

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. For the Word of the Lord, thanks be to God.

Thanksgiving

Gentle, patient God, we thank God for the gift of mothers and mothering across the world.

Isaiah wrote that God is a mother to us, comforting and carrying us in her arms.

Isaiah also wrote that God will never forget us and that he knows each one of us just as a mother knows her own children.

David wrote that in God's presence, he was quiet and at peace, trusting his God like a child safe in its mother's arms.

Jesus spoke of himself as a mother, longing to wrap his arms around us like a mother-hen gathering her chicks under her wings.

Gentle, patient God, thank you for your tender care. Amen.

Bible Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the LORD forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one

body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the

Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the LORD Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

For the Word of the Lord, thanks be to God.

Affirmation of Faith

I believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life. I believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again. I believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God and dwells in our hearts through faith. This is the faith of the Church.

I believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Prayers

Spend some quiet time in prayer before God. Thank him for all the blessings of life. Lay before him the needs of the world and pray for peace. Remember those who are in need of any kind.

Commend to him the souls of the departed. Share with him your worries and things uppermost in your mind.

Say the Lord's Prayer. Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Ending

We thank God for giving us others to share in our lives. For parents, and the love which brought us to birth.

We praise you, O Lord and bring you thanks today.

For mothers who have cherished and nurtured us:

We praise you ...

For fathers, who have loved and supported us:

A simple order of prayer and praise for Mothering Sunday

Opening Prayer

God of our days and years,

We set this time apart for you.

Form us in the likeness of Christ,
So that our lives may glorify you.
Amen.

Psalm 95

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
Let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving
and be glad in him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth
And the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have moulded the dry
land.
Come, let us worship and bow down and kneel before the Lord our
Maker.
For he is our God; we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of
his hand.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Collect for Mothering Sunday

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us all the days of our life, through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bible Reading: John 19:25b-27

We praise you ...
For brothers and sisters, with whom we have shared our home:
We praise you ...
For children and their parents:
We praise you ...

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

We praise you ...

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

We praise you ...

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

