

# Fourth Sunday in Lent *(Mothering Sunday)*

## INTRODUCTION

INTROIT HYMN— **313**

*Hymns Old & New*

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

*All respond: Amen.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*The PRAYERS OF PENITENCE are introduced.*

**Lord God, we have sinned against you;  
we have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your love.  
Wash away our wrongdoing  
and cleanse us from our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us  
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the God of love and power  
forgive ✠ you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

KYRIE ELEÏSON *is sung.*

**Kyrie, eleïson.** (× 3) *(Lord, have mercy.)*

**Christe, eleïson.** (× 3) *(Christ, have mercy.)*

**Kyrie, eleïson.** (× 3) *(Lord, have mercy.)*

*All remain standing for the 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 lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING

*Joshua 5.9–12*

A reading from the book of Joshua.

The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” And so the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*from Ps 32*

℟. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

*(All repeat)*

Happy is the man whose sin is forgiven,  
and whose transgressions are put away.

Happy is the man to whom the Lord imputes  
no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile. ℟.

I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, ‘I will confess my offence to the Lord’;  
then you forgave me the guilt of my sin. ℟.

You are my hiding-place, you preserve me  
from trouble;

you surround me with shouts of deliverance.  
Be glad you righteous and rejoice in the Lord;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart. ℟.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

From now on, we regard no-one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN—**491**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 15,18

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

I will arise and go to my father and say:  
‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and  
before you.’

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

GOSPEL READING

Lk 15,1–3,11b–32

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable:

“There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming

to me.’ And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no-one gave him anything.

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has

devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

A SERMON *may follow.*

All *stand* to recite the NICENE CREED.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,**

*(all bow)* **was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

*(all rise)* **For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

*The INTERCESSIONS are introduced, and all kneel. One of these responses may be used:*

∇. Lord, hear us. ℞. **Lord, graciously hear us.**  
or ∇. Lord, in your mercy, ℞. **Hear our prayer.**

*At the Commemoration of the Departed:*

∇. Rest eternal ✠ grant unto them, O Lord;

℞. **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*The Intercessions may end:*

Merciful Father,

**Accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

All *stand* as the priest introduces the PEACE.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

OFFERTORY HYMN— **212**

*The people unite their prayers with the priest, who says the PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS.*

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Accept, Lord, the sacrifice we offer you, and grant that our families may be secure in your grace and your peace; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*The PREFACE follows.*

All *respond* with the SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS.

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

**Blessed is he ✠ who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

All *kneel*. After the Consecration, all acclaim:

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.**

**You are \* the Saviour of the world. (\* repeat)**

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues, and ends:*

... for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## RITE OF COMMUNION

*The priest introduces the LORD'S PRAYER.*

**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 priest breaks the Host; AGNUS DEI is sung.*

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

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

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the  
world: grant us peace.**

*The priest gives the COMMUNION INVITATION.*

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our  
Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and  
his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for  
you, and feed on him in your hearts by  
faith with thanksgiving.

*Holy Communion is distributed.*

## COMMUNION HYMN— 555

*The priest says the POST-COMMUNION 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.**

## CONCLUSION

### BLESSING & GIVING OF FLOWERS

Lord God, whose Son shared with us the joy  
and privilege of having a mother to love and  
be loved by, ble~~ss~~ss, we pray, these flowers  
dedicated to the honour of our heavenly  
mother, and to the joy of our earthly mothers.  
May they be a sign of our love, gratitude and  
appreciation of all that we have received from  
them; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The priest gives the BLESSING and DISMISSAL.*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

... The blessing of God almighty, the Father,  
the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, be among  
you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

## RECESSIONAL HYMN— 345

*The service may be followed by the ANGELUS.*

∇. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary:

℟. **And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners, now,  
and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

∇. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

℟. **Be it unto me according to thy word.**

Hail Mary ...

∇. And the Word was made flesh:

℟. **And dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary ...

∇. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God:

℟. **That we may be made worthy of the  
promises of Christ.**

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you, O  
Lord, your grace into our hearts; that we to  
whom the Incarnation of Christ, your Son,  
was made known by the message of an angel,  
may by his Passion and Cross ✠ be brought  
to the glory of his Resurrection; through the  
same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**