

Sunday Worship for 14 March 2021

The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)

The president says

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

All **and also with you.**

The president briefly introduces the service.

The president says

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.

Silence is kept.

All God of mercy,
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us for all that is past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord.
Amen.

May almighty God have mercy on *us*,
forgive *us our sins*,
and bring *us* to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

A reader says

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians (1.3-7).

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 34.11-20 may be said or sung.

The gospeller says

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke. (2.33-35)

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.'

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Let us declare our faith in God.

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

PRAYERS

which may end with

Merciful Father,

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

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 for ever.

All **Amen.**

Our Father(, who art) in heaven...

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
and the blessing of God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with us now and for ever.

All **Amen.**