

## Liturgy for Mothering Sunday

### *Introduction*

#### *Texts:*

1 Samuel 1. 20-28

Psalm 34. 11-20

2 Corinthians 1. 3-7

**John 19. 25-27**

### *Gathering in God's name*

#### **Welcome**

We welcome all Mothers to the commemoration of Mothering Sunday. This celebration is two fold: 1) honouring mother churches and 2) honouring the memory of mothers from disadvantage communities who worked and stayed with their employers.

On the Fourth Sunday of Lent, employers allowed mothers to return to their home church to worship and visit their children and families. Mothers left their children in the care of others, while they cared for other families as if they were their own. On this day, children met their mothers along the road with gifts of wild flowers, which they picked along the path.

This religious Sunday is also known as 'Simmel Sunday', because of freshly baked delicious Simmel cakes, which are made of fruit, almond paste, and decorated with 11 balls of marzipan to represent the 11 disciples (not including Judas).

We trust that this act of worship serves as a reminder of the suffering and joy of all mothers.

#### *Call to worship (Psalm 34:11-20)*

Come, my children, come and listen to me.

**Come, to learn about the fear of the Lord.**

Come, my children, you who love the good things of life.

**Come. Worship the Lord who watch over you.**

(Light a candle)

We light a candle to remind us of Mothers past and present who leave their kids, husbands and families to 'work in-service'- caring for families that is not their own.

(A Song of St Anselm- shortened)

Let us pray,

(pause)

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;  
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.

Often you weep over our sins and our pride,  
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.

You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds,  
in sickness you nurse us, and with pure milk you feed us.

Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life;  
by your anguish and labour we come forth in joy.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;  
in your love and tenderness remake us.

In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,  
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

**Gather your little ones to you, O God, as a hen gathers her brood to protect them.**

*Act of Penitence (2 Corinthians 1:3-7)*

You have been mother and father to all, yet we turned children away who needed our help.

Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy**

You nurture us and keep us safe as a hen would her chicks, yet we doubt your protection and provision.

Christ have mercy

**Christ have mercy**

You comfort us in our suffering and guides us when we falter, yet we stay anxious and resist taking your hand.

Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy**

*Absolution or Assurance of Forgiveness*

Merciful God, mother and father of all, we are truly sorry for our lack of trust and obedience. Have mercy on us. Wash us clean with your precious blood. Set our feet on higher ground and guide us by your Spirit of Truth so that we may share in the glory of eternal life.

Through you Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

*Proclaiming the Word of God*

*Prayer for Illumination (2 Corinthians 1:3-7)*

Gracious God, open the ears of our heart to receive your comfort in troubled times.

May we share in the suffering of Christ with a sure hope of salvation and endurance.

May the written Word of comfort,

strengthen our confidence in the living Word,

Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

**Amen**

*Responding to the Word of God*

*Affirming our Faith*

**We believe in God the creator and sustainer of women and families.**

**We believe in Jesus,**

**the Son of God who placed his mother Mary in the loving hands of the disciple whom he loved.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**helper and comforter of all women.**

**We believe in one God, the Almighty,**

**Jesus God's Son  
and the Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

*Intercession*

Let us Pray,

(pause)

Loving God, mother and father of all.

We thank you for your loving, tender care.

As a mother tends for her children, so you care for us. You hold us to your breast when we need comfort; you cuddle us when we are in need of love and affection. You cover us under your wings like a hen her chicks when the winds and rains of life threatens our safety. We thank you for your care when faced with physical and social calamities.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God,

we give you thanks for mothers and families, and the joy that family life brings.

We asked your blessing on the lives, plans and hope of your children.

May families be strengthen with a deeper relationship in you as they journey through Lent towards Easter.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Holy God,

comfort grieving mothers and lost and abundant children.

Comfort all barren women. Bless them with children of their own and guide them to embrace children of the community and the world. May they experience the joy of parenthood.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of hope and comfort,

We pray for our dearly departed sisters. We give you thanks for the contribution that they made in our lives; for their example of faith; their selfless acts of care and charity, and for the witness of your goodness and grace.

May their dear souls rest in peace

**and rise in glory.**

**Gracious God,**

**we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts,**

**through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

***Celebrating at the table******Sharing of the Peace***

Into your hands Lord,

we commit women from all walks of life- those in and outside your fold.

Into your hands Lord,

we commit women who are struggling- in violent circumstance; with lack of power or provision.

Grant them peace.

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Peace be with you.**

***Invitation to Communion***

Come to the table of our Lord Jesus Christ. May this feast reconcile you to God, strengthen you in faith, heal you in body mind and soul and strengthen you for witness and service.

Draw near and receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he gave for you, and his blood, which he shed for you. Feed on him by faith with thanksgiving.

***Sending******Post communion Prayer***

Holy and merciful God, we thank you for feeding us in your holy mysteries. Thank you for giving us life in abundance through the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Help us to be mindful of mothers and families that are suffering in our community, country and across the globe. Guide and strengthen us by the Holy Spirit that we may be the hands and feet of Jesus in this world.

This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives, and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen**

***Benediction***

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us:

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

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

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father and mother of all, the Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and remain with you always.

**Amen**

***Music***

Love Divine.

Tell Out, My Soul

Take My Life and Let it Be

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Brother, Sister Let Me Serve You

Christ Is Made A Sure Foundation

All Things Bright And Beautiful

Bind Us Together Lord

**Sources**

BBC Songs of Praise

Common Worship: Church of England

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mothering\\_Sunday](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mothering_Sunday)