

## **HOLY COMMUNION for Mothering Sunday**

22nd March 2020

St. Peter and St. Paul's,  
Aylesford

### Preparation

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

*The altar candles are lit.*

We light these candles to remind us that the love of God is like a light in our darkness.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have loved and laughed and laboured as they cared for their children.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have wept in sorrow and joy for their children.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

We praise you, our God, for Jesus, born of a woman and nurtured in her love, and for Mary, a reminder of your patient, waiting love.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

### *Confession*

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 *you* from *your* sins, and restore *you* in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### *The Collect*

God of love,  
passionate and strong,  
tender and careful:  
watch over us and hold us  
all the days of our life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## *A Song of St Anselm*

**Gather your little ones to you,  
O God, as a hen gathers her brood  
to protect them.**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you; you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.

<sup>2</sup>Often you weep over our sins and our pride, tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.

<sup>3</sup>You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds, in sickness you nurse us, and with pure milk you feed us.

<sup>4</sup>Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life; by your anguish and labour we come forth in joy.

<sup>5</sup>Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.

<sup>6</sup>Your warmth gives life to the dead, your touch makes sinners righteous.

<sup>7</sup>Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us; in your love and tenderness remake us.

<sup>8</sup>In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness, for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

*from Anselm of Canterbury*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## *Readings*

### *Colossians 3:12-17*

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### *John 19:25-27*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother."

From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### *Sermon*

### *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.**

*cf Ephesians 3*

### *Prayers*

*Response:*

Lord, in your mercy

**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*

Christ is our peace. he has reconciled us to God in one body by the Cross. Even though we cannot meet in his name today, we share his peace in the world.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

### *The Eucharistic Prayer*

... and saying/singing:

**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.**

... in remembrance of me.

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

... for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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*

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

### *Giving of Communion*

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed 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.

**Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us peace.**

### *Prayer 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.

### *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 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.**

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