

A service of the Word

Sunday 22nd March 2020, Mothering Sunday

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.

[A candle may be lit, if desired]

We light this candle to remind us that the love of God is like a light in our darkness.
Blessed be God for ever.

Confession & Absolution

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.

Silence for reflection

Your love gives us life from the moment of conception.
We fail to live as your children.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

You call us to do good. We seek our own good.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ have mercy.

You hear us when we cry for help. We ignore the cries of others.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A hymn may be sung.

(for example Love Divine all Loves Excelling -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGGcqhKShQ8>)

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.

The Word of God

First reading – 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ⁵ For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

⁶ If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷ And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

Gospel - John 19: 25-27

²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby,

he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," ²⁷ and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Reflections on the readings – (see separate document)

A hymn may be sung.

(for example Great is thy Faithfulness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0k1WhFtVp0o>)

Affirmation of Faith

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

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

Loving God,
you made the world and care for all creation,
but the world feels strange right now.
The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.
Some people are worried that they might get ill.
Others are anxious for their family and friends.
Be with them and help them to find peace.
We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists,
and all who are working to discover the right medicines to help those who are ill.
Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us.
Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.
 Lord in your mercy
 hear our prayer.

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;
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.

Trusting in the compassion of God,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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 & Dismissal

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us:
May God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us:
May God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us.
May almighty God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.
Amen.

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

A hymn may be sung.

(for example Tell out my Soul

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3E7QWLyDWe8>)