

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.



Readings for Mothering Sunday

Psalm 34:11-20

Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
Which of you desires life,
and covets many days to enjoy good?
Keep your tongue from evil,
and your lips from speaking deceit.
Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.

The eyes of the Lord
are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their cry.
The face of the Lord
is against all evildoers,
to cut off the remembrance of them
from the earth.
When the righteous cry for help,
the Lord hears,
and rescues them
from all their troubles.
The Lord is near to the broken-hearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the Lord rescues them
from them all.
He keeps all their bones;
not one of them will be broken.

1 Samuel 1:20-28

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the Lord.'

The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.' Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only—may the Lord establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.'

She left him there for the Lord.

Colossians 3:12-17

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.

John 19:25b-27

Meanwhile, 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.

Some Prayers for Mothering Sunday

Thank you God
for the love of our mothers
thank you God for their care and concern
thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;
thank you God for the pains they have borne for us
thank you God for all that they give us
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Heavenly Father,
we give thanks to You for mothers everywhere.
We give thanks for their love, care, concern, and compassion.
We lift up to You especially those who have struggled in their roles as mothers,
where the path has not been smooth.
We pray for those whose mothers perhaps failed in any way.
Bring hope in the midst of their lives,
whether as mothers or as children.
For those relationships that are strained, grant reconciliation.
Where there is pain, bring the healing of Your grace and mercy.
May our own hearts of love extend to all mothers everywhere;
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and forever. Amen

~ written by Amy Young, and posted on The Messy Middle blog.

Gracious God,
as a mother loves her child,
so you love us.

For that great truth
we praise and thank you.

We owe our very lives to you.
You have watched over us
from our birth,
tenderly nurturing us,
showering us with love.
When we have needed you, you have been there.

For that great truth
we praise and thank you.

You have given us strength
in times of need,
comfort in times of distress,
encouragement in times of despair,
guidance in times of uncertainty.

Whatever we have faced,
you have been with us.

For that great truth
we praise and thank you.

Gracious God,
we have not always appreciated
your love,
all too often ignoring what you would teach us,
disobeying your instructions,
taking you for granted and wandering far from your side.
Yet through it all your love has remained constant.

For that great truth
we praise and thank you.

Gracious God,
caring for us more than you care
for yourself,
sacrificing your all for our sakes,
loving us with an unquenchable love,
you have called us
to be your children.

For that great truth
**we praise and thank you,
in the name of Christ. Amen**

~ written by Nick Fawcett, in *Prayers for All Seasons* (1998), and posted on **Make a Mother'sDay**. <http://www.makeamothersday.org/sites/default/files/documents/A4Prayer.pdf>