

Pure, Unbounded & Whole

A service to celebrate a Mother's Love and Resilience

P: A mother's love for her child is said to be like nothing else in the world. It knows no law, no pity, it dates all things and crushes down remorselessly all that stands in its path.

O Lord, Creator of all things, we praise you for the gift of motherhood. We offer to you the joys and sorrows, prayers and works of each mother. Bless them as they labour in this vocation to which you have called them. Be their guiding force today and for all the days to come. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, 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 ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
Into ev'ry troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore they temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.
Author: Charles Wesley, Tune: Beecher

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: Isaiah 43:1-10

Lesson 2: Hebrews 12:1-13

L: Meditation

Motherhood is one of humanity's oldest, most respected and essential human institutions, as Moms infuse and shape their children's emotional, physical and spiritual well-being. Fortunately, there are numerous mothers in the Bible whose incredible reactions, decisions and overall life trajectories provide important and timeless lessons for humanity.

Jochebed: Sacrificing for Her Son

The Bible tells us that Jochebed, Moses' mother, went above and beyond to save her little boy's life. At the time of Moses' birth, the Egyptian pharaoh demanded that midwives kill every Hebrew boy born in Egypt — something done to control the Hebrew population.

The Hebrew midwives refused to participate in the infanticide and deceived Pharaoh so they could avoid killing the baby boys. This may be the first known incident of civil disobedience in history. Moses' mother Jochebed hid Moses in a basket of bulrushes and set him afloat on the Nile River to preserve his life.

Jochebed made the sacrifice not only to ignore the king's mandate and hide her son for three months, but to then selflessly release him so that he could survive and be cared for by the Pharaoh's daughter. In an amazing turn of events, Jochebed became Moses' nurse while Pharaoh's daughter raised him — an effort that kept her connected to her beloved son.

"Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.' So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's

daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, 'I drew him out of the water.'" Exodus 2:9-10

L: Mary: 'Blessed Among Women'

Mary is, without a doubt, the most well-known and revered woman in the Bible. The scriptures explain that God chose Mary to be Jesus' mother — granting her one of the most important and transformational roles in human history.

The gospel account in the Book of Luke is quite revealing. It shows the grace with which Mary took the shocking news from angel Gabriel that she would be Jesus' mother.

Mary questioned how pregnancy was possible and was initially troubled by the angel's appearance. But once she learned of the reason for Gabriel's visit, she responded to the life-changing news with a heart that was fully open to God's will.

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Luke 1:34-38

Mary's reaction is a lesson in our own lives when we find ourselves faced with a difficult or challenging call from God. In this instance, she chose to trust and obey — setting an example everyone can learn from.

L: Naomi: The Exemplar Mother-in-Law

Naomi is perhaps the Bible's most famous mother-in-law and her stunning qualities of kindness, care for others and sacrifice should not be lost.

Over the course of a decade, this Old Testament figure lost her husband and two sons. Then, when she heard that her homeland, Judah, once again had food and resources (she and her family had left to live in Moab during difficult times), she encouraged her widowed daughters-in-law to stay in their homeland of Moab rather than return to Judah with her. This was a blatantly selfless act, seeing as she was now alone without her sons and husbands.

But one of those daughters-in-law, Ruth, refused to leave Naomi's side, and the two fortified a relationship that took on the form of a mother-daughter dynamic. Over the course of time, Naomi was an excellent example of faithfulness and was a source of strength and advice for Ruth amid a new life in Bethlehem.

But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." Ruth 1:16-17

L: Eve: The First Woman and Mother Of The Bible

Eve — the first woman created by God, the wife of Adam and the world's first mother — also teaches us some important lessons about life and the importance of relying upon God and clinging to His will in our lives.

Most people know that Eve was deceived by the serpent in the Garden of Eden — an act that led to Adam's deception as well and Adam and Eve's expulsion from that paradise. God told Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and warned that they would "die" if they disobeyed. They didn't listen.

In the end, God expelled them from the garden and the rest is, well, history. Nevertheless, despite making an error in judgment and choice, Eve teaches humanity the importance of listening to God and abiding by His will in our lives. She is the first person to hold the role "mother" an important note both biblically and historically.

These 4 women have set stellar examples for our mothers to follow, not just in their motherhood, but also as they live their life as individuals. May we do our bit in aiding them to do so. Amen

Billy Hallowell

Hymn

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,
Fount of our childhood's trust and grace,
Oh, may thy consecration prove
Source of a finer, nobler race;
Faith of our mothers, loving 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.

Author: Arthur Patten, Tune: ST. CATHERINE (Hemy)

L: A Rose

A man stopped at a flower shop to order some flowers to be wired to his mother who lived two hundred miles away.
As he got out of his car he noticed a young girl sitting on the curb sobbing.
He asked her what was wrong and she replied, "I wanted to buy a red rose for my mother. But I only have seventy-five cents, and a rose costs two dollars."
The man smiled and said, "Come on in with me. I'll buy you a rose."
He bought the little girl her rose and ordered his own mother's flowers.
As they were leaving, he offered the girl a ride home.
She said, "Yes, please! You can take me to my mother."
She directed him to a cemetery, where she placed the rose on a freshly dug grave.
The man returned to the flower shop, canceled the wire order, picked up a bouquet and drove the two hundred miles to his mother's house.

Today, we remember all those whose mothers have been called back to their eternal homes, leaving behind grieving children and families. May their memories be remembered, honoured and cherished always.

We also remember mothers who have lost children in different ways. Loving Lord, comfort their hearts as they navigate through the confusing waters of grief. May they lean on God's unfailing presence to guide and guard them, through it all.

(Cong. to stand)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

P: God of all creation, in your goodness you have given us life. Like a mother who labours, you bear the pain of our sin to welcome your children into new life in your mercy. Bless mothers of all generations for their countless contributions and undying love. May they savour the fulfilment that comes from giving life and love to their children, and to all who seek their care, for it is a participation in your abundant love. In nurturing young life, help mothers to grow in wisdom.

C: Sustain them in compassion and entrust them with the power of your love that bears the fullness of life. We ask for strength and guidance for those times when being a mother is not easy. In trying times, let mothers always be mindful of you as the ultimate source of creative and unconditional love. Grant our mothers the grace and knowledge that they are called to go out of their way for others—for those they have chosen, and those chosen for them. May we always uphold the gifts we receive from our mothers and cherish the lasting impact they have on our lives, guiding and moulding us. Amen.

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

Psalm 139

*P: ¹ You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.*

*C: ³ You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.*

*P: ⁵ You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.*

*C: ⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.*

*P: ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"
even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.*

*C: ¹³ For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.*

*P: ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.*

*C: ¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!
Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand—
when I awake, I am still with you.*

Intercessory Prayers

L: *"Mother" is such a simple word,
But to me there's meaning seldom heard.
For everything I am today,
My mother's love showed me the way.
(Karl Fuchs)*

Heavenly Creator, we come to you today thanking you for mothers near and far, young and old. We look around and realise that everyone has pieces of their mothers woven into their being in some way or the other. Help us to keep these pieces in us alive by honouring our mothers' ideals, principles, and love. May we use our mothers as examples of light and hope and in turn, attempt to impact people we come across in ways similar to that of our mothers. Thank you for a world where we are blessed to have a Mother's care in our everyday lives. Thank you for family, friends, colleagues, and all the others that have acted as mothers for those around them when the need arose. May we never forget their contributions and influences in making us who we are today.

C: To be sung
Grace! 'tis a charming sound,
Harmonious to the ear;
Heaven with the echo shall resound,
And all the earth shall hear.

Saved by grace alone,
This is all my plea-
Jesus died for all mankind,
And Jesus died for me.

L: *I struggle so deeply
to understand
how someone can
pour their entire soul
blood and energy
into someone
without wanting
anything in
return
I will have to wait till I'm a mother.
(Rupi Kaur)*

We thank you Lord, for the never-ending love that gushes out from a mother's heart into our hands. Thank you that our first encounter with love is with that of our mothers, pure, unbounded, fulfilling, whole. We pray for mothers who are struggling today, in places of war and sickness. We pray for mothers who have to give birth and raise their children in high-risk atmospheres. We pray for mothers who are grieving the loss of their children and family. We pray for mothers who have been separated from their children due to conflict and circumstance. We pray for mothers who have survived rape and had motherhood thrust upon them. We pray for those who have decided that they do not wish

to be mothers. We pray for mothers who are waiting to be entrusted with the gift of motherhood. We pray for mothers who have decided to adopt and are waiting for good news. We pray for mothers dealing with disobedient and wayward children. We pray for mothers who work hard to raise their children by themselves. Heavenly Guide, touch the lives of all mothers, of different types and forms. May each one hold onto you for support and hope, now and forevermore.

C: To be sung

**'Twas grace that wrote my name
In life's eternal book;
'Twas grace that gave me to the Lamb,
Who all my sorrows took.**

***Saved by grace alone,
This is all my plea-
Jesus died for all mankind,
And Jesus died for me.***

L: *God took the fragrance of a flower...
The majesty of a tree...
The gentleness of morning dew...
The calm of a quiet sea...
The beauty of the twilight hour...
The soul of a starry night...
The laughter of a rippling brook...
The grace of a bird in flight...
Then God fashioned from these things
A creation like no other,
And when his masterpiece was through,
He simply called it - Mother
(Herbert Farnham)*

All knowing Lord, we submit into your care the situation of our country. Thank you for the state elections that were carried out this past week. Help our government to be formed and executed in your likeness and may their executions and actions be with kindness and diligence. We pray for the situation in Manipur where many of your children are being subject to violence and inhumane conditions. Be with mothers who are dealing with loss, injury and brutality.

We pray that the same grace that flowed from Father to Son to us in salvation will flow from mothers to their children, all over the world. We pray and thank you for the many Mothers and Sisters who have given up their life to take care of people, through serving you.

We thank you for giving our mothers countless gifts from the calm of a quiet sea to the grace of a bird in flight. We pray that each mother rejects perfectionism and instead embraces the goodness of the gospel. We pray the rhythm of repentance and forgiveness shape every home.

Lord, give each mother a worshipful reverence of you, the Creator and Sustainer of life. Help each mother to rest in the knowledge that they are but stewards of your children and that only your Spirit can produce change in the hearts of each offspring. May each mother find rest in you!

C: To be sung

**Grace taught my wandering feet
To tread the heavenly road;
And new supplies each hour I meet
While pressing on to God.**

***Saved by grace alone,
This is all my plea-
Jesus died for all mankind,
And Jesus died for me.***

Lyrics: Philip Doddridge, Music: Ira David Sankey

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 Apostle Luke

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.

Luke 24:36-49

(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

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

C: 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.

Birthday, Wedding Anniversary and Thanksgiving

She only touched the hem of His garment
As to His side she stole,
Amid the crowd that gathered around Him,
And straightway she was whole.

*Oh, touch the hem of His garment!
And thou, too, shalt be free!
His saving power this very hour
Shall give new life to thee!*

She came in fear and trembling before Him,
She knew her Lord had come;
She felt that from Him virtue had healed her,
The mighty deed was done.

He turned with "Daughter, be of good comfort,
Thy faith hath made thee whole!"
And peace that passeth all understanding
With gladness filled her soul.
Lyrics & Music - George Frederick Root

Announcements

Offertory

Like a river, glorious
Is God's perfect peace,
Over all victorious
In its bright increase;
Perfect, yet it floweth
Fuller every day,
Perfect, yet it groweth
Deeper all the way.

*Stayed upon Christ Jesus,
Hearts are fully blest;
Finding, as He promised,
Perfect peace and rest.*

Hidden in the hollow
Of His blessed hand,
Never foe can follow,
Never traitor stand;
Not a surge of worry,
Not a shade of care,
Not a blast of hurry
Touch the spirit there.

Every joy or trial
Falleth from above,
Traced upon our dial
By the Sun of Love.
We may trust Him fully
All for us to do;
They who trust Him wholly,
Find Him wholly true.
Lyrics: Francis Havergal, Music: James Mountain

Message

(Cong. to stand)

Closing Prayer

P: Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over your Church. Even He that died for us upon the cross, in the last hour, in the unutterable agony of death, was mindful of His mother, as if to teach us that this holy love should be our last worldly thought – the last point of earth from which the soul should take its flight for heaven.

C: Our mothers tenderly, patiently cared for us and taught us to walk and talk. They read to us and made us laugh. No one delighted in our successes more; no one could comfort us better in our failures. We are ever grateful for how they loved us and mentored us, and even disciplined us.

