

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

Mothering Sunday

The Fourth Sunday of Lent



The Parish Mass

*live streamed from the Vicarage
during the Coronavirus Pandemic*

Sunday 14th March 2021
10.15 am

Order of Service

¶ Gathering to Worship God

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

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

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 unconditionally those we live with,
as you have loved us,
for Jesus' sake.
Amen.

God's Forgiveness

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.**

¶ 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.

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

Holy Gospel John 19:25b-27

Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
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.**

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

The Nicene Creed

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

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

All Loving Father
hear us and help us.

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.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

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 you are able, let us share a sign of Christ's peace.

Invitation to Prayer

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 Bread and Wine

Lord, accept the prayers and gifts we offer in faith and love.
Though apart, may this eucharist bring us together in heart and mind
as one family in the glory of heaven.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
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 saying:

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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

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

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

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.

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

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Mary, Joseph, and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

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

Giving of Communion

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

Spiritual Communion – *for those at home*

It is an ancient practice of the Church that, when you are prevented from attending the Holy Eucharist, people are invited to express, in the words of St Thomas Aquinas, "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him." Therefore, during this time you are invited to pray this prayer, which may be said as often as you desire:

Act of Reception

**All In union, blessed Jesus,
with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church
where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day,**

(and remembering particularly my own parish ...)

**I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving,
for creation and all the blessings of this life,
for the redemption won for us by your life, death,
and resurrection,
for the means of grace and the hope of glory.**

(and particularly for the blessings given me ...)

**I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament,
and, since I cannot at this time receive communion,
I pray you to come into my heart.
I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart,
my soul, and my mind.
Let nothing separate me from you;
let me serve you in this life until, by your grace,
I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.
Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

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 with your holy word
and we look forward to the day when we may together
receive you in the sacrament of the eucharist.
Refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our Lenten journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Notices for the Community

¶ Going to serve the Lord

All The Lord our redeemer be with you
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

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