

The Benefice of Chew Valley East

Morning Prayer for Sunday 15 March 2026, Mothering Sunday

*If you wish to join in the service, then the words in **bold** are to be said together.
Please join in with the Psalms and Canticles – by reciting each one in its entirety.*

Preparation

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

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,
according to your judgement give us life.

Blessed are you, God of compassion and mercy,
to you be praise and glory for ever.

In the darkness of our sin,
your light breaks forth like the dawn
and your healing springs up for deliverance.
As we rejoice in the gift of your saving help,
sustain us with your bountiful Spirit
and open our lips to sing your praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Word of God

Psalm 34:11-20

¹¹Come, my children, and listen to me; ♦
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

¹²Who is there who delights in life ♦
and longs for days to enjoy good things?

¹³Keep your tongue from evil ♦
and your lips from lying words.

¹⁴Turn from evil and do good; ♦
seek peace and pursue it.

¹⁵The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous ♦
and his ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, ♦
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.

¹⁷The righteous cry and the Lord hears them ♦
and delivers them out of all their troubles.

¹⁸The Lord is near to the brokenhearted ♦
and will save those who are crushed in spirit.

¹⁹Many are the troubles of the righteous; ♦
from them all will the Lord deliver them.

²⁰He keeps all their bones, ♦
so that not one of them is broken.

**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.**

First Reading: I Samuel 1:20-28

²⁰Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, ‘I have asked him of the LORD.’

²¹The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. ²²But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, ‘As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.’ ²³Her husband Elkanah said to her, ‘Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only - may the LORD establish his word.’ So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him.

²⁴When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh; and the child was young. ²⁵Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. ²⁶And she said, ‘Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. ²⁷For this child I prayed; and the LORD has granted me the petition that I made to him. ²⁸Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD.’ She left him there for the LORD.

Canticle

**Full of compassion and mercy and love
is God, the Most High, the Almighty.**

¹Lord almighty and God of our ancestors, ♦
you who made heaven and earth in all their glory:

²All things tremble with awe at your presence, ♦
before your great and mighty power.

³Immeasurable and unsearchable is your promised mercy, ♦
for you are God, Most High.

⁴You are full of compassion, long-suffering and very merciful, ♦
and you relent at human suffering.

⁵O God, according to your great goodness, ♦
you have promised forgiveness for repentance
to those who have sinned against you.

⁶The sins I have committed against you ♦
are more in number than the sands of the sea.

⁷I am not worthy to look up to the height of heaven, ♦
because of the multitude of my iniquities.

⁸And now I bend the knee of my heart before you, ♦
imploring your kindness upon me.

⁹I have sinned, O God, I have sinned, ♦
and I acknowledge my transgressions.

¹⁰Unworthy as I am, you will save me, ♦
according to your great mercy.

¹¹For all the host of heaven sings your praise, ♦
and your glory is for ever and ever. *Manasseh 1a, 2, 4, 6, 7a, b, 9a, c, 11, 12, 14b, 15b*

**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.**

**Full of compassion and mercy and love
is God, the Most High, the Almighty.**

Second Reading: Luke 2:33-35

³³The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Jesus. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

Responsory

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

O my God, in you I trust.

You are the God of my salvation,

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

In you I hope all the day long.

O my God, in you I trust.

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

O my God, in you I trust.

from Psalm 25

Gospel Canticle: Benedictus

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.**

¹Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦
who has come to his people and set them free.

²He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦
born of the house of his servant David.

³Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,

⁴To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦
and to remember his holy covenant.

⁵This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

⁶Free to worship him without fear, ♦
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

⁷And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

⁸To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

⁹In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

¹⁰To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ♦
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

**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.**

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.**

Intercessions

To the words: Let your steadfast love be upon us, O Lord.

Please respond: **We will exult and rejoice in you.**

Eternal God, you are constant with your people.

Like a mother you draw all your children to hear your heart...

Guide us in the ways of truth that we may rejoice in your bountiful goodness.

Let your steadfast love be upon us, O Lord. **We will exult and rejoice in you.**

Holy God, your presence is always before us.

We give thanks for all who have nurtured us
and helped us grow in faith and trust...

Bless all midwives of the gospel.

Increase your Church in hope and courage to proclaim your love.

Let your steadfast love be upon us, O Lord. **We will exult and rejoice in you.**

God our Father and Mother, you allow us to share in your creative purpose.

Sustain and keep all parents and children,
that through the love that is shared our lives may be blessed...

Be with all for whom this day brings pain and regret to the fore...

Transform us through your brooding grace.

Let your steadfast love be upon us, O Lord. **We will exult and rejoice in you.**

God our succour and protector,

in times of plenty and need, you cradle our life in your hands.

We entrust to your care all in any kind of need...

Encircle them with your love and keep them ever within your tender mercy.

Let your steadfast love be upon us, O Lord. **We will exult and rejoice in you.**

From the cross your Son commended his mother to the care of his beloved
disciple.

Hear the cry of all who mourn.

Comfort and sustain them in their grief...

Bring us to rejoice with you in the New Jerusalem, our heavenly home.

Merciful Father,

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

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.**

Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
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.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

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Conclusion

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**