

Dismissal

God of all, you long to parent us,
and assure us of our place in your family.
Send us out from this place
filled with the abundance of your love,
and ready to take part in the godly task of parenting
in our broken and hurting world.

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



Mothering Sunday (often now called 'Mother's Day') is a festival celebrated throughout Europe on the fourth Sunday in Lent.

In pre-Christian Roman religion the mid-March Hilaria festival was held in honour of the mother goddess Cybele. As Europe converted to Christianity, this celebration became part of the liturgical calendar as Lætare ('Rejoicing') Sunday, honouring Jesus' mother Mary and the "mother church".

In Tudor times, people used to return to their mother church, or the Cathedral, for a service on Lætare Sunday; they were commonly said to have gone 'a-mothering'.

In later times young people who were in domestic service were given a day off on that date so that they could visit their families. They would pick wild flowers to place them in the church or to give them to their mothers as gifts.

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SOUTH COTSWOLDS TEAM MINISTRY

HOLY COMMUNION ON MOTHERING SUNDAY



The Gathering

The Greeting

We gather here as family, young and old together.

We are privileged to come before God our heavenly Father, to be sheltered as new-hatched chicks are sheltered under the wings of their mother hen.

We come to worship, to hear God's word, to pray, to listen, and to go from here filled with the abundance of God's love.

Amen.

God of wisdom, we come to worship.

God of all wisdom, we worship you.

God of all, we come to your presence.

God of the universe, we worship you.

God of love, we come to your open arms.

God of abundant love, we worship you.

Prayers of Penitence

A mother sacrifices her own needs for the sake of her children. For the times when our own needs have been more important than those of other people, we ask forgiveness and pray: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Like a mother, you give of your very self to feed and nourish us. For the times when we have ignored you and turned away, we ask forgiveness and pray: Christ, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Can a mother forget her own child? We are sorry for the times when we have forgotten you, Lord. When we have failed to show your love to those around us, we ask forgiveness and pray:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord have mercy. Amen.

Through the cross of Christ, may God have mercy on *you*, pardon *you*, and set *you* free. Know that *you* are forgiven and be at peace. May God strengthen *you* in all goodness, and keep *you* in life eternal.

Amen.

The Collect

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 our Lord.

Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

At the end of the reading(s) before the Gospel the reader may say:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to [N].

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Prayer for Mothers and Distribution of Flowers

Prayers

Children and others may lead the following responsory.

For the care of mothers;

thanks be to God.

For their patience when tested;

thanks be to God.

For their love when tired;

thanks be to God.

For their hope when despairing;

thanks be to God.

For their service without limit;

thanks be to God.

A hymn may be sung during the distribution of flowers. At the end of the distribution we all say this prayer

Thank you God for the love of our mothers:

thank you God for their care and concern;

thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;

thank you God for the pains they have borne for us;

thank you God for all that they give us;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Conclusion

Blessing

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, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, bless us now and for ever.

Amen.

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

The Creed

Breaking of the Bread

The President breaks the consecrated bread:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in the one bread.**

Giving of Communion

The President invites the people to receive, using these or other words:

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Whatever your church tradition, you are welcome to share the bread and wine with us. If you would rather not do so, please feel free either to stay in your place or else to come forward for a prayer of blessing.

Prayers after Communion

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.

**Lord, we have broken your bread and received your life.
By the power of your Spirit keep us always in your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**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.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**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

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

These responses may be used:

God of love:
hear our prayer.

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says: ‘As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you’.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We greet one another, eg with a handshake.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends, he took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, most holy, all holy the Lord,
in power and wisdom for ever adored.**

**The earth and the heavens are full of your love:
our joyful hosannas re-echo above.**

**Blessèd, most blessèd, all blessèd is he
whose life makes us whole, and whose death sets us free:
who comes in the name of the Father of light,
let endless hosannas resound in the height.**

The Lord’s Prayer

As God’s children, and heirs with Christ, we cry in the Spirit, ‘Abba’, 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.

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**