

Sunday 14 March 2021

**Fourth Sunday of Lent
(Mothering Sunday)**

Preparation

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

The Lord is here
His Spirit is with us.

The Act of Penitence

As we pray, we reflect on the week that has passed
and ask the Lord for his forgiveness and healing.

Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you:
You are gentle with us as a mother with her
children;
Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy

Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us:
in your love and tenderness remake us.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy

Words of Forgiveness

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**

The Special Prayer for this week

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**

The Word of the Lord

First Reading Colossians 3. 12- 17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything 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.

The Holy Gospel | John 19. 25b -27

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ...

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.

Affirmation of faith

With our Christian brothers and sisters, we affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name: 00
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is
Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Prayers of intercession

Today we thank God for the gift of mothers and mothering across the world.

Isaiah wrote that God is a mother to us, comforting and carrying us in her arms.

As one whom a mother comforts, so I will comfort you – Isaiah 66:13.

Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.

Isaiah also wrote that God will never forget us and that he knows each one of us just as a mother knows her own children.

Can a woman forget her baby at her breast, feel no pity for the child she has borne? Even if these were to forget, I shall not forget you. Isaiah 49:15

Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.

David wrote that in God's presence, he was quiet and at peace, trusting his God like a child safe in its mother's arms.

No I hold myself in quiet and silence, like a child in its mothers' arms. Psalm 131:2

Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.

Jesus spoke of himself as a mother, longing to wrap his arms around us like a mother-hen gathering her chicks under her wings.

How often have I longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings... Matthew 23:37

Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.

Or

We praise you, O Lord;
and bring you thanks today.

For mothers who have cherished and nurtured us:
We praise you, O Lord;
and bring you thanks today.

For fathers who have loved and supported us,
We praise you, O Lord;
and bring you thanks today.

For brothers and sisters with whom we have shared our home:
We praise you, O Lord;
and bring you thanks today.

For children and their parents:
We praise you, O Lord;
and bring you thanks today.

For relatives and friends, who have been with us in our hopes and joys and times of sadness:
We praise you, O Lord;
and bring you thanks today.

For all who first spoke to us of Jesus, and have drawn us into the family of our Father in heaven:
We praise you, O Lord;
and bring you thanks today.
Help us to live as those who belong to one another, and to you, our Father, now and always.
Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Joining with Christians throughout the world, we pray:

Our Father....

or

Our Father in heaven....

The Grace

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. **Amen**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Readings for the coming week:

Monday	Psalm 77	John 4.43-end
Tuesday	Psalm 79	John 5.1-3, 5-16
Wednesday	Psalm 91	John 5. 17-30
Thursday	Psalm 86	John 5.31-end
Friday	Psalm 25	Matt 1. 18-end
Saturday	Psalm 32	John 7. 40-52