

St Luke the Evangelist - Glenrothes

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Welcome to our distance prayers in the lack of public worship. Today is the 4th Sunday in Lent, it is also Mothering Sunday. Our worship will take Mothering Sunday as our theme. The Gospel reading tells of Simeon warning the Virgin Mary that a sword will pierce her own heart.

Our worship will focus on Mothering Sunday, and we start by invoking God, as one God in here persons, so we start by declaring our worship in this one God, saying;

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

So we focus our thoughts saying the collect for purity;

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

Confession and absolution

I confess to you my selfishness and lack and lack of love; fill me with your Spirit.
Lord have mercy
I confess to you my fear and failure in sharing our faith; fill me with your Spirit.
Christ have mercy
I confess to you my stubbornness and lack of trust; fill me with your Spirit.
Lord have mercy.

God, who is both power and love, forgive us and free us from my sin,
Heal and strengthen us by you Spirit, and lead us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God,
Whose most dear Son went not up to joy,
 But first suffered pain,
And entered not into glory before he was crucified:
Mercifully grant that we walking in way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and ;peace
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who live with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings – you will find the readings in a separate file. All three of the lessons and the psalm appointed are in this file. If this proves to be too much for you please limit yourself to reading the Gospel lesson.

A period reflecting on the Gospel follows;

The story of Jesus, being taken to the temple in Jerusalem to be admitted into the Jewish faith is littered with many points to ponder and one of them is the utterance of the priest, Simeon who spoke to Mary, declaring that she would experience great sadness. (Simeon might have had some vision of the type of death Jesus was to experience)

Giving birth to a new life is a period of great joy, but even now modern mothers have to bear traumatic experiences. It seems that in our modern world many mothers soon after delivering a child (baby) suffer with an illness known as Post Natal Depression which often requires medical intervention. The occurrence of PND is sadly a way the human female has of dealing with an abundance of hormonal changes that have occurred during pregnancy. Sadly this can lead to PND.

Just reflect on the fact that some suffer with this condition and with modern treatment can make a complete recovery and again enjoy being a new Mum.

So give thanks to Mum's everywhere, and particularly to Mary the mother of Jesus who had to bear pain so great, that Simeon likened it to a sword piercing her own heart

So we come to a moment, when we pray for others, it might be useful to structure your prayers under the following headings

Pray for the nations of the world that they may deal with coronavirus in a manner that prevents loss of life and limits suffering. Lord have mercy Hear my prayer

Pray for those who lead the nations and within our own country for those who represent to government in Parliaments in Holy Rood and Westminster

 Lord have mercy Hear my prayer

Pray for the congregation of St Luke's, recalling those you know well, particularly during this period of challenge, that we may all come through this safely. Recall those who are sick or distressed at this time.

 Lord have mercy Hear my Prayer

Give thanks all who have encouraged you in your with journey, giving thanks to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all mothers, St Luke and all those you may have loved but lost.

 Lord in your mercy Hear my prayer

Accept these prayers and all our petitions. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

The remainder of this worship asks you to contemplate the Eucharist, where we come together to share the bread and wine of the Eucharist

I ask you to still your body and just think about the bread which is placed in your hand with the words "the bread of life given for you", and under normal circumstances the wine is offered with the words "the blood of Christ shed for you".

Now recite the Lord's prayer slowly thinking how the act of communion unites us with each other.

We conclude this act of worship saying the grace

Grace and peace be with us in the name of the Lord.