

Mothing Sunday – 14th March 2021

Opening Words

The Lord is here

His Spirit is with us.

Praise God who loves us.

Praise God who cares.

Heavenly Father, we rejoice with thanks for all those who have mothered us in our lives. In a world that is broken and in need of your motherly love, please use us to aid others as you do us in providing comfort, nurture, protection and support. We ask that you grow us as carers to those who need us, so that we might celebrate your goodness together even through our own brokenness.

Amen.

Mothing Sunday 2020 was the first Sunday where public worship did not take place in church buildings. A year on there is much we have learnt about caring for one another. Millions of people have volunteered in their communities for the first time ever, and this reflects the spirit of Mothing Sunday. As our Gospel reading suggests, Jesus re-draws the lines of kinship; our kin are not (just) those biologically related to us but all those with whom we rub shoulders – all those for whom we care and whom care for us. Today, we remember and give thanks for how Christ re-draws bonds of kinship, and the ways in which community has been strengthened in the past year.

Confession

God our Father, as Pharaoh's daughter noticed the needs of a small child alone in the reeds, so help us to notice those areas of our own lives needing care and attention.

Silence is kept

Therefore, let us confess our sins, seeking the embrace of God's forgiveness and peace.

We have failed to nurture people in need,
Lord have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We have failed to make space in our lives for broken-hearted people.
Christ have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

We struggle to forgive those who have withheld their love from us.
Lord have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Merciful Lord,
you know our struggle to serve you:
when sin spoils our lives and overshadows our hearts,
come to our aid and turn us back to you again;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.

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.**

Bible Readings and Homily

Found separately...

Affirmation of Faith

**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 of Intercession

We give thanks for the Church, our mother, who brought us to birth in the family of Christ, through the waters of baptism. We pray that all Christians will hear again God's call to mother those in need, and bring them home to God.

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all those in authority in our nation and in our world. May they learn from the example of Jesus Christ that true power is the power to feed the poor and the hungry, to make a home for the homeless and to offer hospitality to the broken-hearted.

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

We pray for our own community. May we see each other as brothers and sisters, called to sit at God's family table together. Let us work together for that great day when God comes again to restore heaven and earth.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who suffer today, in mind, body or spirit. In particular, we pray for those who have lost a motherly presence, and for those who have never known a mother's love. May they find consolation in God, the one in whom every family on earth finds its home.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all who have loved us and nurtured us in faith. May we be bold to share what we have received.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all those who have gone before us into the many mansions of the Father's home. May we learn from them to trust God's care and provision for us, all the days of our life and into our death.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Loving God, give us the will to care for children and young people.

Help us to fight for hope.

Give us the compassion to help those who are lonely.

Help us to fight for hope.

Give us the generosity to share what we have.

Help us to fight for hope.

Give us the kindness to support those who struggle.

Help us to fight for hope.

Give us the energy to work to bring change.

Help us to fight for hope.

Give us a heart that loves and gives without conditions.

Help us to fight for hope.

Amen.

The Prayer's conclude with the Lord's Prayer

**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 Blessing and Dismissal

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.

May the Lord who brought us all to birth, strengthen us for daily life. May the Lord who provides for all our needs sustain us day by day. May the Lord whose steadfast love is for all, send us out to live and work for others. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ, Amen.