



**Welcome to
a service of Holy Communion
Mothering Sunday
Sunday 30th March**

The Greeting

Praise God who loves us.
All Praise God who cares.

A large candle may be lit

[We light this candle to remind us that the love of God is like a light in our darkness.

All Blessed be God for ever.]

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have loved and laughed and laboured as they cared for their children;

All Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have wept in sorrow and joy for their children:

All Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you, our God, for Jesus, born of a woman and nurtured in her love, and for Mary, a reminder of your patient, waiting love.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Hymn

Prayer of preparation

**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.**

Invitation to confession

Let us call to mind our sin, our failure to value the love of others and our failure to love as Christ has loved us.

Silence for reflection

Confession

Your love gives us life from the moment of conception.
We fail to live as your children.
Lord, have mercy.
All Lord, have mercy.

You call us to do good. We seek our own good.
Christ, have mercy.
All Christ have mercy.

You hear us when we cry for help. We ignore the cries of others.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse *you* from *your* sins,
and restore *you* in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Collect

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.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 2.1–10

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?'

Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

At the end:

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

New Testament Reading

Colossians 3.12–17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

At the end:

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn

Gospel Reading

John 19.25–27

Hear the Gospel of our Lord
Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near 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 beside

her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ

Sermon

Hymn

Praise God who loves us.

All Praise God who cares.

Profession of faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

These responses may be used:

God of love,

hear our prayer.

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Peace

Praise God who loves us.

All Praise God who cares.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says,

‘As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.’

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Hymn

Preparation of the Table

God of wisdom,

may the light of your eternal Word,

our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

lead us in holiness and guide us to glory;

we ask this in his name.

Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer G

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Lord God,

our light and our salvation;

to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things

and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image,

the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels

and all the powers of heaven

we may find a voice to sing your praise:

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.

Christ is the bread of life:
**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with [N and] all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As God's children, and heirs with Christ
we cry in the Spirit, 'Abba', Father.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup,
**we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

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

Music during administration

Prayer After Communion

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your
Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living
sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.

Prayer for Mothers

and Distribution of Flowers to congregation

Praise God who loves us.
All Praise God who cares.
For the care of mothers;
All Thanks be to God.
For their patience when tested;
All Thanks be to God.
For their love when tired;
All Thanks be to God.

For their hope when despairing;

All Thanks be to God.

For their service without limit;

All Thanks be to God.

Music may be played as the flowers are distributed

Notices

The Blessing

Praise God who loves us.

All Praise God who cares.

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless *you*:

may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless *you*:

may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless *you*.

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

All Amen.

Hymn

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.

Exit Music

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