

Community Communion for Mothering Sunday 2026: GOD OUR MOTHER

Welcome and Introduction: Is God like a mother?

Song:

**Mothering God, you gave me birth
in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of every breath,
you are my rain, my wind, my sun.**

**Mothering Christ, you took my form,
offering me your food of light,
the grain of life, and grape of love,
your very Body for my peace.**

**Mothering Spirit, nurt'ring one,
in arms of patience hold me close,
so that in faith I root and grow
until I flower, until I know.**



Confession

For the times we forget that you love us like a mother: **We are sorry.**

For the times we have rejected your love

out of anger, pride, or foolishness: **We are sorry.**

For the times we have not loved others as you have loved us: **We are sorry.**

Absolution is given.

Collect: God our Mother, you hold our life within you; nourish us at your breast, and show us the way to walk. May we so receive your tenderness, and respond to your challenge, that others may draw life from us, in your name. **Amen.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 23.37.

Hear the gospel of Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O God.

Jesus said: 'Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!' This is the gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Response: *Choose between...*

- Reflection with sharing: in what ways is our God like a mother?
- Silent reflection in the space behind the altar;
- Drawing or modelling at the back, on the theme of God as Mother.

Return to seats when music is played.

Prayer

We thank you, God, for being our Mother; for bringing us to birth; for feeding us and looking after us. Help us always to live as your children. In your mercy **Hear our prayer!**

We pray for all mothers; for those whose children are suffering; for those whose children have died; for those who cannot find their children. In your mercy **Hear our prayer!**

We pray for those who long to be mothers but cannot
In your mercy **Hear our prayer!**

We pray for our own mothers living or departed:
In your mercy **Hear our prayer!**

The **Peace** is shared.

The peace of God be always with you. **And also with you.**

All share a sign of God's peace.

Bread and wine are brought to the altar.

Eucharistic Prayer *with the response:*

Your loving-kindnesses, O my God, I will sing eternally.

The Eternal One be with you! **And with your spirit!**
Lift up your hearts **We lift them to the Eternal One.**
Let us give thanks to the Giver of Bread.
It is good to give thanks and praise.

God, we thank you that like a mother you gather your people to you, as a hen gathers her brood to protect them.
In our sorrow you comfort us and bind up our wounds; in our sickness you nurse us, and with pure milk you feed us.
You weep over our sins and our pride; tenderly drawing us from hatred and judgement into forgiveness and love
In the dying of Jesus we are born to new life; from the anguish and labour of Jesus we come forth in joy, singing with all the company of heaven:
Your loving-kindnesses ...

In your sweet goodness you pour out your Holy Spirit, whom we now ask to overshadow these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Christ.

As death was approaching, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. .
After supper Jesus took a cup of wine, blessed it, and gave it to the disciples, saying Drink this, everyone: this is my Blood, poured out for you.
Your loving-kindnesses...

So as we recall the self-giving of Jesus through incarnation, service, suffering, death, and victory over death, we pray that in us and through us despair may be turned to hope, fear be overcome by comfort, and death be warmed into new life. May the mercy of Jesus heal us, the tenderness of Jesus remake us, the compassion of Jesus bring grace and forgiveness, and the love of Jesus prepare us for the beauty of heaven, where we shall

sing eternally with angels and archangels, with Mary and Anne and all the saints, and with all our sisters and brothers on earth and beyond the earth...
Your loving-kindnesses....:

Let us pray to God as Jesus has taught us.

**Eternal Mother, beyond all worlds,
may your love be celebrated,
your joy unbounded,
your longing fulfilled,
In our world as in yours.
Nourish us with food for our souls,
uncover your likeness within us,
as we discover your image in others.
Keep us on the path of your delight,
and save us from inhumanity.
For you are the giver of love, joy, and peace.
now and through all eternity. Amen.**

*The Bread is broken, and all are invited to Holy Communion.
During Communion all may sing;*

O Jesus, giver of bread; O Jesus, giver of life!

After Communion silence is kept.

The Blessing 'is given:

May holy Wisdom, kind to humanity, steadfast, sure and free,
the breath of the power of God,
may she who makes all things new, in every age, enter our souls,
and make us friends of God, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Hymn 184 For the beauty of the earth (2nd tune)

Notices are given.

Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**