



*Chaplaincy of All Saints' Marseille
with Aix-en-Provence
and the Luberon*

*19th March 2023
Mothering Sunday*

Welcome to our online service. Below you will find readings, prayers and links to music for this Sunday. The text includes a reflection by our Curate, The Revd Roxana Tenea Teleman, which is also published separately on the website.

The service will be in two parts. Reader Jane Quarmby will lead us through the Ministry of the Word. After the Peace, our Curate will celebrate the Eucharist and we will share in an act of Spiritual Communion, the prayer used where it is not possible for communicants physically to receive consecrated bread and wine.

The Gathering

The minister says

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

All **Amen.**

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

All **and also with you.**

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWS-Jtaly7w>

For Mary, mother of our Lord,
God's holy name be praised,
Who first the Son of God adored,
As on her child she gazed.

The angel Gabriel brought the word
She should Christ's mother be;
Our Lady, handmaid of the Lord,
Made answer willingly.

The heavenly call she thus obeyed,
And so God's will was done;
The second Eve love's answer made,
Which our redemption won.

Dear Mary, from your lowliness
And home in Galilee
There comes a joy and holiness
To every family.

Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,
Above all women blessed;
And blest your Son, whom your embrace
In birth and death confessed.

*Words: John Raphael Peacey (1896-1971)
Tune: St Botolph – Gordon Slater (1896-1979)*

Prayer of Preparation

All **Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

The minister says

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God,
though we have rebelled against him.

Let us then renounce our wilfulness and ask his mercy
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

All **Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

The celebrant says

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The Collect

The minister says

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

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.

All **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 2.1-10

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 127.1-4

- 1 Unless the Lord builds the house, *
those who build it labour in vain.
- 2 Unless the Lord keeps the city, *
the guard keeps watch in vain.
- 3 It is in vain that you hasten to rise up early and go so late to rest,
eating the bread of toil, *
for he gives his beloved sleep.
- 4 Children are a heritage from the Lord *
and the fruit of the womb is his gift.

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.

New Testament Reading

Colossians 3.12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqWCDKnIUjg>

God of Eve and God of Mary,
God of love and mother-earth,
Thank you for the ones who with us
Shared their life and gave us birth.

As you came to earth in Jesus,
So you come to us today;
You are present in the caring
That prepares us for life's way.

God of Eve and God of Mary,
Christ our brother, human Son,
Spirit, caring like a Mother,
Take our love and make us one!

Words: Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

Tune: Stuttgart – Christian Friedrich Witt (c. 1660-1716)

Gospel Reading

John 19.25b-27

The minister says

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
I am the light of the world, says the Lord,
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

John 8.12

All **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Reflection

Mothering comes in all shapes and sizes. Mothering work is never done.

The fourth Sunday in Lent has long been a time for respite and celebration amid the austere period between Ash Wednesday and Easter. During the Middle Ages, people would return to the church in which they were baptised, where they grew in faith. Later on, this was the day when those in domestic service were permitted to visit their families - they went “a-mothering”. It meant returning to places where refreshing love could be found. Refreshment Sunday and Laetare Sunday (meaning “Rejoice” Sunday) - these were earlier names for Mothering Sunday, marking a temporary easing of the penitential Lenten discipline.

Beyond the customary exchange of flowers and simnel cake, this Sunday was about returning to one’s roots, to that which nourishes and sustains and to what gave them life and sustained them in life, and acknowledging, before God, the love received.

This is a day to offer gratitude to the women who have birthed us into the world and have raised us with boundless love and selflessness. A day to reflect on the lives of our mothers, on the paths they have walked and the memories they have etched into our hearts. This is also a day to reflect on the profound impact of those who have shown us the tenderness and devotion of a motherly spirit. It is a day to bask in the joy of God’s all-encompassing love, he who is the source and sustainer of every love.

There is so much to rejoice in this Sunday.

Yet, on this day of celebration, the readings bring images of the hardships that can come with motherhood, that many of us will find too hard to bear.

In the story from Exodus, we witness an incredible display of compassion and love exhibited by women who are driven by an unyielding desire to protect the vulnerable in the face of cruelty. Love triumphs over all. Despite the brutal conditions, it is the selfless nature of a mother’s love that ultimately prevails. In a remarkable act of sacrifice, the birthmother surrenders her child to ensure his survival, while the daughter of Pharaoh, a woman deprived of motherhood, cherishes a child who is foreign to her in every way imaginable – in race, culture, faith and even blood.

The poignant cameo from John’s Gospel, depicts a transformative moment in the bond between a mother and her child, as it comes full circle from Bethlehem to Calvary. These two images of Mary, one holding her new-born son and the other cradling his broken, lifeless body after the crucifixion, encapsulate the depth and range of a mother’s love, from the joys of nurturing and protecting to the sorrows of grief and loss. This is the timeless power of a mother’s embrace.

Behold the Mother! Standing at the cross - "Stabat Mater", in the words of the 13th-century hymn. It is impossible to imagine the raw emotion of Mary's anguish as she watches her son's life slipping away. As the pain she experienced when giving him birth brought hope for the world, so the pain experienced at his death will bring salvation to the world. Does she know it?

Behold the Mother, the 'fount of love', as the old hymn says. Her love, which flows from God's eternal source, continues to pour out.

Mary does not cry out in despair. She does not speak. She does not seek hollow words of consolation. Instead, she holds on to hope, a hope that anticipates the Easter dawn. To hope is to have faith in the victory of life, without knowing what tomorrow will bring. As a beautiful French hymn says: "until the dawn of Easter, the woman alone carried the hope of the world".

Where shall we take our stand? At the cross - where we can learn the true essence of mothering. To stand at the cross means to behold the suffering of world and to hold onto the belief that even amidst the darkness, the light will ultimately prevail.

Where shall we take our stand? At the cross - where we are brought to birth as a new community and as new people. The things of Christ - forgiveness, compassion, kindness, thankfulness - become a natural part of us because we have been loved into that way of being. At the cross, we are reminded that we are cherished and beloved, and this realisation empowers us to love others with the same selflessness and devotion as a mother loves her child.

What kind of mothering qualities do you possess? This question is not solely directed towards mothers or women. Mothering qualities, whatever they may entail, are a manifestation of the divine likeness present within us all. As disciples of Christ, we are called to embrace mothering as an expression of our faith, and to recognize that we are part of a new family, one formed by the blood of Christ shed for us on the Cross. This is a family where we find solace, encouragement and love, and are called to give and receive in equal measure. This is what we celebrate and remember on this day.

Let us celebrate our calling to mothering, for we are created in the image of God who nurtures and cares for us as his children. Through Jesus, we are invited to join a new family of everlasting love and mutual belonging, to belong to him and to each other.

As we act in the love we have found in Jesus Christ, we can become a source of comfort and support for others, and offer a nurturing space where they can meet God and find his consolation, a place to which they can return to be refreshed.

You may have heard that, in tribute to His Majesty King Charles's service, people across UK are invited to take part in the Big Help Out on Monday 8th May, with thousands of organisations joining forces to support their local areas. Let us pray that many will be moved to "Join in. Lend a hand. Make a change." May we too feel inspired to connect with those around us and extend a helping hand to those in need. We can certainly make a change.

Mothering comes in all shapes and sizes. Mothering work is never done.

And as Paul said in his letter to the Colossians, "whatever we do, in word or deed, let us do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him".

Amen.

The Revd Roxana Tenea Teleman, Curate

The Nicene Creed

All **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayers

Lord, we seek to make our home in you, for in you is our hope, in you is our peace. May we abide in you as you are in us. Grant, O Lord, in turning to you we may find new vision, new strength and new love, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

We thank you for the gift of life, for our mothers who gave us that precious gift. Help us to spend that gift well in the service of others and of you, and to respect and care for our parents as they grow older.

All **Amen.**

Gracious God, may your church be a home for the weary, a shelter for the fearful, a strength to the weak, a place of healing and forgiveness to the troubled and guilty. We pray for all who are spiritually hungry, for all who have lost faith or hope.

We pray for those who exercise authority and leadership in the Church; for Justin our Archbishop, Robert and David our diocesan bishops, and Jamie our Chaplain. In the Diocesan Rota of Prayer we pray today for the Russian Orthodox Church, the St Andrew's Anglican Chaplaincy in Moscow and Malcolm Rodgers their chaplain.

We pray for our Lent courses and our programme of services for Lent and Easter, that you will be with us and guide us as we seek to find you in our lives.

Lord, in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**

We pray for King Charles as his coronation draws near, and for all world leaders, that they may work together for peace and reconciliation.

We pray for the people of all the countries affected by natural disasters, especially this week for Malawi, and for those working hard to bring help. We pray too for the peoples of Ukraine and Russia, that the conflict may come to an end, and bloodshed and destruction turn to healing and regeneration.

We pray for the starving peoples, for all without adequate food and shelter, all who do not have a home to call their own. We pray for street children and all who have no one to care for them, for children in foster care and children's homes. Lord, bless the relief agencies and those working for them to bring dignity and basic needs to so many in our divided world.

Lord, in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**

We come to you, Lord of love, to give you thanks for our homes and our loved ones – may we not take their love for granted, may we not be a burden or a trouble to those we live with. In loving each other may we learn of your love for us. We pray for all those families who are divided by anger or distance.

Lord, in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**

Loving Lord, we pray for families where there is misunderstanding, neglect, violence, or apathy. We pray for homes of poverty or fear. We pray for all who are ill and for those caring for them. We pray for those in our church family who are ill at this time – Malcolm, Peter, Gabrielle, Margaret and Eddie, and in a time of silence we bring to you those whom we know and love who need your healing.

Lord, in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**

Lord, in love you welcome us home, you come to meet us and lead us to your kingdom. We pray for all who have the joy of your nearer presence, for our loved ones departed. We remember all who have lost loved ones this week. Bring all who mourn your comfort and warmth.

Lord, in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**

To your care and protection, Lord, we now commit ourselves. Of your goodness forgive us, with your love inspire us, by your Spirit guide us, and in your mercy keep us, now and always.

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

The Peace

The minister says

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

Romans 5.1,2

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **and also with you.**
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbbcjEsiwb8>

Lord, we come to ask your healing,
Teach us of love;
All unspoken shame revealing,
Teach us of love.
Take our selfish thoughts and actions,
Petty feuds, divisive factions,
Hear us now to you appealing,
Teach us of love.

Soothe away our pain and sorrow,
Hold us in love;
Grace we cannot buy or borrow,
Hold us in love.
Though we see but dark and danger,
Though we spurn both friend and stranger,
Though we often dread tomorrow,
Hold us in love.

When the bread is raised and broken,
Fill us with love;
Words of consecration spoken,

Fill us with love.
As our grateful prayers continue,
Make the faith that we have in you
More than just an empty token,
Fill us with love.

Help us live for one another,
Bind us in love;
Stranger, neighbour, father, mother –
Bind us in love.
All are equal at your table,
Through your Spirit make us able
To embrace as sister, brother,
Bind us in love.

Words: Jean Holloway (b. 1939)

Tune: Ar Hyd y Nos – Welsh melody, arr. Colin Hand (b. 1929)

Preparation of the Table

The celebrant says

God of mercy and compassion,
your Word calls us home to faith and love.
accept all we offer you this day;
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.**

It is indeed right and good,
to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.
As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds
we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels
for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**All Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.
Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be 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.**

**Notre Père, qui es aux cieux,
que ton nom soit sanctifié,
que ton règne vienne,
que ta volonté soit faite,
sur la terre comme au ciel.
Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour.
Pardonne-nous nos offenses,
comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés;
et ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation,
mais délivre-nous du mal.
Car c'est à toi qu'appartiennent le règne, la puissance et la gloire,
pour les siècles des siècles. Amen.**

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

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 one bread.**

All **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.**

The celebrant says

Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

An Act of Spiritual Communion

As circumstances are such that we cannot share in the Eucharist in person, we make an Act of Spiritual Communion, in which we express our faith in Christ and in his presence in the Eucharist, and we ask him to unite himself with us.

Heavenly Father, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the precious Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, we offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though we cannot at this time receive Communion, we pray that you will unite us with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us.

Come, Lord Jesus, into our hearts, dwell in us in the fullness of your strength, and send your Holy Spirit that we may be filled with your presence. Amen.

Music: Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) - Stabat Mater: Eja Mater fons amoris

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGJat3O5nzi>

O thou Mother, fount of love,
Touch my spirit from above,
Make my heart with thine accord.

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.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcHhrlY7tgk>

Our Father God in heaven
On whom our world depends,
To you let praise be given
For families and friends;
For parents, sisters, brothers,
A home where love belongs,
But on this day for mothers
We bring our thankful songs.

How well we know the story
That tells of Jesus' birth,
The Lord of heaven's glory
Become a child of earth;
A helpless infant sleeping,
Yet King of realms above,
To find in Mary's keeping
The warmth of human love.

Our Father God in heaven,
To you we lift our prayer,
That every child be given
Such tenderness and care,
Where life is all for others,
Where love your love displays:
For God's good gift of mothers
Let earth unite in praise!

*Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)
Tune: Thornbury – Basil Harwood (1859-1949)*

Blessing

The celebrant says

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Offertory

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