

Sunday 14th March 2021

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mothering Sunday

Reading 1: 1 Samuel 1: 20 - 28

Gospel: John 19: 25 - 27

Prayer.

The Lord is good; His steadfast love endures for ever,
And his faithfulness to all generations.

Let us enter his gates with thanksgiving in our hearts:

Let us enter his courts with praise.

We give thanks to him and bless his name.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;

We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Ps. 100

Psalm: 34: 11 - 20

Come, O children, listen to me;

I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

¹² Which of you desires life,
and covets many days to enjoy good?

¹³ Keep your tongue from evil,
and your lips from speaking deceit.

¹⁴ Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.

¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶ The face of the LORD is against evildoers,
to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

¹⁷ When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears,
and rescues them from all their troubles.

¹⁸ The LORD is near to the broken-hearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.

¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD rescues them from them all.

²⁰ He keeps all their bones;
not one of them will be broken.

Song: (*click link*) What A Beautiful Name <https://youtu.be/r5L6QIAH3L4>

Invitation to 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.

A moment of quiet reflection...

Confession:

Your love gives us life from the moment of conception.
We fail to live as your children
Lord have Mercy.

You call us to do good,
we seek our own good.
Christ have mercy.

You hear us when we cry for help.
We ignore the cry of others
Lord have mercy.

Absolution:

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore in us His image
to the praise and glory of His name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading 1: 1 Samuel 1: 20 – 28

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the LORD.'

²¹ The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. ²² But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a Nazarite for all time. ²³ Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only—may the LORD establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. ²⁴ When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh; and the child was young. ²⁵ Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. ²⁶ And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. ²⁷ For this child I prayed; and the LORD has granted me the petition that I made to him. ²⁸ Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD.'

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel: John 19: 25 – 27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, 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.

²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise be to you O Christ.

Talk: (click link) <https://youtu.be/HUFbus4fvik>

We say together in faith.

The Creed

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 from the Anglican Church in Kenya:

The motto of the Mothers' Union in Kenya is "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4L13). With this in mind, let us pray.

Gracious God, you are our perfect parent, giving unconditional love to us and all people.
As we give thanks for mothers today, we pray for parents across the world, that you would grant them strength and patience, wisdom and compassion.
May they reflect the love of Christ in caring for those around them.
Lord, in your mercy...

Gracious God, we pray for those for whom parenting is a challenge, whether through the stresses of lockdown, or illness, or lack of support; through conflict, or natural disaster, or poverty.
We ask that they might be given support, care and strength to persevere, and that they might know the value of all they do.
Lord, in your mercy...

Gracious God, we pray for the work of Five Talents and for the women they support in Kenya.

We ask that you would prosper their work, enabling women to grow in skills and confidence, to improve their own lives and those of their families and communities.

May they be encouraged by knowing the support of churches in this diocese.

Lord, in your mercy...

Gracious God, in love we bring before You all for whom this day brings sadness and pain: for those who have lost mothers and grandmothers; for mothers who have lost children; for those whose longing to be a mother is unfulfilled.

We pray that they might know the care and comfort of friends and family, and above all the consolation of your love.

Lord, in your mercy...

Gracious God, as your Son Jesus Christ was part of a human family, living and learning and growing with others, so we pray that in our families and communities we might live well together, learning and growing, caring and supporting.

Give us eyes to see those in need and hearts to reach out and help them.

Lord, in your mercy...

In a moment of quiet, we bring to mind all those who have been mother-figures in our own lives.

We bring to you our thankfulness for their care. We ask for forgiveness where it is needed, and seek your healing where there is hurt. We pray for grace to follow the good example of those who have shown us love.

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

Collect:

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

Lord's Prayer:

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
and 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 forever. Amen.

*Let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves and all that we offer to God
and give Him thanks.*

Song: (click link) The Stand <https://youtu.be/vs60Jmrnf9w>

Prayer.

Thank you God for the love of our mothers;
Thank you God for their care and concern;
Thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;
Thank you God for the pains they have borne for us;
Thank you God for all that they give us;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing:

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.
May Almighty God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

*As we come to the end of this service we can fellowship with each other in Spirit, with tea, coffee
and biscuits, and continuing to pray for each other.*

Post something on the Facebook page to bless others.