



Mothers' Union Liturgy for Mothering Sunday

Theme: Called to Mother in a Broken World

The Gathering

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

Welcome

Gathering Prayer

Heavenly Father, we rejoice with thanks for all those who have mothered us in our lives. In a world that is broken and in need of your motherly love, please use us to aid others as you do us in providing comfort, nurture, protection and support. We ask that you grow us as carers to those who need us, so that we might celebrate your goodness together even through our own brokenness.

All Amen

Prayer of Preparation

God our Father, help us to be aware of the areas in our own lives needing care and attention. Therefore, let us confess our sins, seeking the embrace of God's forgiveness and peace.

Prayer of Penitence

We have failed to nurture the needy,

All Lord, have mercy.

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

All Christ, have mercy.

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

All Lord, have mercy.

Absolution:

The minister says

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.

All Amen

Collect:

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 forever.

All Amen

Affirmation of Faith:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

We give thanks for the Church, our mother, who brought us to birth in the family of Christ, through the waters of baptism. We pray that all Christians will hear again God's call to mother those in need, and bring them home to God.

Lord, in your mercy.

All Hear our prayer.

We pray for all those in authority in our nation and in our world. May they learn from the example of Jesus Christ that true power is the power to feed the poor and the hungry, to make a home for the homeless and to offer hospitality to the broken-hearted.

Lord, in your mercy.

All Hear our prayer.

We pray for our own community. May we see each other as brothers and sisters, called to sit at God's family table together. Let us work together for that great day when God comes again to restore heaven and earth.

Lord, in your mercy.

All Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who suffer today, in mind, body or spirit. In particular, we pray for those who have lost a motherly presence, and for those who have never known a mother's love. May they find consolation in God, the one in whom every family on earth finds its home.

Lord, in your mercy.

All Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all who have loved us and nurtured us in faith. May we be bold to share what we have received.

Lord, in your mercy.

All Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all those who have gone before us into the many mansions of the Father's home. May we learn from them to trust God's care and provision for us, all the days of our life and into our death.

Lord, in your mercy.

All Hear our prayer.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

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.

All And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Eucharistic Prayer G

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All 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:

**All 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.]**

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:

All 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.

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 songs of everlasting praise:

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

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All 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

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

All **Though we are many, we are one body
because we all share in the on bread.**

The Agnus Dei

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.

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

All **Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

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.

The Dismissal

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 brought us all together as new family. Help us in the Christian Journey to strive for that day when the whole of humanity is one family together in your church.

All Amen.

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 the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

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This service has been prepared by St Mellitus College, working with Mothers' Union.