

Our Service Together

Mothering Sunday

March 15th 2026



Preparation

All: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Through the brokenness of Christ, we become one body
as one body we now gather in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to receive God's
holy word, to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Our Confession

Let us come to the light of Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

All: Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to
you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

Be still for a moment in confession and in receiving God's Grace in Christ

All: May Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us
our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his
kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. **Amen.**

The opening prayer

All: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

All: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire
with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

The Psalm Psalm 34.11-20 *We say the psalm aloud*

Come, my children, and listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
Who is there who delights in life and longs for days to enjoy good things?
Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from lying words.
Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.
The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and his ears are open to their cry.
The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
The righteous cry and the Lord hears them and delivers them out of all their troubles.
The Lord is near to the broken hearted and will save those who are crushed in spirit.
Many are the troubles of the righteous; from them all will the Lord deliver them.
He keeps all their bones, so that not one of them is broken.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Scripture Reading Exodus 2.1-10

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. ³When 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. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. ⁵The 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. ⁶When 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. ⁷Then 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?' ⁸Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹Pharaoh'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. ¹⁰When 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 of the reading we say:

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gloria

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Gospel John 19.23-27

²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture

says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.'

²⁵ 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. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' ²⁷ 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 of the reading we say:

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

A Reflection for the day

Moses' sister watches from a distance and when he is discovered by Pharaoh's daughter she ensures he is given back to his mother. Moses may have been placed in a basket, in the river, but he is not alone, he is watched over by his sister.

In Luke's account of the crucifixion Jesus' followers and family stand at a distance, but John has them right in at the foot of the cross. In his darkest hour, when he offers his life itself and he feels abandoned, he is not on his own.

Moses' sister takes a great risk by hanging about where the daughter of Pharaoh, who holds the power of life and earth to all in the land, especially to the enslaved and problematic Hebrews, is to bathe. She risks both her own life and that of Moses. Boldly she asks 'shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to come and nurse this child?' You might expect her presence, and even more her brazen audacity to be dismissed. But no, and through this Moses grows to maturity with his mother and is welcomed into the royal household of Pharaoh, ready for the work of God's deliverance of his people.

The four women at the foot of the cross, stood watching as Jesus dies risk everything as well. By being there, they have risked being identified with him and opening themselves to arrest. They reveal to us their bravery, their fidelity, their resolve to do all in the face of what might come their way.

Jesus' mother Mary especially, after all the years, all the trials and troubles, all the joys and surprises shows in this time her resilience, her motherly affection and refusal to give up on Jesus. You can't help but wonder where Jesus got some of his attributes from.

Mother's matter when it comes to inheriting faith, mothers matter when it comes to developing attributes and characteristics for life.

When Jesus talks to his mother from the cross he does so as her oldest adult male relative, with her husband dead, Jesus is beholden to care and provide for her. Now, as Jesus' time has come, as the Father's only Son sent into the world as a complete self-giving offering of love, Jesus says "Woman, behold, your son!" And he says to the Beloved Disciple, "Behold, your mother!" Mary's fidelity and love for Jesus are mirrored, and then some, in the fidelity and love he has for her.

In both our readings we catch a glimpse of God's blue print for human families. Sisters watching out for baby brothers, mothers supporting their children, sons ensuring their parents are cared for, and above all fathers selflessly offering love those they call family. We are reminded that our calling is to 'love' one another, not for personal gain, not to be in control or have dominance, but simply to offer ourselves self-sacrificially for the good of the other.

Today, on Mothering Sunday, we celebrate mums, but more we are reminded of our calling as brothers and sisters in Christ, as mothers and fathers in faith to a deeper exercise - to be open to Christ's work on the cross in our lives that all our relationships may be transformed into his likeness as people known for compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forbearance, peace, wisdom, and thanksgiving.

The Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers *We make our intercessions*

On this Mothering Sunday let us pray the church 'the mother of us all'. We pray for the church in this diocese, for Michael our Bishop and all laity and clergy who seek to serve us in this diocese May they be filled with the Spirit and speak with authority. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

On this Mothering Sunday let us give thanks and marvel at the world in which we live that its resources may be used responsibly for the good of all. We pray for all World leaders, that they may have the Spirit of wisdom. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

On this Mothering Sunday let us give thanks for our mothers and their care for us. Let us pray for all mothers particularly those in difficult situations. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for the hungry and starving, that the available food may be used for the benefit of all. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for our families, friends, and neighbours that we may serve Christ in one another and seek the common good. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for our schools, the children, teachers, and support staff as they face further disruption. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for the sick, suffering and dying and we give thanks and pray for those who use their skill and risk their lives to care for them. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

Hear us as we remember those who have died..... According to your promises grant them a share in your eternal kingdom. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

The Collect

All: 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.**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Conclusion

All: Christ, as a light illumine and guide me this day.
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.
Christ under me, Christ over me;
Christ beside me on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me. Amen.