

## **THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MOTHER’S DAY**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Once you were not a people,

but now you are God’s people;

once you had not received mercy,

but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10)

**Hymn: 861** - When long before time (The singer and the Song)

### **Prayer of the Day**

**Creator God, you have formed us into families for love, nurture and protection. The human family is blessed through Jesus’ birth to Mary and Joseph, and so we know he has experienced the love, joy, frustrations and tensions that are also part of our experience. Jesus blessed the family of Martha, Mary and Lazarus; he created a family of faith with the disciples; he remembered his mother Mary in his dying breath. Grant us the confidence, O God, that you understand us, bless us in our joys and tribulations, and delight when the whole Church, as Christ’s family, join our hearts and voices to bring you our praise and thanksgiving. Amen**

### **Scripture Lessons:**

**Ruth 1 and 2:1-11a, 13b-18**

**In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of one was Orpah and the**

name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there for about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons or her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had had consideration for his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, 'Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.' Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, 'No, we will return with you to your people.' But Naomi said, 'Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me?

No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.' Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, 'See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.'

But Ruth said,  
'Do not press me to leave you  
or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;  
where you lodge, I will lodge;  
your people shall be my people,  
and your God my God.

Where you die, I will die—  
there will I be buried.

May the Lord do thus and so to me,  
and more as well,  
if even death parts me from you!

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

## **Glory to you, O Lord**

Matthew 15:21-28

**Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, ‘Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.’ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.’ He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’ But she came and knelt before him, saying, ‘Lord, help me.’ He answered, ‘It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’ She said, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.’ Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed instantly.**

## **Praise to you, O Christ**

### **Sermon**

**Hymn: 735** – Mothering God

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.     *A brief silence.*

Build us up, mothering God, as living stones united in your spiritual house. Continually strengthen your church as it is sent forth to proclaim your love. We pray especially for new congregations and those in redevelopment. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Strengthen us, Loving God, to reach out to people who come to our communities from so many places in the world. Let us remember

the hospitality of those first disciples who broke down all the walls that divide, **hear our prayer**

Humble us, Creator God, as part of your creation. Fill us with respect and awe for the world you have made, including volcanoes, ocean currents, tropical rainstorms, glaciers, and other forces that both destroy and create. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Align our ways to your love, O God. We pray for countries, leaders, and other organizations as they prepare places for those seeking refuge and safety (*aid organizations may be named*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing and rest, help those whose hearts are heavy and weighed down by many troubles. Comfort their suffering, ease their distress, and carry their burdens ( *and all those we know whose names and needs we speak now aloud or silently. . .* Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, we pray for those who tend and teach young children, for the safe pregnancies of expectant parents, and for families who struggle with infertility and miscarriage. We give thanks for all who have shown mothering care, and we remember all for whom this day is difficult. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Generous God, you call into your brilliant light all who have died, particularly Rick and Dave (one of these was a member of Living Faith and the other, Dave, is dear friend of someone in the parish). Give us faith to take hold of the promise of your eternal life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

## **Apostles' 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,  
Was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
And became truly human.  
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 and 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

**Sharing the Peace:** The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
and enable you to share this peace with those near and those near  
to your hearts.

**Offering Prayer: Ever Generous One, even on the Cross Jesus offered the blessing of forgiveness. May we, in our isolation, remember our blessings of family, friends, food and abundant love and be ever willing to share from this abundance, in Jesus' name. Amen**

**Lord's Prayer:**

**Closing Hymn: 650 – In Christ there is no East or West**

**Blessing:**

**Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12).**

**May it be so with us this day and forever more, to the Glory of God: Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit. Amen**