

Welcome

Confession: Jesus says: I have longed to gather you together
as a hen gathers her children under her wings, and you were
not willing (*Luke 13.34*) Let us call to mind our rejection of our
God's love. (*silence*)

We have turned from the love of our Mother God.

Giver of bread, have mercy...

We have turned from the love of our mother Church.

Giver of bread, have mercy...

We have turned from the love of our own mothers.

Giver of bread, have mercy...

God, who longs for us to return, have mercy on us
and bring us back into the shelter of her outstretched wings,
in the name of Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

Opening Prayer:

God our Mother, you hold our life within you;
nourish us at your breast, and teach us to walk upright.
Help us so to receive your tenderness
and respond to your challenge
that others may draw life from us, in your name. **Amen.**

Song (music on separate sheets):

**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.**

A reading from St Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury 1093-1109::

Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you;*
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.

Often you weep over our sins and our pride,*
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds,*
in sickness you nurse us, and with pure milk you feed us.

Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life;*
by your anguish and labour we come forth in joy.

Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;*
through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead,*
your touch makes sinners righteous.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us;*
in your love and tenderness, remake us.
In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness,*
for the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us.

A sharing of prayers, thoughts and reflections.

*All sing: 575 Put peace into each other's hands
as we give each other a sign of peace*

Eucharistic Response:

Amen siakudumisa... Masithi! (*music on separate sheets*)

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.

We thank you for giving birth, at the dawn of time, to a creation
whose generosity and splendour are beyond our comprehension.
Amen siakudumisa...

We thank you for giving birth to the Word, made flesh in Jesus Christ, who displayed your boundless love in his life and in his death, and was reborn to new life on the third day.

Amen siakudumisa...

We thank you for giving birth to the Holy Spirit, whom we now pray to transfigure these gifts of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. **Amen siakudumisa...**

We thank you that, on the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, blessed it and broke it, saying Take, eat, this is my Body. **Amen siakudumisa...**

We thank you that after supper he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, blessed it and shared it, saying Drink this, all of you: this is my Blood. **Amen siakudumisa...**

We thank you that you give us new birth as his body on earth, making us one with his mother Mary, with St Anne, St Mark, St Thomas, and all your saints and angels, in their eternal song of praise. **Amen siakudumisa... (twice)**

All pray the prayer of Christ, in the version from Open Table:

**Holy God, Mother, Father,
to be in you is to be in heaven.
May we hear the wonder that echoes in your name.
May we accept no rule but the rule of love.
May we never tolerate the evil of hunger.
May the hurts we cause be forgiven
and the hurts we receive be healed.
May we remember that we are fragile
and cherish the life we share with all.
For all love, and life, and power
is the gift of the Spirit. Amen.**

Communion song: **O Jesus, giver of bread:
O Jesus, giver of life!** *(music on sheets)*

Blessing: Hymn 766 You shall go out with joy

St Anne's, Eastville



*Community Communion
for
MOTHERING SUNDAY 2025*