



## THE COLLECT

*A special prayer for the day*

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 for ever. **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Listening to and reflecting on Scripture*

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

*St Paul encourages the Christians in Corinth to remember the strength which comes from God, and to support one another in times of need*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

*2 Corinthians 1.3-7*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL READING

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.

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Joseph and Mary, having presented the baby Jesus before God in the Temple at Jerusalem, are blessed by Simeon*

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

*Luke 2.33-35*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## HOMILY

## ANTHEM

Stabat Mater dolorosa  
Juxta crucem lacrimosa  
Dum pendebat Filius.

*The grieving Mother  
stood weeping beside the cross  
where her Son was hanging.*

*GB Pergolesi (1710-1736)*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Almighty God, we pray for courage in this season of Lent to give ourselves afresh in your service and in the service of others.

May the blood and water flowing from the side of Jesus bring forgiveness to your people and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation.

Lord, meet us in the silence,  
**give us strength and hear our prayer.**

On this Mothering Sunday, we give you thanks for our own mothers and for mothers everywhere. We pray for all those who find the responsibility of motherhood especially demanding, and we pray for all who have lost their mothers in recent years. We pray for the work of the Mothers' Union around the world.

Lord, meet us in the silence,  
**give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy in our families, neighbourhoods and communities.

May the presence of the risen Jesus, his body once broken and now made whole, bring peace and direction as we live with one another.

Lord, meet us in the silence,  
**give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up our selfishness as we live for others, and to give time, care and comfort to the sick.

May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch, especially all those who are affected by the coronavirus pandemic, and the light of his presence fill their rooms.

Lord, meet us in the silence,  
**give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up our fear of death and to rejoice with those who have died in faith.

May the feet of the risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross, walk alongside the dying and bereaved in their agony, and walk with us and all your Church through death to the gate of glory.

Lord, meet us in the silence,  
give us strength and hear our prayer, here and in eternity. Amen.

## THE PEACE

We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

## GIVING THANKS FOR THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

We praise you, Almighty God, that we are united in prayer and worship with millions of our brothers and sisters throughout the world, including those who continue to come together in their churches to celebrate the Eucharist. Although we cannot currently share in the sacrament of the Eucharist around your holy table, we remain nourished by the body of Christ, broken for us, and by his blood, shed for us. We give you thanks for his death and resurrection, which have brought us salvation and new hope.

From the beginning, O God, you have created all things, and all your works echo the silent music of your praise. In the fullness of time you made us in your image, the crown of all creation. You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven, we may find a voice to proclaim your praise:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glo - ry: Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord most High.  
Bles - sed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord: Hosan - na in the high - est.

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled, your love remained steadfast. From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than death he opened his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends. Taking bread, he gave you thanks, broke it and gave it them, saying 'Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me'.

After supper he took the cup, gave you thanks and said, 'Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me'.

Lord, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.

And so, Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. We remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand. Bring us at the last with all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father Almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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. And 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.**

## AGNUS DEI



O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.



O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.



O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: grant us thy peace.

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Saviour gave his back to the smiters and did not hide his face from shame: give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE DISMISSAL

### HYMN

O God in heaven, whose loving plan  
ordained us for our parents' care,  
and, from the time our life began,  
the shelter of a home to share;  
our Father, on the homes we love  
send down thy blessing from above.

May young and old together find  
in Christ, the Lord of every day,  
that fellowship our homes may bind  
in joy and sorrow, work and play.  
Our Father, on the homes we love  
send down thy blessing from above.

The sins that mar our homes forgive;  
from all self-seeking set us free;  
parents and children, may we live  
in glad obedience to thee.  
Our Father, on the homes we love  
send down thy blessing from above.

O Father, in our homes preside,  
their duties shared as in thy sight;  
in kindly ways be thou our guide,  
on mirth and trouble shed thy light.  
Our Father, on the homes we love  
send down thy blessing from above.

#### THE BLESSING

Christ give you the grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY      Fugue on the Magnificat

*JS Bach (1685-1750)*