

Going Out As God's People

THE BLESSING

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless you:

May God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless you:

May God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless you.

May almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and for ever. Amen

THE DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 618 - Lord of All Hopefulness, Lord of all joy. Words: Jan Struther



St. Matthew's Church, Irishtown

27th March 2022

MOTHERING SUNDAY

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Welcome in the name of Christ.

God's grace, mercy and peace be with you

and also with you.

SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come" *Proverbs 31:25*

Hymn 634 – Love Divine, all loves excelling *Words: Charles Wesley*

Introduction

For many years the Fourth Sunday in Lent has been observed as Mothering Sunday. On this day we give thanks to God who gives us New Birth, and for the Church which, like a mother, nurtures us in the life of the Spirit. We also give thanks for our own human mothers, and for all the qualities of mothering, given and received in this congregation.

So let us pray that we may be fervent in prayer, honest in confessing and sincere in the promises we make to each other.

May Christ, who by his Incarnation, gathers into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill us with his love and peace.

May we walk in his way, seek his light, and shine as witnesses to his way.

Penitence

In the book of Isaiah we hear the words of God: 'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you ', so Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith:

Silence is kept.

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God of mercy,

We acknowledge that we are all sinners.

**We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.**

**For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us for all that is past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by God's Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect of Mothering Sunday

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 FIRST READING – EXODUS 2: 1- 10

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 34

Come, my children, and | listen to | me;
I will | teach you the | fear of the | Lord.
Who is there who de|lights in | life
and longs for | days to en|joy good | things?
Keep your | tongue from | evil
and your | lips from | lying | words.
Turn from evil | and do | good;
seek | peace | and pur|sue it.
The eyes of the Lord are up|on the | righteous
and his ears are | open | to their | cry.
The face of the Lord is against | those who do | evil,
to root out the re|membrance of them | from the | earth.
The righteous cry and the | Lord | hears them
and delivers them | out of | all their | troubles.
The Lord is near to the | broken | hearted
and will save | those who are | crushed in | spirit.
Many are the | troubles of the | righteous;
from them | all will the | Lord de|liver them.
He keeps | all their | bones,
so that not | one of | them is | broken.

THE SECOND READING – LUKE 2: 33-35

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Address

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.**

Hymn 598 – Take this moment, sign and space Words: John Bell .

Prayers

Before we join together in the prayer Jesus taught us, we hear the Song of Anselm,
Jesus, like 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.

The Lord's Prayer

We pray together in the words that Christ himself taught us:

Our Father.....