

EGLWYS SANT ASA
LLANELWY
SAINT ASAPH
PARISH CHURCH



ALL-AGE EUCHARIST FOR
MOTHERING SUNDAY

SUNDAY 14TH MARCH 2021

The Fourth Sunday of Lent indicates for many a relaxation of the rigours of Lent, as we draw closer to the Paschal Mysteries of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. It has long been known as Laetare Sunday, which refers to the traditional opening Antiphon which was sung at the Eucharist 'Laetare Jerusalem' ('O be joyful, Jerusalem') (Isaiah 66:10)

This day is also known as Mothering Sunday when, from the sixteenth century, people returned to their 'mother church' which was the cathedral or main church of the area. In later times 'Mothering Sunday' became a day when domestic servants including children and young people 'in service' were given a day off to visit their mother church, usually with their own mothers and other family members.

The secular Mother's Day can be exclusive, even painful for those who are childless or motherless in our community. But Mothering Sunday celebrates the beauty, gift and bond of relationships that the Church represents. In today's Gospel reading Jesus gives his mother Mary and his beloved disciple John to one another in a new family – a relationship of love. So, for us as Christians, Mothering Sunday is for everyone as we all have a part to play in nurturing and loving one another.



HYMN

The trumpets sound, the angels sing,
the feast is ready to begin;
the gates of heaven are open wide,
and Jesus welcomes you inside.
The trumpets sound

*Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight,
come and revel in heaven's love and light;
take your place at the table of the King,
the feast is ready to begin, the feast is ready to begin.*

Tables are laden with good things,
O taste the peace and joy he brings;
He'll fill you up with love divine,
He'll turn your water into wine.

The hungry heart he satisfies,
offers the poor his paradise;
now hear all heaven and earth applaud
the amazing goodness of the Lord.

*Words and Music: Graham Kendrick
Music arranged by Christopher Norton*

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

Grace and peace be with you
and keep you in the love of Christ.

The Priest offers words of welcome, introduces the Eucharist

Let us acknowledge our sins and so prepare ourselves
to worship God in spirit and truth.

A short silence is kept

Like a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

In your mercy heal us;
in your love and tenderness remake us.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Your warmth gives life to the dead,
your touch makes sinners righteous.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you and set you free from sin,
and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

God made known
in the strength and vulnerability of birth,
the joy and pain of motherhood,
in nights of sleepless love,
and inner ocean's flow,
in demands without number
and questions without answer:
give us gratitude for the women who carried us,
for the carers who nurture us
and for the chance to pass on life to others;
through Jesus Christ, Mary's Child. **Amen.**

I SAMUEL I. 20-28

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

So Hannah became pregnant, and in time she gave birth to a Son. She named him Samuel. She said, "His name is Samuel because I asked the Lord for him."
Every year Elkanah went to Shiloh to offer sacrifices. He went to keep the promise he had made to God. He brought his whole family with him. So once again he went up to Shiloh. But Hannah did not go with him. She told him, "When the boy is old enough to eat solid food, I will take him to Shiloh. Then I will give him to the Lord. He will become a Nazarite. He will always live there at Shiloh."
Elkanah, Hannah's husband, said to her, "Do what you think is best. You may stay home until the boy is old enough to eat. May the Lord do what you have said."
So Hannah stayed at home to nurse her son until he was old enough to eat.
When Samuel was old enough to eat, Hannah took him to the Tent of the Lord at Shiloh. She also took a three year old bull, ten kilograms of flour and a leather bag filled with wine. They killed the bull for the sacrifice. Then Hannah brought Samuel to Eli. She said to Eli, "As surely as you live, my master, I am the same woman who stood near you praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child. The Lord answered my prayer and gave him to me. Now I give him back to the Lord all his life." And he worshipped the Lord there.

For the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint John
Glory to you, O Lord.

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:
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE HOMILY

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**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.**

THE INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy:
Hear our prayer.

At the end

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

THE PEACE

Blessed are those who make peace; they shall be called God's children.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

THE THANKSGIVING

We celebrate together the gifts and grace of God.
**We take this bread,
we take this wine
to follow Christ's example
and obey his command.**

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 our thanks and praise.

It is always right, wherever we are,
to thank you and to praise you,
God our Father and King for ever
through Jesus Christ, your Son.

Because when he was a child
you trusted him to the care of a human family.
In Mary and Joseph you gave us
an example of love and devotion to him,
and also a pattern of family life.

So here on earth, with the angels and archangels
and with everyone in heaven
we praise your name and say:

**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.**

Father in heaven,
listen to the prayer we make in Jesus' name;
through the Holy Spirit's power, gentle as a dove,
may this bread and wine be for us
Jesus' body and blood.

Father, we remember
when Jesus had supper with his friends
the night before he died,
he took the bread,
he thanked you, broke it, gave it to his friends and said:

Take this and eat it – this is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine;
he thanked you, gave it to his friends and said:

All of you drink from this cup,
because this is my blood –
the new promise of God's love.
Do this every time you drink it
to remember me.

Together we remember that Jesus is always with us and say:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come in glory.

Father, as we remember your Son, Jesus Christ,
who died on the cross and rose again,
we offer you these and all the gifts
you freely give to us.
Send your Holy Spirit to be with us
and all who share this bread
and drink from this cup.
Help us to trust you,
bring us closer together and welcome us,
with all your people,
into Jesus' glorious kingdom.

All honour and glory belong to you, Father,
through Jesus, your Son,
with the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Silence is kept

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As God's children 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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

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

THE COMMUNION

Every time we eat this bread and drink of this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his supper.
Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.

*As the priest receives Holy Communion, you may like to
pray this prayer for Spiritual Communion*

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious:
his love is everlasting.

The Priest leads the people in the Post Communion Prayer

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. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The Lord bless you and keep watch over you; the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord look lovingly on you and give you peace. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

HYMN

My Jesus, my Saviour, Lord, there is none like you;
all of my days I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength,
let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord all the earth let us sing
power and majesty, praise to the King:
mountains bow down and the seas will roar
at the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands,
for ever I'll love you, for ever I'll stand;
nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

Words and Music: Darlene Zschech

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