



The Chapel of  
The Transfiguration

# Sung Eucharist

## Mothering Sunday

(Fourth Sunday of Lent)

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026

7.30 am



Historically, Mothering Sunday is the day when Christians visited the church where they were born into the family of faith through baptism. Quite rightly, it has become a day for honouring the mothers who gave us birth into the human family, and others who have showed us a mother's love – with an especial focus on Mary, the mother whose compassionate solidarity for all other mothers is heartfelt. It is a day to celebrate beginnings, to recall joy and laughter, to acknowledge painful journeys and to remember those who are no longer with us. Nowadays, we hear the language of motherhood applied also to the Earth, to Mother Nature. Perhaps her children take her for granted: she seems bountiful and vigorous, but now we also begin to see that she is not indestructible or inexhaustible.

### Music before the Service

O Gott, du frommer Gott, Op. 122 no. 7

*(O God thou faithful God)*

*Johannes Brahms (1833–97)*



## Order of Service

*The congregation is asked to join in all text printed in **bold**.*

*If you are unable to stand at any point during the service, please feel free to remain seated.*

*The Celebrant this morning is*

*Rev'd. Sunil de Silva, Former Chaplain (1982–84)*

*S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia.*

*The service is sung by the Chapel Choir*

*We welcome members of the Class of '56 who are joining us for service this morning.*

# The Gathering

*Please remain seated as the Choir enters and takes their place.*

*Please stand as the Servers and Clergy enter.*

## Processional Hymn

*during which the Altar is censed*



*Please remain standing. The Assistant Chaplain continues*

## The Greeting

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

**Amen.**

“As one whom his mother comforted, so will I comfort you;  
and you shall be comforted.”

Isaiah 66.13

Praise God who loves us.

**Praise God who cares.**

*All kneel*

## Prayer of Preparation

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.**

## Prayers of Penitence

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 is kept*

**Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not  
loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.**

*The Choir sings*

Holy God,  
Holy and Strong,  
Holy and Immortal,  
Have mercy on us.

*The Celebrant pronounces the Absolution*

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 Assistant Chaplain continues*

## The Collect for the Day

The Lord be with you

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray

*Silence is kept*

O God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ,  
the child of Mary, didst share the life of a home in Nazareth,  
and upon the Cross didst draw the whole human family  
unto himself: Strengthen us in our daily living; that in joy  
and in sorrow we may know the power of thy presence  
to bind together and to heal;  
through the same Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,  
who liveth and reigneth with thee,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, world without end.

**Amen.**

*All sit*

## The Liturgy of the Word

### The Old Testament Reading

A reading from the Book of Exodus chapter 2

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it.

When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?'

Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

Exodus 2. 1-10

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

*Remain seated*

## Psalm 127

Unless the Lord builds the house, •  
those who build it labour in vain.

**Unless the Lord keeps the city, •  
the guard keeps watch in vain.**

It is in vain that you hasten to rise up early  
and go so late to rest, eating the bread of toil, •  
for he gives his beloved sleep.

**Children are a heritage from the Lord •  
and the fruit of the womb is his gift.**

**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.**

*Remain seated*

## The New Testament Reading

A reading from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians Chapter 1

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

2 Corinthians 1. 3-7

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

*All stand to sing*

## Gradual Hymn



**Lord of the home, your only Son  
received a mother's tender love,  
and from an earthly father won,  
his vision of your home above.**

**Help us, O Lord, our homes to make  
your Holy Spirit's dwelling-place;  
our hands' and hearts' devotion take  
to be the servants of your grace.**

**Teach us to keep our homes so fair  
that, were our Lord a child once more,  
he might be glad our hearth to share  
and find a welcome at our door.**

**Lord, may your Spirit sanctify  
each household duty we fulfil.  
May we our Master glorify  
in glad obedience to your will.**

Words: Albert Bayly (1901–84)

Tune: Wareham  
William Knapp (1698–1768)

*Remain standing and face the Gospel*

## The Gospel Reading

*Choir:* Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

*All repeat:*



*Choir:* This child is the light to enlighten  
the nations and the glory  
of your people Israel.

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

The Lord be with you  
**And with thy spirit**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
St. Luke, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter, beginning at the 33<sup>rd</sup> verse

**Glory be to thee, O Lord**

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will

pierce your own soul too.’

St. Luke 2. 33–35

*At the end,*

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

**Praise be to thee, O Christ**

*Remain standing until invited to be seated*

Sermon

*given by*

Dr. Radeeka Mendis

*Sub Warden*

*The Assistant Chaplain invites all to stand and say*

## 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.**

*All kneel or sit*

## Prayers of Intercession

*during which the following response is used*

God of Love

**Hear our prayer.**

*Remain kneeling or seated. The Assistant Chaplain continues*

## Prayer for Mothers

For the care of mothers:

**Thanks be to God.**

For their patience when tested:

**Thanks be to God.**

For their love when tired:

**Thanks be to God.**

For their hope when despairing:

**Thanks be to God.**

For their service without limit:

**Thanks be to God.**

**Thank you God for the love of our mothers;  
thank you God for their care and concern;  
thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;  
thank you God for the pains they have borne for us;  
thank you God for all that they give us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*All sit and the children are invited to come forward to receive a token to be given to their mothers.*

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

*All stand*

### Greeting of Peace

Jesus said, "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord."

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### Preparation of the Table Offertory Hymn

*during which the bread and wine are placed on the altar,  
and a collection is taken for the work of the chapel*



**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 trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,  
Let us all thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Never more thy 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.**

**Finish, then thy new creation,  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation,  
Perfectly restored in thee,  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–88)

Tune: Blaenwern

William Penfro Rowlands (1860–1937)

Descant: John Scott (1952–2015)

*Remain standing. The Celebrant says the Offertory Prayers*

Blessed are you, Lord God of the universe, you are the giver of this bread, fruit of the earth and of human labour, let it become the bread of life.

**Blessed be God forever!**

Blessed are you, Lord God of the universe, you are the giver of this wine, fruit of the vine and of human work, let it become the cup of the eternal kingdom.

**Blessed be God forever!**

Blessed are you, Lord God of the universe, through your goodness we have our lives to offer, fruit of the womb and work of human love, let us become your instruments in the world.

**Blessed be God for ever!**

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in this bread and wine, so Lord, may your church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

**Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!**

*Remain standing. The Celebrant continues*

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

**And with thy spirit**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them up unto the Lord**

Let us give thanks unto 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.

And now we give thee thanks because  
in his earthly childhood thou entrusted him  
to the care of a human mother.

In Mary thou gave us an example of love and devotion to him,  
and also a pattern of family life.

Therefore with Angels, and Archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven, we  
laud and magnify thy glorious Name,  
evermore praising thee, and saying:

*All sing*

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee,  
O Lord most high.**

*All kneel or sit*

Holy indeed are you Almighty Father eternal Sovereign, who in  
all your gifts and works manifests your holiness to all humanity.  
Holy is your Only Begotten Son Jesus Christ, through whom you  
did order the universe. And Holy is your ever blessed Spirit who  
reveals all things, even the deep things of you O God. Just as you  
yourself are holy, so also you created us in your own image that  
we might live in holy fellowship.

And when we disobeyed your commandments, you did not  
abandon us but you guided us as a merciful Father; you revealed  
yourself to us through the Sages, the Law and the Prophets, and  
through your redeeming acts in history, and when the time was  
ripe, you came among us through your Son Jesus, whom you sent  
into the world to share our human nature in order that the Lord  
Jesus might revive your own image in us.

**Generous God, Jesus loves us  
and sacrificed himself for us  
and heralded the new life  
in breaking bread with companions.**

On the very night that he was betrayed to suffer death upon the  
cross for us, the Lord Jesus took bread and when he had given  
thanks to you Almighty Father, 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.

In the same manner after supper, he took the cup also, and after  
giving thanks, he gave it to them saying:

Drink, all of you from this,  
for this is my blood of the new covenant  
which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Christ is the Bread of Life

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory**

And so Father, we present this bread and cup in communion with your whole church, in fellowship with Blessed Mary, St. Thomas and all the saints, and in union with all creation we celebrate your Son's death and victory; giving thanks for all that Christ has done for us; for preparing us for all that lies ahead, we receive the benefits of Christ's life, death, resurrection and session in glory, and we eagerly await the heavenly banquet after Christ's coming again.

And we entreat you most merciful God to hear us and send your All Holy Spirit on us and on these your gifts, that they being blessed and hallowed by that life giving power, may be for us the Body and Blood of your most dearly loved Son, to the end that we receiving the same may be sanctified and filled with your grace and heavenly blessing.

**Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving;  
make us one body in Jesus Christ our Lord,  
by whom and with whom and in whom in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit all honour and glory be to you  
Almighty Father, world without end.**

*All sing:* Amen.

## Breaking of the Bread

The bread which we break  
is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

**We being many are one bread,  
one body for we all partake of the one bread.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we now pray

*All sing*

**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.**

*The Celebrant continues*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**And also with you.**

The gifts of God for the people of God

*All sing*

Benedictus

**Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Deep Silence

*The Choir sings*

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.

Giving of Communion

*The Celebrant invites the people to receive the Holy Communion, saying*

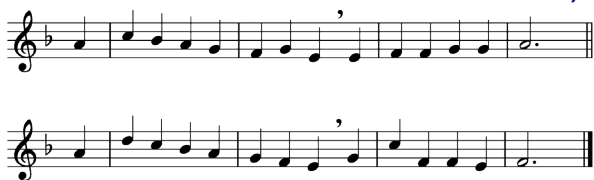
Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lord.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*Please sit. If you receive communion in your own church,  
you are welcome to do so here.*

*Remain kneeling or seated to sing*

Communion Hymn



**Once, only once, and once for all,  
His precious life he gave;  
Before the Cross in faith we fall,  
And own it strong to save.**

**‘One offering, single and complete,’  
With lips and hearts we say;  
But what he never can repeat  
He shows forth day by day.**

**For as the priest of Aaron’s line  
Within the holiest stood,  
And sprinkled all the mercy-shrine  
With sacrificial blood;**

**So he, who once atonement wrought,  
Our Priest of endless power,  
Presents himself for those he bought  
In that dark noontide hour.**

**His Manhood pleads where now it lives  
On heaven's eternal throne,  
And where in mystic rite he gives  
Its presence to his own.**

**And so we show thy death, O Lord,  
Till thou again appear,  
And feel, when we approach thy board,  
We have an altar here.**

Words: William Bright (1824–1901)

Tune: Albano  
Vincent Novello (1781–1861)

*All kneel or remain seated*

## Prayers after Communion

*The Assistant Chaplain says,*

Give thanks to the Lord for God is gracious.  
**God's mercy endures forever.**

“Honour your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, so that your days may be long and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.”

Deuteronomy 5:16

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the Body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through Christ we offer you ourselves  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live  
and work to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

*The Choir sings*

## Anthem

The Lord bless you and keep you  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious unto you  
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you  
and give you peace  
Amen.

Words: Numbers 6. 24–26

Music: Sir John Rutter (b.1945)

*Remain kneeling or seated. The Celebrant gives*

## The Dismissal

## The Blessing

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us:  
may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us:  
may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us;  
and may the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*All stand*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

## Recessional Hymn

*during which the servers and clergy depart*



**Ye holy angels bright,  
Who wait at God's right hand,  
Or through the realms of light  
Fly at your Lord's command,  
Assist our song,  
For else the theme  
Too high doth seem  
For mortal tongue.**

**Ye blessèd souls at rest,  
Who ran this earthly race,  
And now, from sin released,  
Behold the Saviour's face,  
God's praises sound,  
As in his sight  
With sweet delight  
Ye do abound.**

**Ye saints, who toil below,  
Adore your heavenly King,  
And onward as ye go  
Some joyful anthem sing;  
Take what he gives  
And praise him still,  
Through good or ill,  
Who ever lives!**

**My soul, bear thou thy part,  
Triumph in God above:  
And with a well-tuned heart  
Sing thou the songs of love!  
Let all thy days  
Till life shall end,  
Whate'er he send,  
Be filled with praise.**

Words: Richard Baxter (1615–91)

Tune: Darwall's 148<sup>th</sup>  
John Darwall (1731–89)

*Remain standing as the Choir moves out, then sit.*

*You are invited to be seated for the playing of the organ voluntary or you may leave quietly at this point.*

## Music after the Service

Prelude and Fugue in e BWV 555

*J. S. Bach (1685–1750)*

## Notices

### **Sunday Fellowship**

You are all invited to a time of fellowship on the chapel steps.

**22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 | 6.00 pm**

### **Choral Evensong**

Fifth Sunday of Lent

*(Passiontide begins)*

The Chapel Choir will sing Evensong at the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour, Colombo 7.

All are welcome to attend.

### **Holy Week and Easter**

All our Services during Holy Week and Easter are posted on the Notice board. Should you wish to receive this in a digital format please speak to the Chaplain after this Service.



Material from Common Worship is included in this service and is copyright © The Archbishops' Council. The text for the day is written by Dr. Michael O'Connor, Associate Professor, Teaching Stream at St Michael's College, University of Toronto. The Mass Setting is by John Merbecke (1510–85). Hymns are taken from the College Hymnal. The Bible passages are read from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (Anglicised edition).