

# MOTHERING SUNDAY

*A version of a Service of The Word for Mothering Sunday which may be used on its own or adapted for use with prescribed services.*

## **GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

### ***GREETING***

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### ***SENTENCE***

As a mother comforts a child so will I comfort you, says the Lord.

*Isaiah 66.13*

### ***INTRODUCTION***

For many years the Fourth Sunday in Lent has been observed as Mothering Sunday. The tradition arose from a sentence in St Paul's Letter to the Galatians, which for many centuries was read in the Epistle of this Sunday: in it St Paul writes of "Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all". So, on this day we give thanks to God who gives us New Birth, and for the Church which, like a mother, nurtures us in the life of the Spirit. We also give thanks for our own human mothers, and for all the qualities of mothering, given and received in this congregation.

### ***HYMN***

### ***CONFESSION***

Let us confess our sins to God our Father

**Almighty and merciful God  
we have sinned against you,  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with all our heart.  
We have not loved others as our Saviour Christ loves us.  
We are truly sorry.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

*The priest says*

Through the Cross of Christ,  
may God have mercy on you,  
pardon you, and set you free.  
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.  
May God strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal. **Amen.**

*Stand*

O Lord, open our lips:  
**and our mouth will proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us:  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
**As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

***COLLECT FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY***

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 our Lord. **Amen**

**Amen.**

**THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

Praise the Lord.  
**The Lord's name be praised.**

***PSALM***

Psalm 27.1-6 or 34 or 84 or 87 or 122 or 139. 1-18

***READINGS***

*First Reading:* 1 Samuel 1. 20-28 or Proverbs 4. 1-9 or Proverbs 31. 10-31 or Micah 4. 1-5

*Second Reading:* Ephesians 5. 22-6. 4 or Colossians 3. 12-17 or 2 Timothy 1. 3-10

*Gospel:* Matthew 12. 46-50 or Matthew 23. 37-39 or Mark 10. 13-16 or Luke 2. 41-45 or John 19. 23-27

***CANTICLE***

THE SONG OF OUR ADOPTION *Ephesians 1. 3-6*

1 Blessèd are you, God and Father of our Lord | Jesus | Christ:  
you have blessed us in Christ with every spiritual | blessing • in the | heaven•ly | realms.

2 Even before the world was made you chose us to be | yours in | Christ:  
that we should be holy and | blameless | in your | sight.

3 In love you destined us for adoption as your children | through Christ | Jesus:  
such was your | pleasure | and your | purpose,

4 to the praise of your | glori•ous | grace:  
which you have freely given us in | your be|loved | Son.

Glory to the Father, and | to the | Son:  
and | to the | Holy | Spirit.

As it was in the be|ginning • is | now:  
and shall be for | ever. | A-|men.

*or*

THE SONG OF HANNAH *1 Samuel 2. 1-4,7,8*

*These words may be used as a refrain : **My heart exults in the Lord: my strength is exalted in my God.***

1 My heart ex|ults • in the | Lord:  
my strength is ex|alted | in my | God.

2 There is none holy | like the | Lord:  
there is none beside you, | no rock | like our | God. **R**

3 For you O Lord are a | God of | knowledge:  
and by | you our | actions • are | weighed.

4 The bows of the | mighty • are | broken:  
but the | feeble | gird on | strength. **R**

5 You Lord make | poor • and make | rich:  
you bring | low • and you | also • e|xalt.

6 You raise up the | poor • from the | dust:  
and lift the | needy | from the | ash-heap. **R**

7 You make them | sit with | princes:  
and in|herit • a seat of | honour.

8 For yours O Lord are the | pillars • of the | earth:  
and on them | you have | set the | world. **R**

Glory to the Father, and | to the | Son:  
and | to the | Holy | Spirit.

As it was in the be|ginning • is | now:  
and shall be for | ever. | A-|men.

*or*

A metrical version of MAGNIFICAT (e.g. Tell out my soul)

### ***THE SERMON***

### **THE RESPONSE**

### ***THE APOSTLES' CREED***

*A symbolic act like children presenting flowers to mothers and other adult women in the congregation, drama or mime may be included at some stage. But care needs to be taken that minority groups are not ignored e.g. single people, those unable to have children, adopted children and orphans.*

### ***THE PRAYERS***

*These may include some of the following:*

### ***THANKSGIVING***

We thank God for giving us others to share in our lives:  
For parents, and the love which brought us to birth:  
We praise you, O Lord;  
**and bring you thanks today.**

For mothers who have cherished and nurtured us:  
We praise you, O Lord;  
**and bring you thanks today.**

For fathers who have loved and supported us,  
We praise you, O Lord;  
**and bring you thanks today.**

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

We praise you, O Lord;

**and bring you thanks today.**

For children and their parents:

We praise you, O Lord;

**and bring you thanks today.**

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

We praise you, O Lord;

**and bring you thanks today.**

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.**

*or*

The Thanksgiving in THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

**Almighty God,**

**we praise you for the blessings brought to the world through your Church.**

**We bless you for the grace of the sacraments,**

**for our fellowship in Christ with you and with each other,**

**for the teaching of the Scriptures, and for the preaching of your word.**

**We thank you for the holy example of your saints,**

**for your faithful servants departed this life,**

**and for the memory and example of all that has been true and good in their lives.**

**Number us with them in the company of the redeemed in heaven;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### ***INTERCESSIONS***

*For mothers.*

Lord Jesus, you know well the blessing an earthly home can bring:

Receive our thanks for all the love we have received in our homes,

especially from those who have nurtured us from our earliest years.

Hear our prayers for mothers everywhere,

that they may never lose heart nor ever be taken for granted,

but receive from their children the honour and love you showed to your mother, Mary,

even as you were suffering on the Cross.

Bless and keep them all,

for your love's sake. **Amen**

*For those in need*

Remember, O Lord, all those in need:

people with no good food or proper clothes,

no home of their own, or no work to do;

those who have neither family nor friends

and no knowledge of your love.

Supply their needs.

Bless those who try to help them

and bring us all to trust in you.  
We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

*For those who live alone*

God our Father,  
we ask you to bless all who live alone,  
those who have lost their partner in marriage,  
those who have never married,  
those whose families are grown up and away from home  
and those who have outlived other members of their families  
and many of their friends:  
Be with them to assure them of your love  
and of their value to you every moment of their lives,  
and enable them to rejoice in the fellowship of your Church  
on earth and in heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*A prayer which may be said by children together  
or repeated phrase by phrase after a Sunday school teacher or other person.*

**Father in heaven,  
bless all mothers  
and those who look after us in our daily lives.  
Make us grateful for their goodness  
and thankful for their care.  
Help us to respond to them in loving obedience;  
following the example of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

*If the service is Holy Communion and elements from the above have been included,*

*If Holy Communion One is to follow it begins with*

*'Lift up your hearts...'* (page 186)

*If Holy Communion Two is to follow it begins with the Peace* (page 207)

*The Blessing below may be used.*

*If there is no communion the service may conclude with the LORD'S PRAYER, announcements, and collection. The Blessing below may be used.*

*Suitable hymns may be used at various places following the Creed.*

## **GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

### ***BLESSING***

May the Lord who brought us to birth by his Spirit,  
strengthen us for the Christian life. **Amen.**

May the Lord who provides for all our needs  
sustain us day by day. **Amen.**

May the Lord whose steadfast love is constant as a mother's care,  
send us out to live and work for others. **Amen.**

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