

EGLWYS SANT ASA
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SAINT ASAPH
PARISH CHURCH



ALL-AGE EUCHARIST FOR



THE 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT
SUNDAY 27TH MARCH 2022

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

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.

What wealth of God's bestowing
for all the world to share;
what strength of heart outgoing
to children everywhere!
Our deepest joys and sorrows
a mother's path must trace,
and earth's unknown tomorrows
are held in her embrace.

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.

Timothy Dudley-Smith b.1926
Tune: Ellacombe

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

We remember all the things we have done wrong – things that upset others, things which disappoint God. But like the father in the story of the Prodigal Son, we know that the Lord loves us and forgives us no matter what.

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 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. **Amen.**

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.

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

THE TALK

Please SIT

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.

Let us offer one another a sign of the Lord's peace.

HYMN

Fathers and mothers,
sisters and brothers,
all those who love us,
for whom we care:
help and befriend them,
keep and defend them,
Jesus our Saviour,
this is our prayer.

And for those others,
fathers and mothers,
children who hunger,
they must be fed:
we would be caring,
readily sharing,
one with another
our daily bread.

Sisters and brothers,
fathers and mothers,
we who together
offer our praise:
hear our thanksgiving,
God ever living,
may we walk with you
all of our days.

Timothy Dudley-Smith b.1926

Tune: Bunessan

WE GIVE THANKS OVER BREAD AND WINE AND SHARE COMMUNION

With this bread that we bring
we shall remember Jesus.

With this wine that we bring
we shall remember Jesus.

Bread for his body,
wine for his blood,
gifts from God to his table we bring.
We shall remember Jesus.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

When Jesus 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.**

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:

'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with all your saints we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever. **Amen.**

Silence is kept

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus taught us to call God our Father,
so in faith and trust we pray:

**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 priest breaks the bread

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

THE INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

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.**

You are welcome to come to the Lord's Table.

If you are a baptized member of a Christian Church who usually receives communion in your own church, you are welcome to receive holy communion here today. (Children at the discretion of parents). If you wish just to receive a blessing, please take this leaflet with you when you go up to the altar.

The sacrament is administered with these words

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

At the end of communion we sing

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.

Taize Community

THE POST COMMUNION

Please STAND

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

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 DISTRIBUTION OF MOTHERING SUNDAY GIFTS

WE GO OUT INTO GOD'S WORLD

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.

FINAL HYMN

Sing we of the blessed Mother
who received the angel's word,
and obedient to his summons
bore in love the infant Lord;
sing we of the joys of Mary
at whose breast that child was fed,
who is Son of God eternal
and the everlasting Bread.

Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
of the sword that pierced her through,
when beneath the cross of Jesus
she his weight of suff'ring knew,
looked upon her Son and Saviour
reigning high on Calv'ry's tree,
saw the price of our redemption
paid to set the sinner free.

Sing again the joys of Mary
when she saw the risen Lord,
and, in prayer with Christ's apostles,
waited on his promised word:
from on high the blazing glory
of the Spirit's presence came,
heav'nly breath of God's own being,
manifest through wind and flame.

Sing the greatest joy of Mary
when on earth her work was done,
and the Lord of all creation
brought her to his heav'nly home:
virgin mother, Mary blessed,
raised on high and crowned with grace,
may your Son, the world's redeemer,
grant us all to see his face.

George B. Timms 1910-1997

Tune: Blaenwern



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