



Invocation

Lord, listen to your children praying
Lord, send your spirit in this place
Lord, listen to your children praying
Send us love, send us power, send us grace

Opening Prayer

P: God, we remember the women, named and unnamed, who throughout time have used the gifts you gave them to change the world. We remember these women who inspire us to discover within ourselves your power and the way to use it to bring about more peace and love. As we follow in the footsteps of these holy witnesses of all ages, grant us their grace, strength and conviction for the work that lies before us which we do for your glory. Amen.

Opening Hymn

God of the women who answered your call,
Trusting your promises, giving their all,
Women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth
Give us their courage to live in your truth.

God of the women who walked Jesus' Way,
Giving their resources, learning to pray,
Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and more
May we give freely as they did before.

God of the women long put to the test,
Left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,
Quietly asking: "Who smiled at my birth?"
In Jesus' dying you show us our worth.

God of the women who ran from the tomb,
Prayed with the others in that upper room,
Then felt your Spirit on Pentecost Day
May we so gladly proclaim you today.

O God of Phoebe and ministers all,
May we be joyful in answering your call.
Give us the strength of your Spirit so near
That we may share in your ministry here.
Tune: Traditional Irish melody ("Be Thou My Vision")
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Kauma

P. †Glory be to the Father our Creator, to the Son our Redeemer and to the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

C. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

P. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

C. Blessed is He that has come and is to come again in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P. Holy art thou, O God.

C. Holy art thou, Almighty Lord.

P. Holy art thou, Immortal Lord.

C. O Lord, the Messiah who was crucified for us † have mercy on us. **(To be repeated thrice)**

P. O Lord have mercy on us.

C. O Lord have mercy on us and bless us.

P. O Lord accept our prayers and worship and have mercy on us.

C. Glory be to you, O God.

P. Glory be to you, O Creator.

C. Glory be to you, O King the Messiah; who has mercy on us sinners. Bless us, O Lord.

(Let us sing together the prayer that Jesus 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 done in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Forever. Amen.***

(Cong. to be seated)

Lesson 1 Exodus 1:15-22

Lesson 2 Romans 16:1-16

L: Meditation- One women's courage

Today we remember and celebrate the acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in their communities.

One such woman is Jochebed. She lived in a land whose ruler had just given an order for every baby boy born to be killed. Imagine being told to give up your own baby to be killed! It was a horrible dilemma that would result in death, no matter what she did. If she obeyed the law, her baby would die. If she disobeyed, she and her whole family could die.

But Jochebed feared God more than she feared man. She and her husband hid their baby for three months as the authorities went hunting for newly born boys. How do you hide a newborn for three months? How do you keep your neighbours from hearing his cries? And the greatest pain - parting with your own child? Those three months must have been a trying time—but also a time of great ingenuity and resourcefulness, courage, deep faith, and trust in God to keep them safe.

It was only many years later, that people would see the results of Jochebed's faith and determination. That baby boy, Moses, would grow up to be a great man who would lead his people out of slavery to freedom, and whose own faith would be recorded in history books forever.

Maybe you're in a situation in which you feel completely out of control. You've done everything you could, and you don't know what else would help. You're out of options, and there's nothing else you can do. Jochebed's story, however, reminds us that all is not lost: we may be helpless, but we are not hopeless. There is one last thing we can do: we can trust God. Trust in His providence. Trust in His protection. Trust in His provision. Trust in His plans.

—Sim Kay Tee, *Our Daily Bread*

Hymn- God, we praise you for the women

Sarah laughed to hear the promise--
God would bless her with a son;
Sarah laughed and Sarah doubted
till she saw what God had done.

*God, we praise you for the women
who have taught us to be strong,
who have held us, who have raised us
with a prayer and with a song.*

Pharaoh's daughter, like a mother,
lifted Moses from the river,
brought him safely to the palace
Where he one day would be leader.

Mary watched the killing madness
as her son died on the cross;
she who knew the joy of childbirth
now was torn by bitter loss.

As her life drew on toward evening,
after she had raised her own,
Lois held her baby grandson,
told him of God's love made known.

— written by Daniel Charles Damon \NETTLETON_(Tune "Come thou fount of ev'ry blessing")

L: Two Mothers

Long time ago, so I have been told,
Two angels once met on streets paved with gold.
"By the stars in your crown," said the one to the other
"I see that on earth, you too, were a mother.

And by, the blue-tinted halo you wear
"You, too, have known sorrow and deepest despair..."
"Ah yes," she replied, "I once had a son,
A sweet little lad, full of laughter and fun."

"But tell of your child." "Oh, I knew I was blessed
From the moment I first held him close to my breast,
And my heart almost burst with the joy of that day."
"Ah, yes," said the other, "I felt the same way."

The former continued: "The first steps he took-
So eager and breathless; the sweet startled look
Which came over his face - he trusted me so."
"Ah, yes," said the other, "How well do I know"

"But soon he had grown to a tall handsome boy,
So stalwart and kind - and it gave me so much joy
To have him just walk down the street by my side"
"Ah yes, "said the other mother," I felt the same pride."

"How often I shielded and spared him from pain
And when he for others was so cruelly slain.
When they crucified him - and they spat in his face
How gladly would I have hung there in his place!"

A moment of silence - "Oh then you are she -
The mother of Christ"; and she fell on one knee.
But the Blessed one raised her up, drawing her near,
And kissed from the cheek of the woman, a tear.

"Tell me the name of the son you love so,
That I may share with your grief and your woe."
She lifted her eyes, looking straight at the other,
"He was Judas Iscariot: I am his mother."

Author Unknown

L: Daughters of Jerusalem

In a small crowded room filled with hay
Surrounded by donkeys, sheep and cows.
Troubled and afraid the mid wife knelt to pray
Accompanied by a couple of cooing doves.
While the expectant mother in a dark corner lay.

The young woman mourns in pain and fright
The animals shift undecidedly at her cries.
Zebedee's wife prays for just a little more light.
Troubled and helpless, shaking her head she sighs,
'I wonder what would happen this gloomy night'

Then a scream of light through roof tiles pour.
Strange, loud and brilliant beams of sun.
In awe she watches this beauty in labour,
Crying in relieved happiness for her son.
Clothed in light, the night with starlight tore.

Thirty years hence she watches that child afore
Drawn out between two thieves, hung out on nails,
Painted in pain and blood and shame and gore.

She wept as his mother, for her own John and James.
That day clothed in darkness, Jerusalem's curtain tore.

She witnessed,
Two births but of one from different scenes-
One as a woman's child, the other God's Son.
The heavens revealed the power He wields
Over birth and death, but for us hope was born
When day turned to night, and night the day reveals.

(Cong. to stand)

Prayer of Confession

Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

P: Heavenly father,
Your life pulses in each of our hearts,
and your love permeates each of our lives.

Your care sustains us in each moment,
and your compassion guides us in each situation.

When we fall, you lift us,
when we fail you restore us,
When we are wounded, you nurse us,
when we grieve, you weep with us.
We, your daughters and sons, praise you.

C: But, we have failed to love as you do,
we have filled our minds with selfish dreams and violent plans,
we have made our hearts cold and empty of compassion,
we have forgotten our spirits and distorted your image within us.
As a mother disciplines her children,
we ask you to discipline us;
As a mother forgives the sons and daughters who hurt her,
we ask you to forgive us;
As a mother calls her children to be reconciled with their siblings,
we ask you to lead us to reconciliation with one another.
In Christ's Name.
Amen.

Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

Written by John van de Laar.
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Intercessory Prayers

L: Heavenly Father, you are a God of compassion,
a father who protects and provides for his daughters,
you are like a mother who comforts and nurtures her sons,
we bring our prayers in faith, and with thanksgiving.

Wherever there is war and violence,
C: we pray for peace and reconciliation;

L: Wherever there is crime and corruption,
C: we pray for integrity and lawfulness;

L: Wherever there is poverty and inequality,
C: we pray for sharing and generosity;

L: Wherever there is disease and death,
C: we pray for healing and comfort;

L: Wherever there is oppression and tyranny,
C: we pray for liberation and freedom;

L: And wherever people need the healing touch of your grace and mercy,
C: we pray that we may be your hands, your embrace, your kindness.
In Jesus' Name. Amen.

**C: O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord hear my prayer;
when I call answer me.
O Lord hear my prayer,
O Lord hear my prayer;
come and listen to me.**

L: We pray for the mission of the Sevika Sangham who celebrate their 100 years as an organization this year, their tireless efforts in helping the needy and sharing the Word through their dedicated service. We pray for their many institutions that reach out and support people in need. We pray and are thankful for the cottage prayers, mission trips, breakfast sales that contribute to the Church projects, also workshops, cooking and handicraft classes, visits to the homes of the sick and the aged, the hostel for the underprivileged working women and their many other projects.

Today we pray especially for Kerala and Kodagu. We pray for those suffering- in pain and loss because of the rain and floods. We pray for all those depressed by their great losses and those who are widowed because of this calamity. We pray for the Governments to cope up with the work of rehabilitation of so many people. We pray for all Churches, Communities and Social organizations who are working relentlessly to support the victims of the flood.

We pray for consolation and hope for all those who suffer. Be with them, dear Lord.

**C: O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord hear my prayer;
when I call answer me.
O Lord hear my prayer,
O Lord hear my prayer;
come and listen to me.**

L: Oh God, who has created all human beings with dignity and love:
We lift in prayer the women of the world-
Our mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends.

Speak deeply into the souls of women and girls today
Tell them their worth, value, and strength.
So many women have been dis-empowered, abused and enslaved
Pushed to the margins of societies worldwide, their voices never heard.

But you, Lord, are bringing justice for women,
Even now women are rising to leadership
In churches, organizations, and governments.
We pray for the many women activist who stand up against
all challenges, for their rights

Give courage to the women, loving Lord,
For equality and the good of their sisters and brothers. Amen

**C: O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord hear my prayer;
when I call answer me.
O Lord hear my prayer,
O Lord hear my prayer;
come and listen to me.**

Gospel Reading

P: †Peace be with you all.

C: May the Lord make us all worthy to listen to His Word.

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which proclaims life and salvation to the world as recorded by Mark 15:37-41

C: Blessed is He that has come and will come again. Praise to the Father who sent him for our Salvation. May His blessings be ever upon us.

P: In the days of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the Word of life, God incarnate of the blessed Virgin Mary, it happened in this way.

C: So we believe and affirm.

(After reading the Gospel, the priest says, †'Peace be with you all')

C: We thank you, Lord, that you have given us your gospel which is indeed the light of the world, that we may be drawn closer to you through the living words from your gospel which we have now heard.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in the one true God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all world; Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. He was crucified also for us in the days of Pontius Pilate; suffered and died and was buried. The third day He rose

again, by His Father's holy will, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead and of His kingdom there will be no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets and the apostles. We believe in one Holy Catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the new life of the world to come. Amen.

(Cong. to be seated)

Birthday, Wedding Anniversary & Thanksgiving

Faith of our mothers, living still
In cradle song and bedtime prayer;
In nursery lore and fireside love,
Thy presence still pervades the air:
Faith of our mothers, living faith!
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our mothers, loving faith,
The fount of childhood's trust and grace,
Oh, may thy consecration prove
The wellspring of a nobler race:
Faith of our mothers, living faith,
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our mothers, guiding faith,
For youthful longing, youthful doubt,
How blurred our vision, blind our way,
Thy providential care without:
Faith of our mothers, guiding faith,
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our mothers, Christian faith,
In truth beyond our man-made creeds,
Still serve the home and save the Church,
And breathe thy spirit through our deeds:
Faith of our mothers, Christian faith!
We will be true to thee till death.

Text: A. B. Patten, Music: Henri F. Hemi1865

Offertory

When Mary poured a rich perfume on Jesus' weary feet,
Her caring filled that humble room; the fragrance there was sweet.
But full of anger, Judas said, "We could have used this more!
Why was her gift not sold instead and given to the poor?"

The Lord replied, "Leave her alone! She bought it for this day.
This caring love that she has shown is faithful to God's way.
The poor will always be with you, but you will not have me."
He blessed her and he thanked her, too, for giving lavishly.

O Christ, what can your people bring to show you thanks and love?

You need no fragrant offering; for now you reign above.
Since there will never cease to be the poor throughout the land,
May we, your church, serve faithfully by offering them our hand.

Tune "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"; Text: Copyright © 2001 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.
<http://www.carolynshymns.com/women.html>

MESSAGE

(Cong. to stand)

P: Closing Prayer

Woman of honor, Priceless companion,
Wife and mother and faithful friend,
Shepherd and guide, Teacher and helper—
She lives a love that has no end.

C: Morning and evening, summer and winter,
Ever faithful and glad to share;
Touching and lifting, tenderly giving—
In her we feel our Father's care.

God of all comfort, fountain of blessing,
Ever loving in all You do,
Thank You for giving, mothers and daughters
Gladly we lift our praise to You! Amen

Ref: Closing Prayer John van de Laar

P: Benediction

Go out and tell the world that our God is faithful—like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home. Go out and celebrate with joy the amazing gifts that our faithful God has given each one of us, women and men alike. Go out to use those gifts in ministry to the church and to the world.

May the God of our mothers and fathers continue to bless us and lead us forward and give you peace. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Doxology and Kiss of peace

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of Heaven to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;
All thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every longing heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit;
Let us find Thy promised rest.
Come, Almighty to deliver,

Let us all Thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more Thy temples leave.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless may we be;
Let us see our whole salvation
Perfectly secured by Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in Heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Charles Wesley, pub.1747, John Zundel, pub.1870