

St. Paul's Church, Wokingham
St. Nicholas' Church, Emmbrook



Together Mass for Mothering Sunday (Livestreamed)

Sunday March the 14th 2021

The Gathering

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

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be always with you:
and also with you.

We are here today to think of mothers and motherhood in all of its complex joy. For some, today is a simple moment to be appreciated and the chance to say “Thanks”.

For others today is painfully difficult, for a range of reasons.

We are here as well to remember that Mothering Sunday is rooted in the celebration of our mother Churches, where our faith has been nurtured and is brought to bloom.

That sense of appreciation and commitment feels especially vital today, in these days when we are not able to see those we love or meet here together to worship. Today is a chance to celebrate those vital, secure, reliable, constant relationships-rooted in maternal love, rooted in this place and rooted in whichever Church we call home.

In the Bible we are told that God longs to gather us together as a hen gathers her chicks in her wings. We are here to think about God and to receive her loving acceptance, her delicate care, her eternal love.

The Confession and Absolution

A mother sacrifices her own needs
for the sake of her children.

Let us call to mind the times
when we have not done the same,
and the times we have taken
the love of those around us for granted.

A time of silence is kept as we recall our sin and our need of God.

**Loving God, we are sorry for the times when our own needs
have been the only thing we think about.**

**We are sorry for the times
when we have not been loving and kind to others.**

**We are sorry for the times
when we have ignored you and let you down.**

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*We sprinkle ourselves with water to remind ourselves of our rebirth
in Jesus Christ and of his promise of forgiveness.*

It is customary to make the sign of the cross with the water.

May God, who longs to gather us all together
as a hen gathers her chicks,
who longs to protect and heal,
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

Praise God who loves us.

Praise God who cares.

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

The Liturgy of the Word

The Reading: Exodus 2.1-10

At the end: This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading: Luke 2.33-35

When the Gospel is announced: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end of the Gospel reading: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Responding to the Word of God 1

The Address, which you will need pens and paper for

Responding to the Word of God 2

The Creed

Whatever our experience of family,
whether family and mother speak to us of safety and love
or of fear and disappointment,
whether Mothering Sunday is full of joy or heavy with grief,
God is always and everywhere the same,
unchanging and true.

We worship a God who loves us
and keeps on loving us, in everything.

Let us then proclaim together 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.

Responding to the Word of God 3 The Prayers

Praise God who loves us. **Praise God who cares.**

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 offered up his life for us with a love beyond imagining; with a love which dispels fear; with a love which holds and guides us through life's trials and joys.

The peace of the Lord be always with you: **and also with you.**
Let us share with one another signs of that comfort and peace.

*During the peace we hold out Christ's peace to one another,
picturing the whole people of God gathered together in this moment.
Do please put your message in the comment box on YouTube.*

The Preparation of the Altar

Blessed be God, who feeds the hungry,
who raises the poor, who fills our praise.

Blessed be God for ever.

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice
may be acceptable to God the Almighty Father.
**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands,
for the praise and glory of his Name,
for our good and the good of all his Church.**

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest:
and make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.

The Eucharistic Prayer (Prayer One)

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.

Holy, *Holy*, **Holy.**

It is always right to give you thanks,
God our Father, holy and strong, king for ever.
You made us and the whole universe.
and filled your world with life.

Holy, *Holy*, **Holy.**

You sent your Son to live among us,
Jesus, Saviour, Mary's child.
He suffered on the cross;
he died to save us from our sins;
he rose in glory from the dead.

Holy, Holy, Holy.

You send your Spirit to bring new life to the world,
and fill us with power from on high.
And so we join the angels to celebrate and sing:
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.

Father, on the night before he died,
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.
He took the bread, and thanked you.
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
Take this and eat it; this is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you. This is my blood,
the new promise of God's love.
Do this to remember me.

Jesus Christ has died. **Jesus Christ has died.**
Jesus Christ is risen. **Jesus Christ is risen.**
Jesus Christ will come again. **Jesus Christ will come again.**

Father, as we remember
his death and resurrection, send your Holy Spirit,
that the bread and wine we bring before you
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

Amen, *Amen*, **Amen**.

Pour your Spirit on us
that we may love one another,
as we work for the peace of the earth,
and wait for Jesus to come in glory.

Amen, *Amen*, **Amen**.

For honour and praise belong to you, Father,
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen, *Amen*, **Amen**.

The Lord's Prayer

As God's children, and heirs with Christ,
we cry in the Spirit, Abba, Father:
**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed by 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.**

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

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

This 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.**

Christ is in our midst. **He is and always will be.**

The celebrant holds out the body and blood of Christ, offered to you.

This may be a helpful prayer to use while you listen to the anthem:

We do not presume to come to this your table,
merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy so much
as to gather up the crumbs
under your table.

But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.

Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. **Amen.**

The Prayer of Humble Access

Prayer after Communion

God of grace and compassion,
your Son, Jesus Christ, was part of a family in Nazareth.
He knew the love of a mother and of a father
and by dying on the cross
he brought us together as a new family.
Help us to strive together for that day
when the whole of humanity
is one equal family in your church. **Amen.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for calling us
to share as one family in this holy feast.
In it you show us how to live as your people.
By it you inspire us to change the world.
Through it you fill our hearts and lives
with your love and courage.
Be with us as we seek to live out
what we've sung and said this day,
so that we might be a blessing to the world,
to your praise and glory. Amen.**

The Notices

The Dismissal

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Lord God, we praise you for everything you give to us.
Today we praise you especially for those
who love and care for us, for all our family and friends,
for our mothers, and for those who are like a mother to us.
Thank you for all the times they put us first.
Thank you for their patience when tested.
Thank you for their love when exhausted,
Thank you for their hope
despite everything we do to disappoint them.
Help us to be a gift to them as well.
Teach us what we can do
to show our love more and more. Amen.

The Blessing

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.
May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless you.
May God, who was born as one of us at Christmas, bless you.
May God, who broods over us as a mother
watches over her children, bless you.
May almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit, now and always. **Amen.**

The Lenten Wreath

The Lenten Wreath is a St Paul's tradition, and works like a reversed Advent Wreath. In Advent the light builds and gathers to show that the birth of Jesus is getting nearer- in Lent, the darkness gathers as, candle after candle, the lit candles are extinguished.

**As we journey into Lent, may we do justice,
love mercy and walk humbly with you our God. Amen.**

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

*We traditionally sit and listen to the piece of music
at the end of the service as part of our worship.*

*Do please join in with the Zoom coffee morning after the service-
you'd be very welcome. You can text a donation to St Paul's to 70450,
texting STPAULS5 or STPAULS10 or STPAULS20
to donate that amount of money.*

*If you'd like to find out about everything that is happening in the
parish, please email church.office@spauls.co.uk and we will happily
put you on our regular mailing list.*

Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you:
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children;
often you weep over our sins and our pride:
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds:
in sickness you nurse us,
and with pure milk you feed us.

Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life:
by your anguish and labour we come forth in joy.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness:
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.

Your warmth gives life to the dead:
your touch makes sinners righteous.

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

In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness:
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

A Song of St Anselm (11th Century)