

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Facebook Livestream 8am
Sunday 22nd March 2020

Anglican
Church
Saint Peter's East Maitland

Mothering Sunday

This Sunday, the Fourth Sunday in Lent is the day that the church observes Mothering Sunday. Mothering Sunday has evolved over the years; from the time when people would return to their “Mother Church” during Lent to when those in service and apprentices went home to their mothers with gifts such as hand-picked flowers.

By the early 20th century celebrating Mothering Sunday had waned in many places, but the institution of Mother's Day in the United States brought about renewed interest. This was a cause championed by the Mothers' Union, amongst others.

By 1938 it was claimed that Mothering Sunday was celebrated in every parish in Britain and in every country of the Empire.

Now a staple in the church calendar Mothering Sunday is a time for us all to recognise the importance of those who have cared for and nurtured us throughout our lives.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The Clergy enter while the Organist plays two verses of TIS 111

The Presider says

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins
whose mercy endures for ever.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

'I am the light of the world,' says the Lord; 'those who follow me will have the light of life.' (*John 8.12*)

Let us pray,
Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
Have mercy on us.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

Gracious God,
in order that we children of earth
might discern good from evil
you sent your Son to be the light of the world:
as the light of Christ shines upon us,
may we learn what pleases you,
and live in truth and goodness;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The Deacon proclaims the Gospel

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint John

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was

born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.' They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.' The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.' So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes

from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.’ They answered him, ‘You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?’ And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ He answered, ‘And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.’ He said, ‘Lord, I believe.’ And he worshipped him. Jesus said, ‘I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.’ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, ‘Surely we are not blind, are we?’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, “We see”, your sin remains. (John 9.1-41)

For the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us together affirm our shared faith.

**We believe in one God, who made and loves all that is.
We believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was born, lived, died and rose again,
and is coming to call all to account.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who calls, equips and sends out God’s people,
and brings all things to their true end.**

This is our faith, the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Presider says

Let us pray for the world and for the church.

The Associate Priest continues

Jesus, Light of the world, Sun of Righteousness, to you we bring our prayers.

We pray for the peoples of the world: for all whose lives are shattered by warfare and violence; for those whose lives and livelihoods are impacted by the spread of the Corona virus; for leaders of nations and for our state and federal politicians as they make wise decisions about an appropriate response to this international pandemic. Jesus, Light of the World, shed your purifying light on all places, that your people may live in peace and harmony.

Jesus, make us children of the light, and, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for your church throughout the world as it seeks to respond wisely and compassionately to this current crisis. Help us to discover new and innovative ways to do the work you have given to us under the current restrictions. We hold before you all our brothers and sisters in Christ who are not able to gather in the usual ways today; we pray particularly for our Bishops Peter, Charlie and Sonia as they lead us through these uncertain times. Jesus, Sun of Righteousness, shed the brilliance of your truth on our doubt and fear, that our hearts may be enlightened and our lives show forth your glory.

Jesus, make us children of the light, and, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the community in which we live: for our families, our neighbours and our friends; for our parish family; for the people of this city, especially those without shelter or food; for the overworked and for the unemployed. Jesus, Light of the World, shed the radiance of your love on all lonely and loveless places, that all your people may know their worth and live in dignity and hope.

Jesus, make us children of the light, and, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are in trouble or need: for the sad and the broken-hearted; the lonely and the friendless; for the sick and the dying, and for all who care for them. We pray for healthcare professionals working on the frontline in our hospitals and clinics. We pray for those working to develop a vaccine for this virus. Jesus, Sun of Righteousness, shed your warming rays on the cold and comfortless places of our lives, that in our tears and terrors we may not be alone.

Jesus, make us children of the light, and, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for your holy people of every age and for your faithful people of this parish whose yearly remembrance occurs at this time.

Jesus, Light of the World, accompany us through the night of death, that, fixing our sights on you, we may travel unafraid and, with all your saints, be drawn to the light of your eternal presence.

Jesus, make us children of the light, and, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

The Presider concludes the prayers

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

Grant that what we have asked in faith

We may by your grace receive

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against any one; so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

(Mark 11.25)

Let us pray

We do not presume

to come to your table, merciful Lord,

trusting in our own righteousness,

but in your manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy

so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.

But you are the same Lord

whose nature is always to have mercy.

**Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen**

CONFESSION

The Deacon says

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled and wandered far off.

Let us then ask for mercy, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The table is prepared as the Organist plays two verses of TIS 659

The Presider says

Blessed are you Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer. Which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer. Fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

He was tempted in every way as we are,
yet he did not sin.
By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.
By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil,
and to walk in the way of his love.
Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:

proclaiming his offering of himself

made once for all upon the cross,

his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,

and looking for his coming again,

we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,

his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice

for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,

unite us in the body of your Son

and bring us with all your people

into the joy of your eternal kingdom;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

with whom, and in whom,

in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

we worship you, Father,

in songs of never-ending praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power

are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray

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.

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of mercy,
may we who have shared in this holy meal
know your forgiveness in our lives,
bring your reconciliation to others,
and be a sign of your wholeness in this broken world.

Most loving God,

you send us into the world you love.

**give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit. Amen.**

NOTICES

St Peter's open daily between 9am-4pm.

St Christopher's Rutherford Open daily between 11am-midday

Youtube channel: St Peter's East Maitland

Cathedral: Daily Prayer & Eucharist today at 8.30am.

THE BLESSING

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself, that you may find in him crucified a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sin forgiven and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen

The Clergy depart while the Organist plays two verses of "Christ be our Light"

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