

# Mother's Union Liturgy for Mothering Sunday

**Theme: Called to Mother in a Broken World**

## The Gathering

*Please stand as the ministers enter the church  
A minister greets the people with these words*

The Lord be with you  
**All And also with you.**

### Welcome

*Specific words of welcome to the community can be said here by  
the president or minister*

### Gathering Prayer

Heavenly Father, we rejoice with thanks  
for all those who have mothered us in our lives.  
In a world that is broken and in need of your motherly love,  
please use us to aid others as you do us in providing comfort,  
nurture, protection and support.  
We ask that you grow us as carers to those who need us,  
so that we might celebrate your goodness together  
even through our own brokenness.

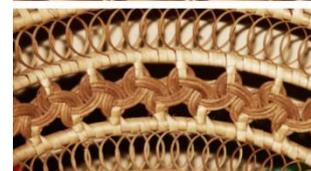
**All Amen**

*Hymn or song maybe be sung here*

### Prayer of Preparation

God our Father, as Pharaoh's daughter noticed the needs  
of a small child alone in the reeds,  
so help us to notice those areas of our own lives  
needing care and attention.

Therefore, let us confess our sins, seeking the embrace of God's  
forgiveness and peace.



## *Space for reflection*

### **Prayer of Penitence**

We have failed to nurture the needy,

**All Lord, have mercy.**

We have failed to make space in our lives for the broken-hearted.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

We struggle to forgive those who have withheld their love from us.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

### **Authorised Absolution**

*The president says*

Merciful Lord,  
you know our struggle to serve you:  
when sin spoils our lives  
and overshadows our hearts,  
come to our aid  
and turn us back to you again;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen**

### **Collect**

*Either of the following may be used*

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 forever.

**All Amen**

## *Liturgy of the Word*

## New Testament Reading

Colossians 3.12-17

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 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. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 16 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. 17 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. *The following introduction to the reading may be said*

Moses' mother entrusts her child to Pharaoh's daughter; Pharaoh's daughter recognises her responsibility to mother a child in need.

## Gospel Reading

John 19.25b-27

*25 And that is what the soldiers did.*

*Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' 27 Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.*

## Sermon

## **Affirmation of Faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Lord, in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

## ***The Liturgy of the Sacrament***

### **Peace**

Christ is our peace. He offered up his life for us with a love beyond imagining; with a love which dispels fear; with a love which holds and guides us through life's trials and joys.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All And also with you.**

*These words may be added*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace. You may like to use your interlocking fingers again, or a simple handshake.

*All may exchange a sign of peace*

### **Eucharistic Prayer G**

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

*(or)*

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.**

Blessed are you, Lord God,

our light and our salvation;

to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things

and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image,

the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels

and all the powers of heaven

we may find a voice to sing your praise:

**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.]**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.

As a mother tenderly gathers her children,

you embraced a people as your own.

When they turned away and rebelled

your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,

to be the living bread,

in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,

and with a love stronger than death

he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,

he came to supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.  
He 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.*

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you 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, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.*

*One of these four acclamations is used*

[Great is the mystery of faith:]

**All Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Father, we plead with confidence  
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;  
we remember his dying and rising in glory,  
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you  
these gifts of your creation;  
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,  
form us in the likeness of Christ,  
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

[Remember, Lord, your Church in every land.  
Reveal her unity, guard her faith,  
and preserve her in peace ...]

Bring us at the last with [N and] all the saints  
to the vision of that eternal splendour  
for which you have created us;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
by whom, with whom, and in whom,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,

we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**All Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

*The priest may say*

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All 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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

*The President breaks the consecrated bread*

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 the on bread.**

*The Agnus Dei may be used as the bread is broken*

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.

### **Giving of Communion**

*The president invites the people to communion*

God's holy gifts  
for God's holy people.

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

### **Prayer After Communion**

*Hymn.*

*Either of these may be used*

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.

## *The Dismissal*

*Notices*

*We sit and listen to the notices*

God of Grace and compassion  
your son, Jesus Christ was part of a family in Nazareth.  
He knew the love of a mother and of a father  
and by dying on the cross brought us all together as new family.  
help us in the Christian Journey to strive for that day when the whole of humanity is  
one family together in your church.

**All Amen.**

### **Blessing**

May the Lord who brought us all to birth,  
strengthen us for daily life.

May the Lord who provides for all our needs sustain us day by day.

May the Lord whose steadfast love is for all, send us out to live and work for others.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you  
and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**