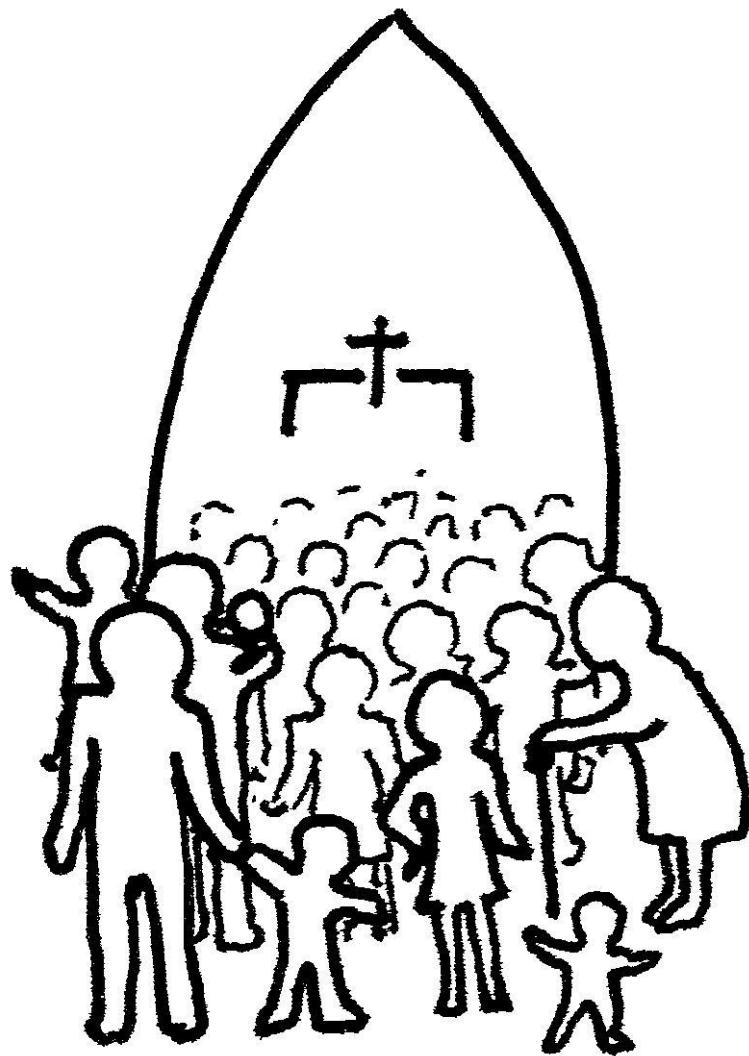


Douglas Union with Frankfield

# THE EUCHARIST

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

(Mothering Sunday)



# The Gathering of God's People

Hymn 616 *In my life Lord, be glorified (verse 1)*

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

## Sentence

Jesus says 'How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings'. *Matthew 23:37b*

## Introduction

For many years the Fourth Sunday in Lent has been observed as Mothering Sunday. Two customs lie behind it; young people who worked away from home were allowed to visit their mothers on this day, often presenting her with a bunch of flowers. Also, people were encouraged to worship in their 'Mother Church', perhaps the local cathedral or main church in the town. It was a Sunday midway through Lent when the usual Lenten disciplines could be relaxed. So, on this day we give thanks to God for the Church which, like a mother nurtures us in the life of the Spirit. We give thanks for our own human mothers and for all the qualities of mothering, given and received in this parish. We also continue our Lent sermon series on 'Faithful Habits'. Today, very appropriately as we think of Mother Church, we focus on the importance of worship.

Hymn 616 *In my life Lord, be glorified (verses 2 & 3)*

## PENITENCE

Let us call to mind our sin, our failure to value the love of others and our failure to love as Christ has loved us.

Your love gives us life from the moment of conception. We fail to live as your children.

Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy.**

You call us to do good. We seek our own good.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You hear us when we cry for help. We ignore the cries of others.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (MOTHERING SUNDAY)

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 our Lord. Amen.

# Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

## THE FIRST READING – EXODUS 2:1-10

*(Moses is hidden in a basket among the reeds and found by Pharaoh's daughter)*

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 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."

**Hymn 361** *Now thank we all our God*

## THE GOSPEL READING

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Luke chapter 2 beginning at verse 33

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

And 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. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## THE SERMON

### THE NICENE CREED

**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 by the Holy Spirit of 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.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

*[Last year 21 young people were to have been confirmed in this parish. They have resumed their confirmation classes online looking forward to their confirmation when it is possible to hold such a service. Our first reading was read by one of the candidates. Our prayers are led by another, as well as by a mother of a candidate.]*

### **A Thanksgiving for mothers and for family life.**

We praise you O Lord and bring you thanks today for giving us others to share in our lives:

For parents and the love which brought us to birth;

For mothers who have cherished and nurtured us.

For fathers who have loved and supported us,

For brothers and sisters with whom we have shared our home.

For other relatives and friends who have been with us in our hopes and joys and times of sadness.

For all who first spoke to us of Jesus and have drawn us into the family of our Father in heaven.

Help us to live as those who belong to one another and to you, our Father, now and always.

**Amen.**

Father in heaven; bless all mothers and those who look after us in our daily lives. Make us grateful for their goodness and thankful for their care. Help us to respond to them in love; following the example of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

### **A Thanksgiving for the Church**

Almighty God, we praise you for the blessings brought to the world through your Church. We bless you for the grace of the sacraments, for our fellowship in Christ with you and with each other, for the teaching of the Scriptures, and for the preaching of your word. We thank you for the holy example of your saints, for your faithful servants departed this life, and for the memory and example of all that has been true and good in their lives. Number us with them in the company of the redeemed in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gathering all our prayers and praise into one, let us pray the prayer of God's family, as our Saviour Christ has taught us and say:

**Our Father...**

## THE PEACE

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says, 'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.'  
The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

**Hymn 325** *Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here. (verse 1)*

## Celebrating at the Lord's Table

### THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us **therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.**

Father, Lord of all creation, we praise you for your goodness and your love.

When we turned away you did not reject us.

You came to meet us in your Son, welcomed us as your children  
and prepared a table where we might feast with you.

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened wide his arms upon the cross and, with love stronger than death,  
he made the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

Lord Jesus Christ, our redeemer,

on the night before you died you came to table with your friends.

Taking bread, you gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying,

Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

**Lord Jesus, we bless you: you are the bread of life.**

At the end of supper you took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said,

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 in remembrance of me.

**Lord Jesus, we bless you: you are the true vine.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ:

**dying, you destroyed our death, rising, you restored our life; Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Holy Spirit, giver of life, come upon us now;

may this bread and wine be to us the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us, who know our need of grace,  
one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Blessed Trinity:

with your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of thanks and praise and lift our voice to join the song of heaven, for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Thanks be to you, our God, for your gift beyond words. **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

#### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

#### **THE COMMUNION**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

*Spiritual Communion*

## **Going Out as God's People**

**Hymn 346** *Angel voices, ever singing*

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast, you feed us in this sacrament with spiritual food and drink. Help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of 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.**

#### **DISMISSAL**

May the Lord who brought us to birth by his Spirit, strengthen us for the Christian life. May the Lord who provides for all our needs sustain us day by day. May the Lord whose steadfast love is constant as a mother's care, inspire us to live and work for others: and the blessing... **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord **in the name of Christ. Amen**

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