

Song before Service

We won't fear the battle

Countdown, Welcome & Theme

Today was known as Mothering Sunday long before it became more generally known as 'Mothers Day'. In this service today we give thanks for our mothers, but also we celebrate God's love for us and protection over us, like that of a mother and a father.

Worship in Song

Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord;
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of His Word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His Name
Make known His might the deeds His arm has done
His mercy sure, from age to age the same
His Holy Name - the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might,
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul the glories of His word!
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure,
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and for evermore!

Thanksgiving Prayer

Today, let us give thanks to God for the gift of mothers and the mother-like nurture that many people show to others in their lives. Isaiah wrote that God is like a mother to us, comforting and carrying us in her arms: 'As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you'. (*Isaiah 66.13*)

Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care

Isaiah also wrote that God would never forget us. He knows each of us, like a mother knows her own children: 'Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may

forget, I will not forget you.' (*Isaiah 49.15*)
Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

Jesus spoke of himself like a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings:
'O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.' (*Lk 13.34*)
Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

Paul writes about his missionary ministry and likens his work to that of a nurse who looks after those in her care: '...but we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother caring for her little children.' (*1 Thess 2.7*)
Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.
Amen.

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.

We have failed to nurture the needy,
Lord, have mercy.

We have failed to make space in our lives for the broken-hearted.

Christ, have mercy.

We struggle to forgive those who have withheld their love from us.

Lord, have mercy.

God's Assurance of Forgiveness

Merciful Lord, you know our struggle to serve you: when sin spoils our lives and overshadows our hearts, come to our aid and turn us back to you again; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Special Prayer for Today

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 your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Bible Reading

2 Corinthians: 5.14-6.2 (*Church Bible page 966*)

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon

Worship in Song

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

An 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.

A Prayer for mothers

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.

Prayers

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

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.

Offertory Prayer

Everything in heaven and earth comes from you, Lord. We give you only what is yours. May you be praised forever and ever. Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever. From the beginning you have created all things and all your works echo the silent music of your praise. In the fullness of time you made us in your image, the crown of all creation. You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven we may find a voice to sing your praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast. From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends and, taking bread, he 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.

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 and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

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

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace. Bring us at the last with all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in words of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

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

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.

We receive communion

Song during Communion

Beneath the cross of Jesus I find a place to stand
And wonder at such mercy that calls me as I am
For hands that should discard me
Hold wounds which tell me come
Beneath the cross of Jesus
My unworthy soul is won

Beneath the cross of Jesus his family is my own
Once strangers chasing selfish dreams
Now one through grace alone
How could I now dishonour
The ones that You have loved
Beneath the cross of Jesus
See the children called by God

Beneath the cross of Jesus
The path before the crown
We follow in His footsteps
Where promised hope is found
How great the joy before us
To be His perfect bride
Beneath the cross of Jesus
We will gladly live our lives

Song during Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us
You are one with us, Mary's Son.
Cleansing our souls from all their sin
Pouring your love and goodness in
Jesus our love for you we sing
Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, now and every day
Teach us how to pray, Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
This in remembrance, Lord, of you
Into our lives your power breaks through
Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us
Born as one of us, Mary's Son.
Led out to die on Calvary
Risen from death to set us free
Living Lord Jesus, help us see
You are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, I would come to you
Give my life for you, Son of God.
All your commands I know are true
Your many gifts will make me new
Into my life your power breaks through
Living Lord.

Song during Communion

Your love, shining like the sun

Prayer after Communion

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children,
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.**

Worship in Song

Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices
Who wondrous things has done
In whom His world rejoices
Who from our mother's arms
Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace
And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given
The Son and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven
The one eternal God
Whom earth and heaven adore
For thus it was is now
And shall be evermore

Blessing

May the Lord who brought us all to birth,
strengthen us for daily life. May the Lord who
provides for all our needs sustain us day by
day. May the Lord whose steadfast love is for
all, send us out to live and work for others.
And may the blessing of God the Father, God
the Son and God the Holy Spirit, be with you
now and always. **Amen.**

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

Music as we leave

Give thanks with a grateful heart