



**COLLECT, READINGS AND REFLECTION**  
**SUNDAY 15 MARCH 2026 – Mothering Sunday**

**COLLECT**

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.

**Psalm 127, 1-4.**

- 1 Unless the Lord builds the house, ♦  
those who build it labour in vain.
- 2 Unless the Lord keeps the city, ♦  
the guard keeps watch in vain.
- 3 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.
- 4 Children are a heritage from the Lord ♦  
and the fruit of the womb is his gift.

**A reading from the letter to the Colossians, chapter 3, verses 12-17.**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***At Morning Prayer, the Gospel is simply the second reading, people sit to hear it and is introduced in the same way as the first:***

The second reading is John, chapter 19, verses 25-27.

***and then at the end:***

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

***For Eucharists/ Communion people stand to hear the Gospel.***

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

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

I am the light of the world, says the Lord,  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, chapter 19, verses 25-27.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

***Then at the end:***

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

## **A Reflection from Dave**

In celebrating Mothering Sunday, we break from the seriousness of Lent to celebrate mothering in all its forms. That might include flowers, cake, and even the odd breakfast in bed! But it also involves focusing on what brings us together as a family.

I wonder if you have ever traced your family tree? We will likely have a rough idea of it for our close family, but many search further, to distant relatives and generations. Within those trees can be interesting events, forgotten memories, many many mothers, and surprising connections. But families are also complicated, and no family tree is perfect. Alongside joys can be pain and loss, even on Mothering Sunday. Perhaps especially on Mothering Sunday.

I recently heard a story about a girl who felt this when asked to draw her family tree at school. She lived alone with her mum without any other family she knew of. She didn't ask her mum for help - maybe it wasn't the right time, maybe she knew it was too painful a question. So instead she made a family tree of those who cared for her, just like her mum. She added her dog, her neighbour, her babysitter, and her best friend. Out of a difficult situation, she formed her special family tree.

In our gospel reading we also have a difficult situation. It's a family gathering that no mother wants to attend, as Mary stood near Jesus as he died on the cross, alongside a few other women and Jesus' disciple. Yet out of this tragic scene, Jesus formed his special family. Mary was both his mother and part of a family of believers. That is why he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to his disciple, "here is your mother." As Jesus looked at them from the cross, he cared for them, and made them all his family.

As we gather around Jesus on Mothering Sunday, he looks at us and does the same. We are his special family, he cares for us, and calls us to do the same for each other. As our New Testament reading says, we are to bear with each other, forgive each other, be loving and thankful - all within the love Jesus showed on the cross. We don't always get it right, it gets complicated, but as church together we are being formed into that special family of God.

So, on Mothering Sunday we remember that we are family together, thankful for all those who mother us, and providing mothering care for others, even when it is hard and difficult. That is what we see in Jesus, and what we seek for one another.