

# A Service of the Word

## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026 • Mothering Sunday

**Zoom: 9.50 Session opens**

**9.55 Gathering Music**

**10.00 Introduction, Greeting**

In the name of the Father...

The Lord be with you:

We have come together as the family of God...

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;  
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;  
Your warmth gives life to the dead,  
Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;  
In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,

**All: and also with you.**

**you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.  
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.  
your touch makes sinners righteous.  
in your love and tenderness remake us.  
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.**

**Collect for Purity**

**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.**

**Hymn 138**

1. Our Father God in heaven on whom our world depends,  
to you let praise be given for families and friends;  
for parents, sisters, brothers, a home where love belongs,  
but on this day for mothers we bring our thankful songs.
2. What wealth of God's bestowing for all the world to share!  
what strength of heart outgoing to children everywhere!  
Our deepest joys and sorrows a mother's path must trace,  
and earth's unknown tomorrows are held in her embrace.
3. How well we know the story that tells of Jesus' birth,  
the Lord of heaven's glory become a child of earth;  
a helpless infant sleeping, yet King of realms above,  
to find in Mary's keeping the warmth of human love.
4. Our Father God in heaven, to you we lift our prayer,  
that every child be given such tenderness and care,  
where life is all for others, where love your love displays:  
for God's good gift of mothers let earth unite in praise!

**Confession**

Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy

**All: Lord, have mercy  
All: Christ, have mercy  
All: Lord, have mercy.**

**Absolution**

**Collect for Mothering Sunday**

**A reading from the book of Exodus**

This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

*Exodus 2. 1-10*

**Psalm 127. 1-4**

**Refrain: The Lord shall keep watch over your going out and your coming in.**

**A reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians**

This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

*2 Corinthians 1. 3-7*

**Hymn 537**

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,  
*Lord of all, 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:  
*Refrain*
3. For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
pleasures pure and undefiled:  
*Refrain*
4. For each perfect gift of thine,  
to our race so freely given,  
graces human and divine,  
flowers of earth and buds of heaven:  
*Refrain*
5. For thy church which evermore  
lifteth holy hands above,  
offering up on every shore  
her pure sacrifice of love,  
*Refrain*

## Gospel Reading *please stand*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
*After ...* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*John 19. 25b-27*

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.  
All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Music for meditation

### Homily *The Vicar*

## Affirmation of faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;**

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Prayers using the response:

Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

## Prayerful Hymn 137

1. God of Eve and God of Mary,  
God of love and mother-earth,  
thank you for the ones who with us  
shared their life and gave us birth.
2. As you came to earth in Jesus,  
so you come to us today;  
you are present in the caring  
that prepares us for life's way.
3. Thank you that the Church, our Mother,  
gives us bread and fills our cup,  
and the comfort of the Spirit  
warms our hearts and lifts us up.
4. Thank you for belonging, shelter,  
bonds of friendship, ties of blood,  
and for those who have no children,  
yet are parents under God.
5. God of Eve and God of Mary, Christ our brother, human Son,  
Spirit, caring like a Mother, take our love and make us one!

## The Lord's Prayer

## Notices and Banns of Marriage

## The Peace

## Hymn 739

1. Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mother's arms hath 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 evermore.

## Closing Prayer

This is love, not that we loved God,  
He is the sacrifice for our sins,  
If God loves us so much  
If we love one another

**but that he loved us and sent his Son.  
that we might live through him.  
we ought to love one another.  
God lives in us.**

## Blessing

## Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## Closing Music

*No Collection is taken, please donate by Text or leave a gift (in a completed gift aid envelope if you are able to do so) in the Offertory Plates or by contactless card giving as you leave. Thank you. We are encouraging supporters of the church to give by Bank Transfer to support our work. Details are on our website at [www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk](http://www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk) or contact the Parish Office at [church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk](mailto:church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk)*

*Thank you for joining this service, whether by Zoom or in person.*