



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

*10th March 2024
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 Telean, which is also published separately on the website.

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=pCsCOCUH34I>

When morning gilds the skies,
My heart awaking cries,
May Jesus Christ be praised.
Alike at work and prayer

To Jesus I repair;
May Jesus Christ be praised.

The night becomes as day,
When from the heart we say:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
The pow'rs of darkness fear,
When this sweet chant they hear:
May Jesus Christ be praised.

In heav'n's eternal bliss
The loveliest strain is this:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
Let air, and sea, and sky
From depth to height reply:
May Jesus Christ be praised.

Be this, while life is mine,
My canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
Be this th'eternal song
Through all the ages on:
May Jesus Christ be praised.

*Words: German (19th century) trans; Edward Caswall (1814-1878)
Tune: Laudes Domini – Joseph Barnby (1838-1896)*

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 **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past,
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
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

1 Samuel 1.20-end

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the Lord.'

The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.' Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only—may the Lord establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.'

She left him there for the Lord.

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

2 Corinthians 1.3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

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)*

Gospel Reading

Luke 2.33-35

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 Luke.

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

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Reflection

'At last, in spite of all, a recognition,
For those who loved and laboured for so long,
Who brought us, through that labour, to fruition
To flourish in the place where we belong.'

These lines are drawn from Malcolm Guite's poem for Mothering Sunday – a day on the Church's calendar when we seek to give thanks for our mothers, reminiscing about the shared joys and tears over the years, moments of celebration or sorrow, reflecting on how their love shaped our life journey. We honour our mothers - and all the world's mothers - whose work, in Guite's words, 'the world has overlooked, neglected, but in their lives [God's] Kingdom is reflected.' Being a mother is undeniably one of the most demanding, challenging, heart-wrenching, anxiety-inducing, yet joyful jobs in the world. Whatever we try to express today will inevitably fall short of articulating the true value of a mother – if such worth could ever be quantified. A Jewish proverb offers a wise insight: 'God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers.'

The Scriptures offer a rich collection of maternal figures, each one a unique and intricate portrait: from Sarah, mother of Isaac, to Hagar, mother of Ismael; from Jochebed, mother of Moses, to Hannah, mother of Samuel; from Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, to Mary, mother of Jesus, among many others. These women exemplified endurance, patience, hope, and selflessness; they loved their children with boundless affection and placed unreserved trust in God's purpose.

The Church has idealised Mary as the epitome of motherhood, a portrayal that Christian devotion has oversimplified and sentimentalised over the centuries. However, the Mary depicted in the Bible is a complex figure with whom many women and mothers can identify: Mary, who shows extraordinary courage, faith and trust, so that she can say 'yes' to God when so many would have said 'no'. Mary, who risks shame and rejection to fulfil her calling to give birth to the Messiah. Mary, who must become a refugee in Egypt to escape king Herod's wrath. Mary, who encourages the first of Jesus' signs at the wedding at Cana by not contenting herself with her Son's refusal. Mary, whom Jesus later apparently ignores, telling his followers that his family are those who do the will of God, not those related by blood. Mary, who remains nevertheless at the Cross, when so many of Jesus' friends and disciples have fled.

Mary's role as the mother of Jesus is captured in today's brief yet moving passage from Luke's Gospel: Mary, a new mother, finds herself in the Temple, overwhelmed by the reaction her child provokes. She receives a prophetic word from Simeon, who foretells that her son will be responsible for the falling and rising of many, and ominously predicts that she will endure anguish, as 'a sword will pierce [her] own soul too.' Through Simeon's words, the future

suffering of Jesus, culminating in his passion and death, are subtly foreshadowed. Did Mary remember these words at the foot of the Cross?

These few lines encapsulate the two iconic images of Mary: firstly, as the nurturing mother, holding her infant son, a subject depicted in countless paintings and icons. Secondly as the Pietà: following the crucifixion, Mary cradles Jesus once more, now as a broken adult. This dual portrayal mirrors the complex reality of motherhood today, as read or seen in news headlines: mothers in situations of violence, a plight familiar to women worldwide, the piercing agony of helplessly witnessing their children suffer or die.

The glimpses offered by the Gospels into the life of Mary suggest that the mother of Jesus grappled with the difficult task of letting her child go, much like Hannah did with Samuel. By allowing Samuel to leave her, Hannah played her role in fulfilling God's plan for him as a judge and prophet of Israel. As Mary saw Jesus departing from Nazareth, his path inevitably leading towards Jerusalem and Golgotha, she knew this was part of God's purpose for him, understanding that her role was to let him go.

Mothering means nurturing, loving, caring – and letting go. To help someone's journey towards fulfilling their own calling from God, we must, in a spirit of love, release our hold. And this is not only the task of mothers, but the work of an entire community: parents, grandparents, extended family, friends, teachers, churches... Assuming a 'mothering' role is not about imposing our own needs or ideals or ambitions upon those we care for. While their values and paths may not align with our aspirations for them, we, like Mary and Hannah, must place our trust in God's purpose. 'Letting go' is hard and challenging, but often essential to pave the way for a return.

The passage from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians serves as a reminder that all love has its source in the boundless love of God. All consolation comes from God, 'the Father of mercies', and it flows abundantly to us, so that we may extend it to others. This serves as our 'mission letter' to become a 'mothering' church: a place of safety and nurture, where people can explore and question, discover who they truly are and discern where God might be calling them. A place where people can make mistakes, know themselves forgiven, a place where fresh beginnings are embraced. A place where people are empowered to flourish as members of a community of love and service. A 'mothering' church lets people go out into the world with confidence and courage, to face its challenges and illuminate it with the light of Christ - knowing that they are always welcome to return for refreshment and renewal.

This is our 'mission letter': to uphold our responsibility towards one another; to create a place of mutual accountability, where our ability to forgive, practise patience, and extend compassion is continuously expanded by God's grace; to share with one another the duty and work of care and nurture, as well as the joys and challenges of life.

On this day, let us pray that God may guide us in discovering and nurturing more deeply our gifts for 'mothering', so that others may catch a glimpse of God's generous and transforming love, and that in our lives, too, his Kingdom may be reflected.

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

Let us pray for the Church and the world, cherished in the tender love of God.

As your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grew under a mother's care, may his Church be as a mother to her children. Bless her ministers with the gift of compassion, to offer themselves in service to all who come to seek their help. We give thanks for all who have nurtured us and helped us grow in faith and trust and we pray for those who exercise leadership in the Church, for Robert our Bishop, Peter our Archdeacon, Jamie our Chaplain, and for the ministry team in Marseille, Aix and the Luberon, that they will guide us as we seek to find you in our lives.

Lord, in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those suffering from war and any kind of violence: hold them in your loving care and protection and give them the strength to endure suffering and hardship. Comfort and heal families who face unspeakable loss. Grant wisdom to world leaders in advancing efforts toward peace; may they not be compromised by self-interest and blind indifference. Kindle in every heart the true love of peace and unite us all in pursuing a world where all can thrive in your mercy and abundance.

Lord, in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**

Father, as we thank you for the abundance of life, relationships, health, comfort you have provided, we bring to you in prayer children and families in extreme poverty, despair and brokenness: may they feel comfort and hope, may their needs be met both physically and spiritually. Guide us so that we can be your hands and feet pursuing justice for the poor and upholding the cause of the needy.

Lord, in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**

On this Mothering Sunday, we thank you for mothers, our own mothers, and mothers everywhere. We thank you for all they do, or once did, all they give, or once gave, all they mean and will always mean. Grant to all entrusted with the responsibility of

mothering your wisdom, guidance, and support. Bless our homes with care and concern for one another. Be ever close with your gift of love to the mothers and children in our community and help them flourish in their family life.

Lord, in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, restore to health and strength those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, give them the assurance of your love. May they know your presence near them, and your peace in their hearts.

We continue to pray for King Charles: grant him strength as he undergoes treatment, and to his family as they support him. We pray too for the continued recovery of the Princess of Wales, and for Sarah, Duchess of York.

From our community, we hold before you especially Malcolm, Peter, Gabrielle, Eddie, Doreen, Jane, Gerline and Diana, and in a few moments of silence we pray for those whom we know who need your healing.

Lord, in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**

With confidence in Christ's victory over death, we pray for all who have the joy of your nearer presence, for our loved ones departed. Raise them up to the fullness of new life and bring them to the company of Blessed Mary and all the saints, to enjoy everlasting rest and peace. Grant comfort, strength and consolation to all who mourn as we wait to be home with you and those we have loved in this life.

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

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
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.

All **Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
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: Karl Jenkins (b. 1944) – Stabat Mater: And the Mother did weep

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlGnjp0-RY4>

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.**

All **Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUVAbXgJyqQ&t=97s>

Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,
My daily labour to pursue,
Thee, only thee, resolved to know,
In all I think or speak or do.

The task thy wisdom hath assigned
O let me cheerfully fulfil;
In all my works thy presence find,
And prove thy good and perfect will.

Thee may I set at my right hand,
Who se eyes my inmost substance see,
And labour on at thy command,
And offer all my works to thee.

Give me to bear thy easy yoke,
And ev'ry moment watch and pray,
And still to things eternal look,
And hasten to thy glorious day.

For thee delightfully employ
Whate'er thy bounteous grace hath giv'n,
And run my course with even joy,
And closely walk with thee to heav'n.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Tune: Song 34 – Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

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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Thank you for your support.

Picture: Michelangelo Buonarotti (1475-1564) – Pietà, St Peter's Basilica, Rome