

Parish Church of St Alphege, Solihull



Mothering Sunday 11am Choral Eucharist

Mass Setting: Short Communion Service in the Phrygian Mode – Charles Wood

The Gathering

The president says

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Greeting

The president greets the people with the following words:

Welcome in the name of Christ
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you

All and also with you.

Welcome

A warm welcome to our service on this Mothering Sunday. Today is a day with profound and layered meaning. Traditionally, it was a time to return to our mother church—to the place where we were nurtured in faith. It is also a day when we honour those who have mothered us, in all the ways that care and kindness can be given. Yet, we hold in our hearts that this day is not easy for everyone. For some, it stirs memories of loss, longing, or love unfulfilled. For others, it is a reminder of the world's brokenness—of relationships strained, children grieved, or the ache of absence. And so, we gather not only in gratitude, but in honesty, bringing before God both our joys and our sorrows, our celebration and our lament, knowing that in Christ we are given both comfort and belonging.

At times of uncertainty and change, we are called not to retreat into fear, but to turn towards love. We remember that, though we may be apart, we are still bound together in worship, drawn by the same Spirit, held in the same grace. So today, wherever we are, let us lift our hearts in prayer. Let us listen for the voice of God, who calls us to kindness, to courage, and to care, and may we be strengthened to share in his love, in the quiet steadfast work of nurturing one another.

Prayer of Preparation
St. Anselm's Prayer (1109)

All Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead,
your touch makes sinners righteous.
Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;
in your love and tenderness remake us.
In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.
Amen.

Summary of the Law

A minister says

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
The first commandment is this:
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'
There is no other commandment greater than these.
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord have mercy.

Prayers of Penitence

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit:
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

A period of silent reflection

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
and clean me from my sin.

Lord have mercy.

All Lord have mercy.

Make me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Christ, have mercy.

All Christ have mercy.

Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy spirit from me.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord have mercy.

The choir sings the Kyrie Eleison:

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy.

Christe eleison

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

The president says

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Collect Prayer

We keep some moments of silence and then the president prays:

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 forever.

All Amen.

We sit.

The Liturgy of the Word

Bible Readings

First Reading – Exodus 2.1-10

At the end of the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm - 127

- 1 Unless the LORD builds the house, *
their labour is in vain who build it.
- 2 Unless the LORD watches over the city, *
in vain the watchman keeps his vigil.
- 3 It is in vain that you rise so early and go to bed so late; *
vain, too, to eat the bread of toil,
for he gives to his beloved sleep.
- 4 Children are a heritage from the LORD, *
and the fruit of the womb is a gift.
- 5 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, *
are the children of one's youth.
- 6 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them! *
he shall not be put to shame
when he contends with his enemies in the gate.

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 1.3-7

At the end of the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Please stand as able.

The choir and congregation sing the Gospel Acclamation.



Verse



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.

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 2.33-35

All Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the Gospel reading the reader says

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

We sit. A sermon is preached.

Afterwards, a short time of silence is kept.

The Creed

Please stand

Let us declare our faith in God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

All Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

We kneel or sit.

The following response may be used:

All Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

All Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

We stand.

The President introduces the Peace:

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says,
'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Offertory Hymn - 185

Blessing of the Flowers

The flowers are brought forward during the hymn and placed before the altar table.

Heavenly Father, your Son Jesus admired the lilies of the field
and taught us to imitate them by trusting in your love.

Bless these flowers. Accept them as a sweet fragrance,
and fill the hearts of those who receive them with your love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Preparation of the Table

The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.

The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

God of mercy and compassion,
your Word calls us home to faith and love.

Accept all we offer you this day;
we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

We stand

The president sings



The Lord be with you and with thy spi-rit.

or
The Lord is here. His Spi-rit is with us.

Lift _ up your hearts. **We lift them up un-to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks un - to the Lord our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right and our bounden duty,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee,
O Lord, holy Father,
almighty, everlasting God,
through Jesus Christ thine only Son our Lord.

And now we give thee thanks
because thou dost give us the spirit of discipline,
that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace,
as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery
with mind and heart renewed.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we laud and magnify thy glorious name,
evermore praising thee and singing:

The Choir sings the Sanctus and Benedictus:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord, most high.
Blessed is he who cometh in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest.*

We sit or kneel

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of thy Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us
his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and when he had given thanks to thee,
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

Likewise, after supper
he took the cup and when he had given thanks to thee,
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink ye all of this;
for this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the
cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of his kingdom, and with this bread and this
cup we make the memorial of Christ thy Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of thy divine majesty,
renew us by thy Spirit,
inspire us with thy love,
and unite us in the body of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

By whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be unto thee,
O Father almighty,
world without end.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Trusting in the compassion of God, let us pray with
confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All 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.
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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup.

**All we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

The Invitation

Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst
come under my roof
but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.**

The following prayer may be said

**All We do not presume
to come to this 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 our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.
Amen.**

The Giving of Communion

Agnus Dei

Whilst those helping with the administration receive, the choir sings the 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.*

We are all invited to draw near to God today. If you, or your children, regularly receive the bread and wine at any Christian church, you are most welcome to do so. If you do not usually receive the bread and wine, or prefer not to do so today, you are invited to come forward to receive a prayer of blessing. If you do this, you may want to hold your hands together in prayer so that we know your intention. Thank you.

The Choir sings an anthem during the distribution:
'For the Beauty of the Earth' by John Rutter

*For the beauty of the earth
For the beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Over and around us lies
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise*

*For the beauty of the hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and moon and stars of light
Sun and moon and stars of light
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise*

*For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild
For all gentle thoughts and mild
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise*

*For each perfect gift of thine
To our race so freely given
Graces human and divine
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise*

Communion Hymn - 84

Prayer After Communion

A short time of silence is kept.

The president will pray this week's post-communion prayer.

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament
with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

We say the following prayer together.

All **Almighty God**
we thank thee for feeding us
with the body and blood of thy Son Jesus Christ
Through him we offer thee our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of thy spirit
to live and work
to thy praise and glory.
Amen.

Notices may be given.

The Dismissal

Final Hymn - 413

We stand

The president prays

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.
And may almighty God bless you,
✙ Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

A minister says

Go in the peace of Christ,

All **Thanks be to God.**

The minister and people depart.

Organ voluntary

Wir glauben all an einen Gott BWV 680 – J.S. Bach

Growing Disciples, Building Community, Transforming Lives

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