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The Cathedral Eucharist
for LENT

Sunday 14th March 2021
Lent 4 Mothering Sunday

The Fourth Sunday of Lent indicates for many a relaxation of the rigours of Lent, as we draw closer to the Paschal Mysteries of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. It has long been known as Laetare Sunday, which refers to the traditional opening Antiphon which was sung at the Eucharist 'Laetare Jerusalem' ('O be joyful, Jerusalem') (Isaiah 66:10)

This day is also known as Mothering Sunday when, from the sixteenth century, people returned to their 'mother church' which was the cathedral or main church of the area. In later times 'Mothering Sunday' became a day when domestic servants including children and young people 'in service' were given a day off to visit their mother church, usually with their own mothers and other family members.

The secular Mother's Day can be exclusive, even painful for those who are childless or motherless in our community. But Mothering Sunday celebrates the beauty, gift and bond of relationships that the Church represents. In today's Gospel reading Jesus gives his mother Mary and his beloved disciple John to one another in a new family – a relationship of love. So, for us as Christians, Mothering Sunday is for everyone as we all have a part to play in nurturing and loving one another.



HYMN

I come with joy, a child of God,
Forgiven, loved and free,
The life of Jesus to recall,
In love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
To find, as all are fed,
A new community of love
In Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
Each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
And strangers now are friends.

Brian A. Wren b.1936

Tune: St Botolph, Gordon Slater 1896-1979

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

Grace and peace be with you
and keep you in the love of Christ.

The priest offers words of welcome and introduces the Eucharist

**Father of glory, holy and eternal,
look upon us now in power and mercy.
May your strength overcome our weakness,
your radiance transform our blindness,
and your Spirit draw us to that love
shown and offered to us by your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

PENITENTIAL RITE

The Kyrie is sung

Silence

**Heavenly Father,
we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and have failed to do what we ought to have done.
We are sorry and truly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and lead us in his way
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy on you and set you free from sin,
strengthen you in goodness and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT

Let us pray:

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.**

I SAMUEL I. 20-28

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

So Hannah became pregnant, and in time she gave birth to a Son. She named him Samuel. She said, "His name is Samuel because I asked the Lord for him."

Every year Elkanah went to Shiloh to offer sacrifices. He went to keep the promise he had made to God. He brought his whole family with him. So once again he went up to Shiloh. But Hannah did not go with him. She told him, "When the boy is old enough to eat solid food, I will take him to Shiloh. Then I will give him to the Lord. He will become a Nazarite. He will always live there at Shiloh."

Elkanah, Hannah's husband, said to her, "Do what you think is best. You may stay home until the boy is old enough to eat. May the Lord do what you have said."

So Hannah stayed at home to nurse her son until he was old enough to eat.

When Samuel was old enough to eat, Hannah took him to the Tent of the Lord at Shiloh. She also took a three year old bull, ten kilograms of flour and a leather bag filled with wine. They killed the bull for the sacrifice. Then Hannah brought Samuel to Eli. She said to Eli, "As surely as you live, my master, I am the same woman who stood near you praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child. The Lord answered my prayer and gave him to me. Now I give him back to the Lord all his life." And he worshipped the Lord there.

For the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 127

R: Children are a heritage from the Lord.

Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labour in vain.
Unless the Lord keeps the city,
the guard keeps watch in vain. **R:**

It is in vain that you hasten to rise up early
and go so late to rest,
eating the bread of toil,
for he gives his beloved sleep. **R:**

Children are a heritage from the Lord
and the fruit of the womb is his gift.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,
so are the children of one's youth. **R:**

Happy are those who have their quiver full of them:
they shall not be put to shame
when they dispute
with their enemies in the gate. **R:**

R: Children are a heritage from the Lord.

JOHN 19. 25-27

*Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
O that today you would listen to his voice.
Harden not your hearts.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.*

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

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

THE SERMON *The Dean*

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Baptismal Creed

**I believe and trust in God the Father,
who created all that is.**

**I believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,
who redeemed humankind.**

**I believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God.**

**I believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

THE INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy: *Or* Lord, hear us:
hear our prayer. Lord, graciously hear us.

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE PEACE

Now that we have been justified through faith,
we are at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

HYMN

Sing we of the blessed Mother
Who received the angel's word,
And obedient to his summons
Bore in love the infant Lord;
Sing we of the joys of Mary
At whose breast that child was fed
Who is Son of God eternal
And the everlasting Bread.

Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
Of the sword that pierced her through,
When beneath the cross of Jesus
She his weight of suffering knew,
Looked upon her Son and Saviour
Reigning high on Calvary's tree,
Saw the price of man's redemption
Paid to set the sinner free.

G B Timms 1910 - 1997

Tune: Abbot's Leigh, Cyril Taylor 1907-1991

THE THANKSGIVING

We celebrate together the gifts and grace of God.
**We take this bread,
we take this wine
to follow Christ's example
and obey his command.**

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you,
you comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds:
in your compassion bring grace and forgiveness;
and may your love in this sacrament
prepare us for the beauty of heaven;
where you are alive and reign,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (4)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks, holy Father,
all-powerful and everliving God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Because when he was a child
you trusted him to the care of a human family.
In Mary and Joseph you gave us
an example of love and devotion to him,
and also a pattern of family life.

And so with the hosts of angels
and all the company of heaven
we proclaim the glory of your name
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

*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.*

All praise and thanks to you, true and living God,
Creator of all things, Giver of life.
You formed us in your own image;
but we have marred that image and fall short of your glory.
We give you thanks
that you sent your Son to share our life;
you gave him up to death that the world might be saved,
and you raised him from the dead
that we might live in him and he in us.

Sanctify with your Spirit this bread and wine, your gifts to us,
that they may be for us the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread,
and when he had given 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.

In the same way after supper he took the cup,
and when he had given thanks
he gave it to them, saying,

Drink from this, all of you,
for 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come in glory.

As he has commanded us, Father,
we remember Jesus Christ, your Son.
Proclaiming his victorious death,
rejoicing in his resurrection
and waiting for him to come in glory
we bring to you this bread, this cup.

Accept our sacrifice of thanks and praise.
Restore and revive your people,
renew us and all for whom we pray
with your grace and heavenly blessing,
and at the last receive us with all your saints
into that unending joy promised by your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Silence

Let us pray with confidence to the Father:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The priest breaks the bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink of this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.*

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*As the priest receives Holy Communion, you may like to
pray this prayer for Spiritual Communion*

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

MOTET

*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 joyful hymn 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 joyful hymn of praise.*

*For each perfect Gift of Thine
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and Divine,
Flowers of earth, and buds of Heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.*

Words: Folliott Sandford Pierpont (1835 – 1917)

Music: John Rutter b. 1945

POST COMMUNION

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious:
his love is everlasting.

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Lord bless you and keep watch over you; the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord look lovingly on you and give you peace.
And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

HYMN

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord;
unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might,
powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word,
firm is his promise, and his mercy sure:
tell our, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Timothy Dudley-Smith b.1926
Tune: Woodlands, Walter Greatorex 1877-1949

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