

# WORSHIP - 4th SUNDAY OF LENT - MOTHERING SUNDAY 27 MARCH 2021

This is the third week I have asked whether anyone is still using these printed Orders of Service. No one has responded over the last two weeks, so I assume no one is. Therefore this will be the last printed Order of Service I will produce for the website - we have been doing it for two years. The Zoom services will continue, and will continue to be placed on youtube on Sunday evening.

*Today we have services in our churches at 10 am, and meet on Zoom at 11.30 - the link is on the website.*

The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.  
Let us rejoice and shout for joy, and give God the glory.  
**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The love of God is a light in our darkness.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have loved and laughed and laboured as they cared for their children. **Blessed be God for ever.**

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have wept in sorrow and joy for their children.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

We praise you, our God, for Jesus, born of a woman and nurtured in her love,  
and for Mary, a reminder of your patient, waiting love. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Hymn - For the beauty of the earth - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tOVFvctxv6c>

Grace, mercy and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, be with you. **And also with you.**

**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.**

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.

*Silence for reflection*

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

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

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

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

**The Collect**

**God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,  
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,  
and 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 bring 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 forever. Amen.

Old Testament reading - Exodus 2.1-10 - *is printed on the blue noticessheet*

Hymn - For Mary, mother of our Lord <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWS-Italy7w>

Gospel reading - John 19.25a-27 - *is printed on the blue noticessheet*

Address - *my sermon is on the website*

### The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Anthem** – *Boys' voices in G, John Wood*

*sung by St Edmundsbury Cathedral Choir - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QU-6AGGAbg>*

My soul doth magnify the Lord :  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his hand-maiden.  
For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations.  
He hath shewed strength with his arm :  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat :  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things :  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

**Prayers of Intercession**, *written by Mary Wallen*

We pray, Lord, for all the people throughout your world who are suffering in an unimaginably tragic way.

Please help those remaining in Ukraine and those fleeing from the terrible atrocities there. Help everyone who is suffering and whose lives are torn apart by corrupt leaders and civil wars in so many countries throughout the world. Guide us to find the best ways to help these millions of ordinary people who just want to live a life, free from oppression and enjoy the pleasures that all human beings crave. Should we give materially, in money or what? Even though it is hard, we pray for those responsible for this human suffering, that somehow good may overcome evil. That a way to peace can be found and conflicts resolved. Today we pray especially for mothers in these countries as they struggle to keep their children safe and to provide their daily needs. We ask for Your comfort for those mothers whose children have lost their lives and those children who have been orphaned. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray, Lord, that the leaders of all the nations of the United Kingdom may find the best way to give aid to other parts of the world, where help is so desperately needed. Give them the strength to act for the common good with integrity and faith. We pray that help can also be given to families in the United Kingdom who are having finding it increasingly difficult to cope financially. The pressure of this, along with the continued fight against Covid 19, is causing so much heartache and illness, physical, mental and emotional. Help us Lord to be a nation that cares, who can find a way of putting the needs of others before ourselves. We especially pray for all mothers; those who are worried, nervous or whose children have died or are seriously ill. We also think of those mothers-to-be who await the birth of their child with excitement and a little fear. We ask for Your love to be poured onto all children who do not have a loving mother, because of death or circumstances that are beyond their control. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray, Lord, that the clergy, readers and everyone within the parishes of St Edmunds and St Matthews may find ways to reinforce the position of our church as a mother to the community, to draw the whole human family to God. How can we all show a mother's love to everyone as we go about our daily lives? We particularly pray for those who are sick at this time, give them the comfort and support they crave and help them to find peace within themselves. At this difficult time we pray for the families and friends of those who have died, remembering those known to us and whose memory will never fade from our hearts. On this special Sunday we thank God for our own mothers and, if appropriate, seek His guidance in our continued efforts as a mother, grandmother or mother figure. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray, Lord, that all our family members might thrive and that they may grow in the knowledge of the love of Your mother church. We pray that all who are mothers are able to work, as You would wish, to keep their children safe and well and to help them grow into responsible and loving adults. We know that this can be a very difficult thing to do, many mothers are anxious, frightened, unable to look after their children adequately and struggling with their own problems. We ask You, God, to support, reassure and show compassion to these people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray, Lord, that we may show love, find ways to help others and remember that Jesus was challenged many times but his faith did not falter. Help us to learn from His example and to strengthen our determination to follow Christ. We thank You for our own mothers, people we have known who may have acted like a mother and, last but not least, for the support of our mother church. And we pray, as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

Hymn - Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6ji4y9Q-K0>

### **The Blessing**

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless you:

may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless you:

may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless you.

May almighty God bless you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

**Final music** - Coronation Scot, Vivian Ellis - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-WiaXUdsPI>

*We end with the other love of my life - steam engines. David has recorded it for us - if you want to see him play it, watch the youtube version of our service later today.*

Peter Barham, 12 March 2021 - revpeterbarham@btinternet.co.uk