



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 30th March 2025

MOTHERING SUNDAY

compiled by Rev. Chris Jackson

Call to Worship - Psalm 91:4 (GNB)

He will cover you with his wings;
you will be safe in his care;
his faithfulness will protect and defend you.

HYMN: Singing the Faith 88

1] Praise to the Lord, the almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, Brothers and sisters, draw near,
Praise Him in glad adoration.

2] Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee:
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do,
Who with His love doth befriend thee.

3] Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee,
Fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee,
Then to thy need He like a mother doth speed,
Spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.

4] Praise to the Lord, who, when darkness of sin is abounding,
Who, when the godless do triumph, all virtue confounding,
Sheddeth His light, Chaseth the horrors of night,
Saints with His mercy surrounding.

5] Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen Sound from His people again:
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Joachim Neander (1650-1680)

translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

PRAYER

We thank you today for all those that care for us -
Mothers, Fathers, guardians, grandparents and carers.
We remember their loving and sacrificial care,
Their ceaseless love for us and those we love.
May we show them by our words and actions
That we love them and appreciate all they do for us.

We thank you above all
That all love comes from you, O God.
You are the source and creator of love -
Let us learn from your example
And show your love wherever we may be
And to whoever we meet. AMEN

LET US JOIN IN THE **LORD'S PRAYER** TOGETHER

READING Colossians 3:12–17 (NRSV)

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 81

1] Now thank we all our God,
With hearts and hands and voices;
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

2] O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

3] All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be ever more.

Martin Rinkart (1586-1649)

Translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

Reflection

I think I must make a self-declaration before I start, and it is that I am not a parent. So it may seem a little incongruous to be talking about Mothering Sunday and the idea of parenting.

However, I can say that I have both a mother and a father, both earthly and heavenly, so as a child I hope I can honestly reflect on Mothering Sunday from that perspective.

I have chosen the passage from Colossians as an ideal. A perfect understanding of how we should live together in community and family. The term “holy and beloved” is something I would like to focus on today because I believe once we can accept this ideal, then the rest can become a reality. As disciples of Jesus we are ‘holy’, quite literally, set apart for God. By us choosing to follow Jesus, God chooses to make us holy. To become beloved of the heavenly parent. Part of the family, adopted as children of God. It is an astonishing thought to be loved in such away to be accepted as heirs.

Romans 8:15–17 says this:

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!”

it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

What an incredible statement and description of a disciple of Jesus. Not just a follower or a fan or even simply a believer, but an adopted child with full heir-like status, inheriting an abundance of spiritual gifts from our heavenly parent.

Knowing and accepting this fact of becoming ‘holy and beloved’ surely enables us to live in the way that Paul instructs us to do in the rest of the passage from Colossians. It is a blueprint for God’s family, that includes us, living in the Kingdom of God that Jesus began here on earth 2,000 years ago. A kingdom that is incomparable to any flawed earthly kingdom because it operates from a different basis, one that is infused and steeped in the love of God our eternal heavenly parent. AMEN

Prayers

O God the true Mother and Father of all people
From whom we come, to whose care we return,
We thank you this day for all good parents and carers.
For their love and patience from childhood’s earliest days.
For the support and prayers they have offered for us.
The counsels they have given and the example they have set.
We bring you praise and thanks
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,
Who by your coming to us in great humility
To live a normal family life
Has blessed the life of our own homes.
We commend to you our own families
Both near and far, and we remember those that have died.
Unite us in your familial love and guard us from all dangers.
Make us thankful for all the blessings

Of family life, and keep us mindful of those
For whom home has no meaning and no love.
Let us be thankful that all can become adopted into your own family
Through Jesus our saviour AMEN

HYMN: Hymns and Psalms 333

1] For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
*Gracious God, to Thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.*

2] For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light:
Gracious God

3] For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight.
Gracious God

4] For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above;
Pleasures pure and undefiled:
Gracious God

5] For each perfect gift of Thine
To our race so freely given,
Graces, human and divine,
Flowers of earth, and buds of heaven:
Gracious God

F. S. Pierpoint (1835-1917)

Blessing

May the Lord who brought us to birth by his Spirit,
strengthen us for the Christian life.

May the Lord who provides for all our needs
sustain us day by day.

May the Lord whose steadfast love is constant
send us out to live and work for others.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always. **Amen**