

# **A Service for Mothering Sunday**



## A Psalm Preface

Lord, my heart is not proud;  
I don't look down on others.  
I don't do great things,  
and I can't do miracles.  
But I am calm and quiet,  
like a baby with its mother.  
I am at peace, like a baby with its mother.

*Psalm 131*

## Welcome and Greeting

Praise God who loves us.  
**Praise God who cares.**

*All*

## Opening prayer

Lord, guide our thoughts, and teach us to pray.  
Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

- 1 Jesus, good above all other,  
Gentle child of gentle mother,  
In a stable born our brother,  
Give us grace to persevere.
- 2 Jesus, cradled in a manger,  
For us facing every danger,  
Living as a homeless stranger,  
Make we thee our king most dear.

- 3 Jesus, for your people dying,  
Risen master, death defying,  
Lord in heaven, your grace supplying,  
Keep us to your presence near.
- 4 Jesus, all our sorrows bearing,  
All our thoughts and hopes still sharing,  
To your people truth declaring;  
Help us all your truth to hear.
- 5 Lord, in all our doings guide us;  
Pride and hate shall ne'er divide us,  
We'll go on with you beside us,  
And with joy we'll persevere!

*Jesus noster, Jesus bonus* Adam of Saint Victor (12th Century) tr John Mason Neale (1818-1860) adapted by Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)  
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*[A candle may be lit.]*

We light this candle to remind us that the love of God is like a light in our darkness.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have loved and laughed and laboured as they cared for their children.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have wept in sorrow and joy for their children.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

We praise you, our God, for Jesus, born of a woman and nurtured in her love, and for Mary, a reminder of your patient, waiting love.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

### **Prayer of Confession**

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.

*Silence for reflection*

Your love gives us life from the moment of Conception.

We fail to live as your children.

Lord have mercy.

*All* **Lord have mercy.**

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

Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ have mercy.**

You hear us when we cry for help.

We ignore the cries of others.

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord have mercy.**

### **Absolution:**

May the God of love  
bring *us* back to himself,  
forgive *us* our sins  
and assure *us* of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen**

## The Collect

God of compassion,  
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,  
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,  
and who through the cross draws the 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.

**All**     **Amen.**

- 1     Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging,  
your love is a mountain, firm beneath my feet.  
Your love is a myst'ry, how you gently lift me,  
when I am surrounded, your love carries me.  
*Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
hallelujah, your love makes me sing.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
hallelujah, your love makes me sing.*
  
- 2     Your love is surprising, I can feel it rising,  
all the joy that's growing deep inside of me.  
Ev'ry time I see you, all your goodness shines through,  
I can feel this God-song, rising up in me.  
*Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
hallelujah, your love makes me sing.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
hallelujah, your love makes me sing.  
Yes, you make me sing.  
Lord you make me sing, sing, sing  
How you make me sing.*

*Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
hallelujah, your love makes me sing.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
hallelujah, your love makes me sing.*

Brenton Brown and Brian Doerkson (born 1965)  
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## The Reading

Luke.7.11-17

Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. <sup>12</sup> As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out – the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. <sup>13</sup> When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, ‘Don’t cry.’

<sup>14</sup> Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, get up!’ <sup>15</sup> The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

<sup>16</sup> They were all filled with awe and praised God. ‘A great prophet has appeared among us,’ they said. ‘God has come to help his people.’ <sup>17</sup> This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All** Thanks be to God.

## **The Sermon**

The simple response of our praise.

*All* Praise God who loves us.  
**Praise God who cares.**

For the care of mothers;  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

For their patience when tested;  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

For their love when tired;  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

For their hope when despairing;  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

For their service without limit;  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Creed**

Let us declare our faith in God.

*All* **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.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*Our prayers today have been shared by Barbara Pilch*

We give thanks for Mary, mother of Jesus and we pray for our spiritual mother the Church.

Soften with a mother's gentleness all the hardness of human beings. Bring blessing wherever people live together. Draw all races and nations to be one family in your love.

We pray for all mothers that they may experience the unfailing love that Mary gave to Jesus.

Lord uphold them in times of anxiety and distress; have mercy on mothers who suffer themselves or for their children through sickness, misfortune or human cruelty and give them the strength of your presence which comforted Mary in her sorrow.

Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have recently had the joy of becoming parents. We think of those welcoming the birth of a child and for those who feel ill equipped to cope. For those with a healthy, strong child and those whose child is ill or has disabilities; those equipped to be loving and supportive, and those who struggle with parenthood. We ask that homes may be places of love, joy and respect, where children and adults may grow together in wisdom and understanding.

We pray for those who long for children but have not realised their dream

and for older parents who are now dependent on their children; those who are frail in body and mind or chronically sick. We ask that both carer and cared for will receive the love strength and patience that they need.

Lord in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Father in heaven, bless all mothers and those who look after us.

Make us grateful for their goodness and thankful for their care.

Help us to respond to them in loving obedience following the example of Jesus, your Son, our Lord.

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

The Lord's Prayer

*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.**

A Hymn

- 1 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.
  
- 2 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.

- 3 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,  
who finds in Mary's keeping  
the warmth of human love.
- 4 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 (born 1926)  
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### **The Blessing**

May God, who brought to birth the whole of creation,  
bless us:

May God, who became one of us by an earthly mother,  
bless us:

May God, who watches over us as a mother over her  
children, bless us.

May almighty God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**All** **Amen.**