,  
A home where love belongs,  
But on this day for mothers  
We bring our thankful songs.

What wealth of God's bestowing  
For all the world to share!  
What strength of heart outgoing  
To children everywhere!  
Our deepest joys and sorrows  
A mother's path must trace,  
And earth's unknown tomorrows  
Are held in her embrace.

How well we know the story  
That tells of Jesus' birth,  
The Lord of heaven's glory  
become a child of earth;  
A helpless infant sleeping,  
yet King of realms above,  
who finds in Mary's keeping  
the warmth of human love.

Our Father God in heaven,  
To you we lift our prayer,  
That every child be given  
Such tenderness and care,  
Where life is all for others,  
Where love your love displays:  
For God's good gift of mothers  
Let earth unite in praise!

*Tune St Theodulph*

## Prayers of Penitence

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.  
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,  
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

*All* **Loving God, we have sinned against you;  
in what we have thought, said and done.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and turn away from what is wrong.  
Forgive us for the sake of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy  
has promised forgiveness of sins  
to all those who with heartfelt repentance  
and true faith turn to him: have mercy on you;  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins;  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness;  
and bring you to everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord



### Offering

*Thank you to those who have presented their gifts  
by standing order, through the bank. If you are a tax  
payer please use Gift Aid envelopes to enable us to  
reclaim tax. All stand as the Offering is brought  
forward.*

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory,  
the splendour and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.  
All things come from you,  
and of your own do we give you.**

## Hymn

Tell out my soul (*Woodlands*) 86

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!

## The Ministry of The Word

### Collect Prayer

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### Bible Readings

*These may be followed on Partnership News*

*After each reading the reader will say*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

## Hymn

Lord Jesus Christ (*Living Lord*) 617

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You have come to us,  
You are one with us,  
Mary's Son;  
Cleansing our souls from all their sin,  
Pouring your love and goodness in;  
Jesus, our love for you we sing,  
Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Now and every day  
Teach us how to pray,  
Son of God.  
You have commanded us to do  
This in remembrance, Lord, of you;  
Into our lives your power breaks through,  
Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You have come to us,  
Born as one of us,  
Mary's Son;  
Led out to die on Calvary,  
Risen from death to set us free,  
Living Lord Jesus, help us see  
You are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
I would come to you,  
Live my life for you,  
Son of God.  
All your commands I know are true,  
Your many gifts will make me new,  
Into my life your power breaks through,  
Living Lord.

## Sermon

The Reverend Charles Royden

## Hymn

How great the debt we owe, to those who love us most;  
They give us birth, and help us grow, and rarely count the cost.

To make us feel secure, they lose their life in ours;  
And what they mean to us is more, than we can say with flowers.

How can we measure love? Yet treasure it we must  
For what God gives us from above, is held by us in trust.

Then let us vow today, as those who know love's worth,  
To love, to worship, and obey, the Lord of all the earth.

*Tune: Franconia Words F Pratt Green*

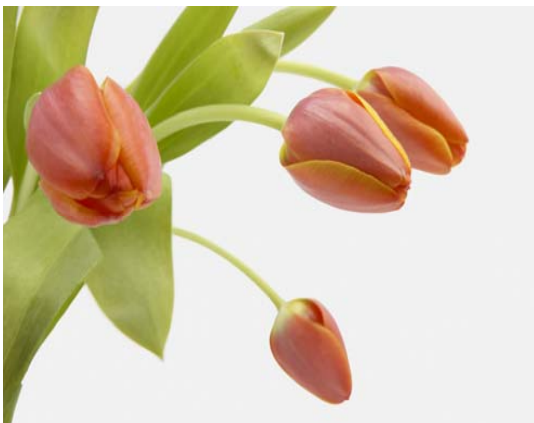
## The Ministry of the Sacrament

### The Peace

Minister: Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to  
God in one body by the cross.  
We meet in his name and share his peace.

Minister: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**



*You may wish to exchange  
a sign of peace  
and shake hands  
with those around you*

## The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord

And today we thank you for human love, that love shown by parents and especially by mothers, which continues to forgive regardless of weakness and failure. We thank you for your love which is stronger than death and embraces all which you have created

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.

As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast. From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends and, taking bread, he gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to them, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world**

Send down your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of Christ. Unite us with him for ever and bring us with the whole creation to your eternal kingdom.

Minister: The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**All: Though we are many, we are one body  
because we all share in one bread.**

*Sung* **Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us your peace.**



*Before the bread and wine is given we sit or kneel for the prayer of humble access*

**Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in.  
Our hands were unclean our hearts were unprepared;  
we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under  
your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,  
and share your bread with sinners.  
So cleanse us and feed us  
with the precious body and blood of your Son,  
that he may live in us and we in him;  
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,  
may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, and his blood which was shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

### **Prayer said after Communion**

**Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

## Prayer and Distribution Of Flowers

O God bless these flowers, bless us and bless our mothers. May these flowers remind us how much our mothers have done for us; may they remind our mothers that we love them; and may they remind us all that God cares for each one of us, because we are all God's children. **Amen.**

### Hymn

Lord of all hopefulness 552

- 1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever child-like, no care could destroy,  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
- 2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
- 3 Lord of all kindness,  
Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome,  
your arms to embrace,  
Be there at our homing,  
and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts,  
Lord, at the eve of the day.
- 4 Lord of all gentleness,  
Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment,  
whose presence is balm,  
Be there at our sleeping,  
and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,  
at the end of the day.



## The Blessing

May the Lord who brought us to birth by his Spirit, strengthen us for the Christian life. May the Lord who provides for all our needs sustain us day by day. May the Lord whose steadfast love is constant as a mother's care, send us out to live and work for others.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Minister: Go in peace to Love and serve the Lord

**All: In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Please remain after the service for coffee  
which will be served in the church*



## THANKSGIVING

We thank God for giving us others to share in our lives:  
For parents, and the love which brought us to birth:

For mothers who have cherished and nurtured us:

For fathers who have loved and supported us,

For brothers and sisters with whom we have shared our home:

For children and their parents:

For other relatives and friends, who have been with us  
in our hopes and joys and times of sadness:

For all who first spoke to us of Jesus, and have drawn us  
into the family of our Father in heaven:

We praise you, O Lord; and bring you thanks today.  
Help us to live as those who belong to one another,  
and to you, our Father, now and always. Amen.

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*How great the debt we owe  
To those who love us most;  
They give us birth, and help us grow,  
And rarely count the cost.*