

Parish Church of St Alphege, Solihull



Mothering Sunday 11am Choral Eucharist

*New English Hymnal
Setting: Mass for Four Voices – William Byrd*

The celebrant welcomes the congregation and announces the hymn.

Processional Hymn - 185
Sing we of the blessed mother

The Gathering

The president says

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Greeting

The president greets the people with the following words:

Welcome in the name of Christ
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you

All and also with you.

Introduction

A warm welcome to our service on this Mothering Sunday. Today is a day with profound and layered meaning. Traditionally, it was a time to return to our mother church—to the place where we were nurtured in faith. It is also a day when we honour those who have mothered us, in all the ways that care and kindness can be given. Yet, we hold in our hearts that this day is not easy for everyone. For some, it stirs memories of loss, longing, or love unfulfilled. For others, it is a reminder of the world's brokenness—of relationships strained, children grieved, or the ache of absence. And so, we gather not only in gratitude, but in honesty, bringing before God both our joys and our sorrows, our celebration and our lament, knowing that in Christ we are given both comfort and belonging.

At times of uncertainty and change, we are called not to retreat into fear, but to turn towards love. We remember that, though we may be apart, we are still bound together in worship, drawn by the same Spirit, held in the same grace. So today, wherever we are, let us lift our hearts in prayer. Let us listen for the voice of God, who calls us to kindness, to courage, and to care, and may we be strengthened to share in his love, in the quiet steadfast work of nurturing one another.

Prayer of Preparation

All Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead,
your touch makes sinners righteous.
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.
Amen.

St. Anselm (1109)

Summary of the Law

A minister says

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
The first commandment is this:
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'
There is no other commandment greater than these.
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord have mercy.

Prayers of Penitence

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit:
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

A period of silent reflection

The choir sings the Kyrie Eleison:

Kyrie eleison	<i>Lord, have mercy.</i>
Christe eleison	<i>Christ, have mercy.</i>
Kyrie eleison	<i>Lord, have mercy.</i>

Absolution

The president says

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Collect Prayer

We keep some moments of silence and then the president prays:

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.

We sit.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading
Exodus 2.1-10

At the end of the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm - 127

1. Except the Lord build the house:
their labour is but lost that build it.
2. Except the Lord keep the city:
the watchman waketh but in vain.
3. It is but lost labour that ye haste to rise up early,
and so late take rest, and eat the bread of carefulness:
for so he giveth his beloved sleep.
4. Lo, children and the fruit of the womb:
are an heritage and gift that cometh of the Lord.
5. Like as the arrows in the hand of the giant:
even so are the young children.
6. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them:
they shall not be ashamed when they speak
with their enemies in the gate.

Second Reading
2 Corinthians 1.3-7

At the end of the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Please stand as able.

The choir and congregation sing the Gospel Acclamation.



Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.

Verse



Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts.

All Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 19.25b-27

All Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the Gospel reading the reader says

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

We sit. A sermon is preached.

Afterwards, a short time of silence is kept.

The Creed

Please stand

Let us declare our faith in God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

All Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

We kneel or sit.

The following response may be used:

All Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

We stand.

The President introduces 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

All and also with you.

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

Offertory Hymn – 285 (t.1, omit*)

For the beauty of the earth

Blessing of the Flowers

During the hymn, the flowers are brought and placed before the altar table.

Heavenly Father, your Son Jesus admired the lilies of the field
and taught us to imitate them by trusting in your love.

Bless these flowers. Accept them as a sweet fragrance,
and fill the hearts of those who receive them with your love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Preparation of the Table

The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.

The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

God of mercy and compassion,
your Word calls us home to faith and love.

Accept all we offer you this day;
we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

We remain standing, as able.

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.



The Lord is here. His Spi-rit 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 thanks and praise.

It is very meet, right and our bounden duty,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee,
O Lord, holy Father,
almighty, everlasting God,
through Jesus Christ thine only Son our Lord.

And now we give thee thanks
because thou dost give us the spirit of discipline,
that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace,
as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery
with mind and heart renewed.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we laud and magnify thy glorious name,
evermore praising thee and singing:

The Choir sings the Sanctus and Benedictus.

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus	<i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i>
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.	<i>Lord God Almighty.</i>
Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua.	<i>Heaven and earth are full of your glory.</i>
Hosanna in excelsis.	<i>Hosanna in the highest.</i>
Benedictus qui	<i>Blessed is he</i>
venit in nomine Domini.	<i>who comes in the name of the Lord.</i>
Hosanna in excelsis.	<i>Hosanna in the highest.</i>

We sit or kneel

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of thy Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us
his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and when he had given thanks to thee,
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

Likewise, after supper
he took the cup and when he had given thanks to thee,
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink ye all of this;
for this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of his kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ thy Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of thy divine majesty,
renew us by thy Spirit,
inspire us with thy love,
and unite us in the body of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

By whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be unto thee,
O Father almighty, world without end.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Trusting in the compassion of God, let us pray with
confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup.

**All we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

The Invitation

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.**

We are all invited to draw near to God today.

The administration (of bread, wine, and prayers of blessing) is offered at both the altar rail (High Altar) either standing or kneeling, and at the font (West End) standing. You are welcome to receive from either place and stewards will help to direct you. We are also happy to come to you (in the pew) if that is easier for you – please alert the steward.

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

The Choir sings the Agnus Dei while those administering Holy Communion receive.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

*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.*

The Giving of Communion

During the Distribution the choir sings the chorus:

'Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.'
from Messiah by George Frideric Handel.

Communion Hymn – 387
Jesus good above all other

Prayer After Communion

The president prays this week's post-communion prayer.

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.

All Amen.

We say the following prayer together.

All Almighty God
we thank thee for feeding us
with the body and blood of thy Son Jesus Christ
Through him we offer thee our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of thy spirit
to live and work
to thy praise and glory.
Amen.

Notices may be given.

The Dismissal

Final Hymn - 475
Ye holy angels bright

The Blessing

The president prays

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless you;
May God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless you;
May God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless you.
And may almighty God bless you,
✝ Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

All Amen.

A minister says

Go in the peace of Christ,

All Thanks be to God.

The minister and people depart.

Organ voluntary

Toccata - Boëllman

Growing Disciples, Building Community, Transforming Lives

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