

Collect - *Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world, evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

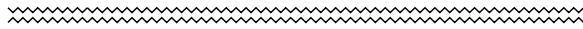
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

May the God of peace enable us to do his will in every kind of goodness, working in us what pleases him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn - To God Be the Glory

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Mothering Sunday - The day has long been associated with mothers, and family. For centuries it was custom for people to return home to their 'mother' church on Laetare Sunday – the middle of Lent. Those who did so were said to have gone 'a-mothering'. The day often turned into a family reunion and a chance for children working away from home – often domestic servants - to spend time with their mothers. Many used to pick flowers from the verges along the way to leave in the church or hand to their mothers when they got home.

Simnel cakes have been known since at least the medieval times. They would be eaten on the middle Sunday of Lent, (also known as Refreshment Sunday, Mothering Sunday, Sunday of the Five Loaves, and Simnel Sunday), when the forty day fast would be relaxed. The word Simnel is said to have been derived from the Latin word "simila" which means a fine wheat flour mainly used for baking a cake. There is also an interesting legend associated with the use of the word Simnel. It says that once a man called Simon and his wife Nell had an argument over whether the Mothering Sunday cake should be baked or boiled. Ultimately, they did both. So the cake came to be named after both of them and was called, 'SIM-NELL'.

May God's Word be in your heart. May God's Word be on your lips. May God's Word be in your touch. May God's Word direct your feet. On this day and all your days to come May God's Word be the life you live.

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. Amen.

A Reading from Numbers (21:4-9)

They travelled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

"Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good; his love is eternal!"

Repeat these words in praise to the Lord, all you whom he has saved. He has rescued you from your enemies

and has brought you back from foreign countries, from east and west, from north and south.

Some were fools, suffering because of their sins and because of their evil; they couldn't stand the sight of food and were close to death.

Then in their trouble they called to the Lord, and he saved them from their distress.

He healed them with his command and saved them from the grave.

They must thank the Lord for his constant love, for the wonderful things he did for them.

They must thank him with sacrifices, and with songs of joy must tell all that he has done.

O God, the divine seeker, you are light to the lost, bread to the hungry, deliverance to the captive, healing to the sick, eternal vision to the dying, and harbour to every soul in peril.

Gather the wanderers from every corner of the world into the community of your mercy and grace, that we may eternally praise you for our salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Reading from Ephesians (2:1-10)

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were

subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (3:14-21)

People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord**

And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son. And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants."

The Gospel of Christ

People: **Praise be to thee, O Christ**

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed - I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory - Stand Up and Bless the Lord

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Prayers of the People

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father. For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church ... let us pray to the Father. Lord of compassion, **in your mercy hear us.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Father. Lord of compassion, **in your mercy hear us.**

For those preparing for baptism [and confirmation] ... and for their teachers and sponsors, let us pray to the Father. Lord of compassion, **in your mercy hear us.**

For peace in the world ... that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples, let us pray to the Father. Lord of compassion, **in your mercy hear us.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer... for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, let us pray to the Father. Lord of compassion, **in your mercy hear us.**

For those whom we have injured or offended, let us pray to the Father. Lord of compassion, **in your mercy hear us.**

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God, let us pray to the Father. Lord of compassion, **in your mercy hear us.**

In communion with all those who have walked in the way of holiness ... let us pray to the Father. Lord of compassion, **in your mercy hear us.**

God our Father, in your love and goodness you have taught us to come close to you in penitence with prayer, fasting and generosity; accept our Lenten discipline, and when we fall by our weakness, raise us up by your unfailing mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Father God, on this Mothering Sunday we want to thank you for mothers: for the people who brought us into this world; for those who cared for us and helped us as we grew up, who helped us to become who we are today. Thank you for the time that they have given to us, the things that they gave up or missed out on in order to look after us, and for their love for us. Please give all mothers the skills that they need, including patience, kindness, love, wisdom and faithfulness. **Amen.**

Dear Lord, Thank you for the leadership, compassion and vision of the staff and volunteers of The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund. May their work for the reign of God inspire us all to reach out to those in need. Bless the partner agencies of the PWRDF around the world, those who work with women, the newborn and youth, with seniors and men, for those who work with those with addictions and those who are sick, for those who work with farmers and those who work with artisans. We give thanks that we are linked together in one human family and pray that God will help us to strengthen our ties to one another. **Amen.**