



**Welcome to  
a service of Holy Communion  
Sunday 15th March  
Mothering Sunday**

### The Greeting

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**  
Praise God who loves us.  
**Praise God who cares.**

### Hymn: Tell out my soul

### Praising and Thanking God

*A candle may be lit*  
We light this candle to remind us that the love of God is like a light in  
our darkness.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

### Praising and Thanking God

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

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

**Blessed be God for ever.**

### **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.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You call us to do good.

We seek our own good.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

You hear us when we cry for help.

We ignore the cries of others.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

## **Absolution**

*If a candle was not lit earlier, it might be lit at this point.*

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

**Amen.**

## **The Collect**

God of love,  
passionate and strong,  
tender and careful:  
watch over us and hold us  
all the days of our life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# **The Liturgy of the Word**

## **Old Testament Reading**

### **Exodus 2.1–10**

*At the end:*

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## New Testament Reading

### Colossians 3.12–17

*At the end:*

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### Hymn: Bind Us Together

## Gospel Reading

### John 19.25–27

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you O Christ**

## Sermon

### Hymn: The Power of Your Love

## Affirmation 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**

*This response may be used:*

Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer**

*At the end:*

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers,  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

### **The Peace**

Praise God who loves us.  
**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

and also with you.

**Hymn: All things bright and beautiful**

**Preparation of the Table**

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.**

**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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

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 our Saviour taught us, so we pray  
**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

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many,  
we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## Agnus Dei

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

## Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word,  
and I shall be healed.**

## Music for distribution of communion

## 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

Praise God who loves us.

**Praise God who cares.**

For the care of mothers,  
and all those who care for us;

**Thanks be to God.**

For their patience when tested;

**Thanks be to God.**

For their love when tired;

**Thanks be to God.**

For their hope when despairing;

**Thanks be to God.**

For their service without limit;

**Thanks be to God.**

## Notices

### The Blessing

Praise God who loves us.

**Praise God who cares.**

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.

**Amen.**

**Hymn: Love Divine**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and to serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ,**

**Amen.**

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