



Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta
**The Parochial District of
Wangaratta West and The Warbys**
**The Fourth Sunday in Lent,
March 19th 2023**

Please stand when the ministers enter

The priest welcomes and greets the people

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever.

Introducing the Theme of the Day

For many years the Fourth Sunday in Lent has been observed as Mothering Sunday. The tradition arose from a sentence in Saint Paul's Letter to the Galatians, which for many centuries was read in the Epistle of this Sunday: in it St Paul writes of "Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all".

It would seem too that it was on this Sunday many servants were given the day off to go home and visit their family, taking with them cake and flowers for mother.

This 4th Sunday in Lent is also often referred to as Refreshment Sunday.

So, on this day we give thanks to God who gives us New Birth, and for the Church which, like a mother, nurtures us in the life of the Spirit. We remember and pray for our Cathedral of Holy Trinity the "Mother Church" of our Diocese. We give thanks for our own human mothers, and for all the qualities of mothering, given and received in this congregation.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Scripture Sentence

'I am the light of the world,' says the Lord; 'those who follow me will have the light of life.'

John 8.12

Hymn, tune, Crüger (AHB 132)

1. **Our Father God in heaven
on whom our world depends,
To you let praise be given
for families and friends;
For parents, sisters, brothers,
a home where love belongs,
but on this day for mothers
we bring our thankful songs.**
2. **What wealth of God's bestowing
for all the world to share!
What strength of heart outgoing
to children everywhere!
Our deepest joys and sorrows
a mother's path must trace,
and earth's unknown tomorrows
are held in her embrace.**
3. **How well we know the story
that tells of Jesus' birth,
the Lord of heaven's glory
become a child of earth;
A helpless infant sleeping,
yet King of realms above,
who finds in Mary's keeping
the warmth of human love.**
4. **Our Father God in heaven,
to you we lift our prayer,
that every child be given
such tenderness and care,
where life is all for others,
where love your love displays:
For God's good gift of mothers
let earth unite in praise!**

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The Commandments

In this Lenten Season let us hear again commandments which God has given to his people and which form us as God's people.

I am the Lord your God: you shall have no other gods but me.

**You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, and with all your strength.**

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

**God is Spirit, and those who worship him
must worship in spirit and in truth.**

You shall not dishonour the name of the Lord your God.

You shall worship him with awe and reverence.

Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.

**Christ is risen from the dead:
set your minds on things that are above,
not on things that are on the earth.**

Honour your father and mother.

**Live as servants of God;
let us work for the good of all,
especially members of the household of faith.**

You shall not commit murder.

**Live peaceably with all;
overcome evil with good.**

You shall not commit adultery.

Know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.

You shall not steal.

Be honest in all that you do, and care for those in need.

You shall not be a false witness.

Let everyone speak the truth.

You shall not covet anything which belongs to your neighbour.

**Remember the words of the Lord Jesus:
'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'
Love your neighbour as yourself,
for love is the fulfilling of the law.**

Let us pray

**Lord, you are steadfast in your love
and infinite in your mercy;
you welcome sinners
and invite them to be your guests.
We confess our sins,
trusting in you to forgive us.**

Kyries—if sung, repeated 3 times

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

The priest, standing, declares the Absolution

The almighty and most merciful God
grant you pardon, forgiveness of all your sins,
time for true repentance and amendment of life,
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Collect is said by the priest

Let us pray.

Gracious God,
in order that we children of earth might discern good from evil
you sent your Son to be the light of the world:
as the light of Christ shines upon us,
may we learn what pleases you,
and live in truth and goodness;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the First Book of Samuel [16. 1-13]

The Lord said to Samuel, ‘How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.’ Samuel said, ‘How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.’ And the Lord said, ‘Take a heifer with you, and say, “I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.” Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you

what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.’ Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, ‘Do you come peaceably?’ He said, ‘Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.’ And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.’ But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.’ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, ‘Neither has the Lord chosen this one.’ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, ‘Neither has the Lord chosen this one.’ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord has not chosen any of these.’ Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Are all your sons here?’ And he said, ‘There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.’ And Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.’ He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, ‘Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.’ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.

He will make me lie down in green pastures:
and lead me beside still waters.

He will refresh my soul:
and guide me in right pathways for his name’s sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.

You spread a table before me
in the face of those who trouble me:
**you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup shall be full.**

Surely your goodness and loving-kindness will follow me
all the days of my life:
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians [5. 8-14]

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, ‘Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.’

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Hymn, AHB 61/TiS 447.tune, Moscow.

- 1. Lord, your almighty word chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light.**
- 2. Saviour, who came to give those who in darkness live
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind, sight to the inly blind,
now to all humankind let there be light.**
- 3. Spirit of truth and love, life-giving holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the waters’ face, bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth’s darkest place let there be light.**
- 4. Holy and blessed Three, glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean’s tide rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide, let there be light.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John [9. 1-41]

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.'

His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

For the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

Silence for Reflection may follow the sermon

The Apostles Creed is said, all standing.

During Lent, Christians are encouraged to think seriously about what it means to be a Baptised Person.

The Creed we use for Lent is the Apostles Creed, the statement of faith made at Baptism and Confirmation.

It is written in the first person, i.e. I Believe.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ has promised that you will hear us when we ask in faith receive the prayers we offer.

Holy God, you gave us our Mothers for which we give you joyful thanks. Today we especially thank you for all that our mothers gave to us from the moment we were born into this amazing life.

We remember the love and care they surrounded us with through our early years; the guidance they continued to give as we grew to maturity; the support that they continued to give as many of us became parents ourselves and the role they played as grandparents, playing such a vital role in society.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we thank you for the role that so many mothers played in introducing us to you and your son Jesus Christ, through bedtime prayers and stories, in the way they served as an example of Christian life and introducing us to public worship in the fellowship of our Mother Churches and our first spiritual homes.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, as we watch and read the news we see the brokenness of our world and that for many families life is more dangerous than ever before. We pray for healing among the nations; for food where there is hunger; for freedom where there is oppression; for joy where there is pain; that your love may bring peace to all your children.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father God, your Son, was born into the human family of Mary and Joseph; bless all those that we live amongst who are parents and all who care for children in our local communities. Strengthen all families who are living under stress and shine your love into homes where no human love is found.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for all mothers of children suffering from serious illness, recognising not only their anguish but also the way that their love and determination really makes a big difference to chances of recovery. We thank you for the many hours our parents spent caring for us when we were ill and thank you to for the many children who grow up to be their parents carers in later life. We remember before loving Lord those for whom we have been asked to pray:

Chris E. Kate B. Trent. Kate Jessup. Vi Bussell. Nina Colson. Bronwyn. Josef. Neliya Don Leonard. Kaye McKenzie.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, like a mother you gather your people to you as gently as any human mother with her children. Turn the despair that comes through the parting of death into hope and may we through your gentleness find comfort and restoration in our sadness and loss.

We remember this week, Nancy Evans. Mary Taylor. Angus McMillan. Jack Smith. Thomas Henry Armstrong (1st Bishop). Lorraine Boling. Elizabeth Wilcox. Evelyn Pursill.

(Short Silence)

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord.
And may light perpetual shine upon them.

Everlasting God,
you alone can see the future and so we pray to you,
who can see ahead of us,
asking for your protection for each of us,
for our families and those who we love.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who taught us to pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may exchange a COVID Safe sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn: tune, Love Divine (148 ii)

- 1. God of Eve and God of Mary,
God of love and mother-earth,
thank you for the ones who with us
shared their life and gave us birth.**
- 2. As you came to earth in Jesus,
so you come to us today;
you are present in the caring
that prepares us for life's way.**
- 3. Thank you that the Church, our Mother,
gives us bread and fills our cup,
and the comfort of the Spirit
warms our hearts and lifts us up.**

4. **Thank you for belonging, shelter,
bonds of friendship, ties of blood,
and for those who have no children,
yet are parents under God.**
5. **God of Eve and God of Mary,
Christ our brother, human Son,
Spirit, caring like a Mother,
take our love and make us one!**

Fred Kaan (1929–2009)

Blessing of Simnel Cake

Loving God,
you care for your children with both a father's and a mother's love:
+ bless this Simnel Cake, symbol of our gratitude for all the favours
you have bestowed on us through your holy church, the mother of us
all; and symbol also of our gratitude for the love of our earthly
mothers, and for their tender and unselfish care.
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise, almighty God,
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ,
our Saviour and Redeemer.

He is your living Word,
through whom you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit
he took flesh of the Virgin Mary
and shared our human nature.

He lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you,
the God and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will
he stretched out his hands in suffering,
to bring release to those who place their hope in you;
and so he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows,
and to give up his life on the cross,
that he might shatter the chains of evil and death,
and banish the darkness of sin and despair.

By his resurrection
he brings us into the light of your presence.
Now with all creation
we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

**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.**

Holy and gracious God, accept our praise,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ;
who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death,
took bread and gave you thanks, saying,

“Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you.” ✕

In the same way he took the cup, saying,
“This is my blood which is shed for you.

When you do this, you do it in memory of me.” ✕

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we offer you this bread and this cup,
giving thanks that you have made us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.
We ask you to send your Holy Spirit
upon the offering of your holy Church. ✕

Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries,
filling them with the Holy Spirit
and confirming their faith in the truth,
that together we may praise you and give you glory
through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are your for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

The priest break the bread, saying

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Let us pray

**We do not presume to come to your table,
merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen.**

The priest gives the Invitation to Communion

Come let us take this holy sacrament
of the body and blood of Christ
in remembrance that he died for us,
and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Reflection Hymn

Sweet Sacrament divine, hid in thine earthly home,
lo, round thy lowly shrine, with suppliant hearts we come;
Jesus, to thee our voice we raise
in songs of love and heartfelt praise: sweet Sacrament divine.

Sweet Sacrament of peace, dear home for every heart,
where restless yearnings cease and sorrows all depart;
there in thine ear all trustfully we tell our tale of misery:
sweet Sacrament of peace.

Sweet Sacrament of rest, ark from the ocean's roar,
within thy shelter blest soon may we reach the shore;
save us, for still the tempest raves,
save, lest we sink beneath the waves:
sweet Sacrament of rest.

Sweet Sacrament divine, earth's light and jubilee,
in thy far depths doth shine the Godhead's majesty;
sweet light, so shine on us, we pray,
that earthly joys may fade away:
sweet Sacrament divine.

Francis Stanfield, 1835-1914.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

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;

**Father, we offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

Notices

Hymn TiS 675. tune, Shine, Jesus Shine

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining.
Jesus, Light of the World shine upon us;
Set us free by the truth you now bring us;
Shine on me; shine on me:

Chorus

*Shine Jesus shine; fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light*

2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood may I enter your brightness.
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

3. **As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

Chorus

***Shine Jesus shine; fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light***

Graham Kendrick
© 1987 Make Way Music

Blessing

May the Lord who brought us to birth by his Spirit,
strengthen us for the Christian life.

Amen.

May the Lord who provides for all our needs
sustain us day by day.

Amen.

May the Lord
whose steadfast love is constant as a mother's care,
send us out to live and work for others;

Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always.

AMEN.

Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.