

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MILDRED
TENTERDEN**

**A CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST
ON MOTHERING SUNDAY
SUNDAY 22ND MARCH 2020**

¶ THE GATHERING

GREETING

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

*** Amen.**

Praise God who loves us.

*** Praise God who cares.**

Today is Mothering Sunday. We come here to thank God for our mothers and for all who love and care for us, for the love that Mary gave to Jesus, for mother Church, and for the good news of God's love for us.

OPENING PRAYER

*** God of our days and years, we set this time apart for you. Form us in the likeness of Christ so that our lives may glorify you. Amen.**

Please sit or kneel.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

On Ash Wednesday, a cross fashioned from our Christmas tree was placed in the church. The Christmas tree cross reminds us that Christmas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter are truly inseparable.

The love we see most clearly on the cross is incarnate at Christmas. Bethlehem and Calvary are connected and reveal the God who will go to any lengths for those he loves.

On each of the Sundays in Lent we lay at the foot of the cross objects associated with the suffering of Christ and symbols of our penitence: today a purple robe.

A purple robe is placed at the foot of the cross, alongside the bowl and towel, the bag of money, and the whip.

Jesus, the soldiers led you into the courtyard of the palace. They clothed you in a purple robe and mocked you.

*** Jesus, save us from insincere worship.**

Lord, have mercy.

*** Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

*** Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

*** Lord, have mercy.**

May God our Father forgive you your sins and bring you to the eternal joy of his kingdom where dust and ashes have no dominion.

*** Amen.**

THE COLLECT

*** God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

¶ THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

READING

Colossians 3.12-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

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.**

GOSPEL READING

John 19.25b-27

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*** Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*** Praise to you, O Christ.**

After the minister says the prayer, please sit.

REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

¶ THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Let us declare our faith in God.

THE PEACE

*** We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray to God, who nurtures and cares for us.

Loving God:

*** hear our prayer.**

We thank you, loving God, for the all the members of our churches, and for giving us one another to enjoy, to laugh and cry with, to learn to live with. Help us, in our physical separation to retain a sense of our togetherness as the Body of Christ.

Loving God:

*** hear our prayer.**

Thank you, loving God, for those who are guiding the nations of the world and shaping policies. Provide them with the wisdom to make sound decisions. Uphold doctors, nurses and medical researchers, that through their skill and insights many will be restored to health.

Loving God:

*** hear our prayer.**

Show us the way to love and provide opportunities to give, to take second place, to accept people as they are, to forgive them when they annoy us, and look for their needs before our own.

Loving God:

*** hear our prayer.**

Thank you, loving God, for comfort and sympathy, reassurance and practical caring when we are ill or sad. Make us more aware of the needs of those around us and let our loving show in action. Bring relief and recovery to all who are affected by coronavirus, through illness or isolation or anxiety.

Loving God:

*** hear our prayer.**

Thank you, loving God, for your promise to be with us always, and not just until we die. We remember with affection all those who loved us into existence and now live in eternity. Comfort all whose memories make them aware of loss today.

Loving God:

*** hear our prayer.**

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says, 'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.' The peace of the Lord be always with you

*** and also with you.**

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

*** Generous God, creator, redeemer, sustainer, at your table we present this money, symbol of the work you have given us to do; use it, use us, in the service of your world to the glory of your name. Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here.

*** His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

*** We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*** It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.

*** You embraced us as your children, and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life, that we might live in him and he in us.

*** He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends, he took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them saying: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

*** Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

*** Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit, that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

*** As we eat and drink these holy gifts, make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world, we offer you this sacrifice of praise, and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

*** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

We keep silence for reflection.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Trusting in the compassion of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

*** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

*** Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

*** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,

*** we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

¶ THE DISMISSAL

CLOSING PRAYER

*** Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless you: may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless you: may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless you. May almighty God bless you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

*** Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Our worship in church has ended and our service in the world now begins. Go in the light and peace of Christ.

*** Thanks be to God.**