

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

Mothering Sunday



A Mass held for the Parish Family

Sunday 23rd March 2020

Order of Service

¶ Gathering to Worship God

All stand at the sound of the bell

Call to Worship

Reader Jesus Christ lived in a family at Nazareth. As we come together to worship him, may we learn more about what it is to love one another as God loves us.

Hymn

Our Father God in heaven
on whom our world depends,
to you let praise be given
for families and friends;
for parents, sisters, brothers,
a home where love belongs,
but on this day for mothers
we bring our thankful songs.

What wealth of God's bestowing
for all the world to share!
What strength of heart outgoing
to children everywhere!
Our deepest joys and sorrows
a mother's path must trace,
and earth's unknown tomorrows
are held in her embrace.

How well we know the story
that tells of Jesus' birth,
the Lord of heaven's glory
become a child of earth;
a helpless infant sleeping,
yet King of realms above,
who finds in Mary's keeping
the warmth of human love.

Our Father God in heaven,
to you we lift our prayer,
that every child be given
such tenderness and care,
where life is all for others,
where love your love displays:
for God's good gift of mothers
let earth unite in praise!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

Music: Morning Light
G J Webb (1803-1887)

Priest † In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All **Amen.**

The Greeting

All The Lord our redeemer be with you
and also with you.

The service is introduced

Saying Sorry to God

God knows us and loves us as his children.
Through his Son Jesus Christ we ask forgiveness
for those times when we have fallen short.

We keep silence

Confession

All **Father of all,
we confess that we have not followed your commandments.
We have failed to honour parents;
we have not encouraged children;
we have not respected one another in obedience to Christ.
Lord forgive and heal us, we pray,
and help us to love those we live with,
as you have loved us,
for Jesus' sake.
Amen.**

God's Forgiveness

Priest **Father in heaven,
you ask us all to live together in harmony,
have mercy on us,
forgive † our sins
and bind us together in unity and love,
for the sake of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

All **Amen.**

The Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

God of love,
your 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 our joys and in our sorrows
we may know your presence to heal and make whole;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

All sit

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians.

God has chosen you and made you his holy people. He loves you. So always do these things: Show mercy to others; be kind, humble, gentle, and patient. Do not be angry with each other, but forgive each other. If someone does wrong to you, then forgive him. Forgive each other because the Lord forgave you. Do all these things; but most important, love each other. Love is what holds you all together in perfect unity. Let the peace that Christ gives control your thinking. You were all called together in one body to have peace. Always be thankful. Let the teaching of Christ live in you richly. Use all wisdom to teach and strengthen each other. Sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Everything you say and everything you do should all be done for Jesus your Lord. And in all you do, give thanks to God the Father through Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

1 Fathers and mothers,
 sisters and brothers,
 all those who love us,
 for whom we care:
 help and befriend them,
 keep and defend them,
 Jesus our Saviour,
 this is our prayer.

2 And for those others,
 fathers and mothers,
 children who hunger,
 they must be fed:
 we would be caring,
 readily sharing,
 one with another
 our daily bread.

3 Sisters and brothers,
 fathers and mothers,
 we who together
 offer our praise:
 hear our thanksgiving,
 God ever living,
 may we walk with you
 all of our days.

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith b 1926

Music: Bunesan
Gaelic melody

Acclamation

1. Choir 2. All

Praise to you, O Christ, King of e - ter - nal glo - ry.

Choir Children are a heritage from the Lord
 and the fruit of the womb is his gift.
All Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Gospel Reading

John 19:25b-27

All The Lord our redeemer be with you
and also with you.

All Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus' mother stood near his cross. His mother's sister was also standing there, with Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus saw his mother. He also saw the follower he loved standing there. He said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son." Then he said to the follower, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this follower took her to live in his home.

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Homily

All sit

The Nicene Creed

All stand

Priest As God's family, let us declare the faith of the Church.

All **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

we believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

All may bow *For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

OUR PRAYERS TO GOD

All kneel or sit

Priest God watches over us with a parent's care,
and shares our joys and sorrows.
Let us bring before him the needs of our brothers and sisters
in the Church and in the world.

The response to each

Intercessor Loving Father
All hear us and help us.

Priest Father, we rejoice that we are your beloved children.
Give us grace to share your love
and see your image in our neighbour.
We ask this in the name of Mary's Son and yours,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
All Amen.

Sign of Peace

Priest We are children of God.
Let the peace of Christ our Brother rule in your hearts,
and be thankful.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

As we are able let us share a sign of Christ's peace.

41 The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Hymn

All stand

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild:

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

For thy Church that evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
this pure sacrifice of love:

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

For the saints' robes white as snow,
for thy Maiden-Mother mild,
for thyself, with hearts aglow,
Jesu, Victim undefiled:

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

Words: F. S. Pierpoint (1835-1917)

Music: England's Lane
Geoffrey Shaw (1879-1943)

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Priest Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Prayer over the Gifts of Bread and Wine

Priest Lord, accept the prayers and gifts we offer in faith and love.
May this eucharist bring us together as one family
in the glory of heaven.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Priest The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels
for ever praising you and singing:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Please remain standing

Priest **Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;**

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

The Priest elevates the Host, and genuflects

In the same way,
after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

The Priest elevates the Chalice, and genuflects

Jesus Christ is Lord.

All

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise.

All **Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Priest As God's children, and heirs with Christ
we pray to God our Father.

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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

All We break this bread,
communion in Christ's body once broken.

Agnus Dei

All Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

All God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The clergy receive Holy Communion

Giving of Communion

Jesus said, 'Whoever does the will of God is my brother
or sister or mother.'

During Communion Soprano and Nicholas Sing

Ex orr innocentium

John Ireland

Prayer after Communion

Priest Let us pray.

All stand

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow more like Jesus within the household of faith,
today and every day.

All **Amen.**

**God of our pilgrimage,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Hymn

**God of Eve and God of Mary,
God of love and mother-earth,
thank you for the ones who with us
shared their life and gave us birth.**

**As you came to earth in Jesus,
so you come to us today;
you are present in the caring
that prepares us for life's way.**

Thank you that the Church, our mother,
gives us bread and fills our cup,
and the comfort of the Spirit
warms our hearts and lifts us up.

Thank you for belonging, shelter,
bonds of friendship, ties of blood,
and for those who have no children,
yet are parents under God.

God of Eve and God of Mary,
Christ our brother, human Son,
Spirit, caring like a Mother,
take our love and make us one!

Words: Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

Music: Love Divine

Notices for the Community

All sit

¶ Going to serve the Lord

Priest The Lord our redeemer be with you
All and also with you.

God's Blessing

May God who gave you life,
who watched over you in your mother's womb,
protect, nurture and guide you as you grow in his love.

And may the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son †, and Holy Spirit,
rest upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Organ Voluntary

Prelude and Fugue in G op 37 no 2 *Felix Mendelssohn*