

Mothering Sunday Family Holy Communion

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

Praise my soul the King of Heaven, 560

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven
who like thee his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness!

Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows!

Frail as summer's flower we flourish,
blows the wind and it is gone;
but while mortals rise and perish
God endures unchanging on.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the high eternal One!

Angels, help us to adore him,
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace!

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

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.

F Pratt Green Tune: Franconia

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

Shout for joy! The Lord has let us feast;
heaven's own fare has fed the last and least;
Christ's own peace is shared again on earth;
God the Spirit fills us with new worth.

No more doubting, no more senseless dread:
God's good self has graced our wine and bread;
all the wonder heaven has kept in store
now is ours to keep for evermore.

Celebrate with saints who dine on high,
witnesses that love can never die.
"Hallelujah!" – thus their voices ring:
nothing less in gratitude we bring.

Praise the Maker, praise the Maker's Son,
praise the Spirit – three yet ever one;
praise the God whose food and friends avow
heaven starts here! The kingdom beckons now!

John L Bell (b 1949) And Graham Maule (b 1958) Tune: Lansdowne

Sermon

The Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman

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.**

*Everybody here this morning is welcome to take communion
If you would prefer not to, then why not come forward with the service sheet in your hand and we will ask for God's blessing on you instead
If you wish to have us pray with for Christian healing then please place your arms over your chest before communion and we will pray with you for yourself or somebody else*

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

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: Ellacombe

The Blessing

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us:

May God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us:

May God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us.

May almighty God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

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*



Prayers for Mothering Sunday

Loving God, you have given us the right to be called children of God. Help us to show your love in our homes that they may be places of love, security and truth.

Loving God, Jesus, your Son, was born into the family of Mary and Joseph; bless all parents and all who care for children; strengthen those families living under stress and may your love be known where no human love is found.

Loving God, we thank you for the family of the Church. We pray that all may find in her their true home; that the lonely, the marginalized, the rejected may be welcomed and loved in the name of Jesus.

Loving God, as we see the brokenness of our world we pray for healing among the nations; for food where there is hunger; for freedom where there is oppression; for joy where there is pain; that your love may bring peace to all your children.

Loving God, accept the cries of our heart as we offer you prayers; through them transform us and all creation until you are in all and through all.

We ask these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus. All Amen.



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.



*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.*