



**Welcome to  
a Service of the Word  
Mothering Sunday  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> 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.**

### **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 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.**

### **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.**

## Hymn

### 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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