

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.

FIRST READING

Exodus 2.1–10

A reading from the book of Exodus

A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because,' she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

READER: This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 1.3-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

READER: This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL

Luke 2.33-35

Praise to you, O Christ our Saviour, Word of the Father, calling us to life; Son of God who leads us to freedom: glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

You are the Word who calls us out of darkness; you are the Word who leads us into light; you are the Word who brings us through the desert: glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Praise to you, O Christ our Saviour, Word of the Father, calling us to life; Son of God who leads us to freedom: glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ

Praise to you, O Christ our Saviour, Word of the Father, calling us to life; Son of God who leads us to freedom: glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

POST COMMUNION

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.