



Thank God  
for Mums!

## **Family Service for Mothering Sunday**

### **Welcome**

*We are here today to thank God for mothers and carers around the world. Caring for a family is a very special role that takes much wisdom and love. Today we shall celebrate all they do to show us the right way to live and ask God to help them as they do so. We're not all mothers ourselves but we all have a mother, whether or not they are still with us, and we are all children of God. He is our loving Father who shows us the way to live and walks beside us through our life. When our own family fail us or are absent, his love is perfect and constant.*

### **Hymn 21 All things bright and beautiful**

## **Opening prayer**

*Please sit or kneel*

### **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. 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 Word**

*Please sit*

**First Reading – Exodus 2: 1 – 10** *How Moses' mother saved him*

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

*Please stand*

**Hymn 206 – He’s got the whole world in his hands**

**A Song of St Anselm**      *from Anselm of  
Canterbury*

**Gather your little ones to you, O God,  
as a hen gathers her brood to protect  
them.**

**1. Jesus, like a mother you gather your  
people to you; you are gentle with us as a  
mother with her children.**

**2. Often you weep over our sins and our  
pride, tenderly you draw us from hatred  
and judgement.**

**3. You comfort us in sorrow and bind up  
our wounds, in sickness you nurse us, and  
with pure milk you feed us.**

**4. Jesus, by your dying we are born to  
new life; by your anguish and labour we  
come forth in joy.**

**5. Despair turns to hope through your  
sweet goodness; through your gentleness  
we find comfort in fear.**

**6. Your warmth gives life to the dead,  
your touch makes sinners righteous.**

**7. Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us; in  
your love and tenderness remake us.**

**8. In your compassion bring grace and  
forgiveness, for the beauty of heaven may  
your love prepare us.**

**Gather your little ones to you, O God,  
as a hen gathers her brood to protect  
them.**

*Please sit*

**Second Reading –Colossians 3: 12 - 17** *A new life  
of love in Christ*

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

*Please stand*

***Hymn 60 – Bind us together, Lord***

**Sermon**

*Affirmation of Faith*

*Please stand*

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**

*Please sit or kneel*

***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**

*Prayers*

*As children of a loving God who always listens to our cries, let us pray to our Father in heaven.*

Loving God, you have given us the right to be called children of God. Help us to show your love in our homes that they may be places of love, security and truth.

Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, Jesus, your Son, was born into the family of Mary and Joseph; bless all parents and all who care for children, particularly those who work quietly in the background; strengthen those families living under stress and may your love be known where no human love is found.

Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we thank you for the family of the Church. We pray that all may find in her their true home; that the lonely, the marginalized, the rejected may be welcomed and loved in the name of Jesus.

Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, as we see the brokenness of our world we pray for healing among the nations; for food where there is hunger; for freedom where there is oppression; for joy where there is pain; that your love may bring peace to all your children.

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

### *The Lord's Prayer*

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

**Our Father, which art in heaven  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that 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 Peace*                      *Please stand*

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 328 – Make me a channel of  
your peace**

**Blessing of Posies**

Heavenly Father and Lord of all Creation, we thank you for these flowers and those who have provided and arranged them.

We pray that you will bless these flowers, gifts to us of your love.

May those who give them, and those who receive them be filled with your love, and grow in love for one another;

in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

*All are invited to come forward to receive a posy for their mothers.*

***A Prayer for Mothering Sunday***

Thank you God for the love of our mothers:

thank you God for their care and concern;

thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;

thank you God for the pains they have borne for us;

thank you God for all that they give us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Hymn 354 – Now thank we all our  
God**

*The collection will be taken during this  
hymn*

*Remain Standing*

## **Offertory prayer**

Heavenly Father, may these gifts go where we cannot go. Through them let the hungry be fed, the sick healed, and the lost found; for Jesus' sake. Amen

## ***The Blessing***

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 you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## ***The Dismissal***

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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