**14 March 2021** **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.

**Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 49:13-16**

13 Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth;

burst into song, you mountains! For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

14 But Zion said, ‘The Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me.’

15 ‘Can a mother forget the baby at her breast
and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!
16 See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.

**Psalm 107.1-3,17-22**

1O give thanks to the Lord, for he is

gracious, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say this, those he

redeemed from the hand of the enemy,

3 And gathered out of the lands from the east

and from the west, from the north and from the

south.

17 Some were foolish and took a rebellious

way, and were plagued because of their

wrongdoing.

18 Their soul abhorred all manner of food and

drew near to the gates of death.

19 Then they cried to the Lord in their

trouble, and he delivered them from their

distress.

20 He sent forth his word and healed them, and

saved them from destruction.

21 *Let them give thanks to the Lord for his*

*goodness and the wonders he does for his children.*

22 *Let them offer him sacrifices of thanksgiving and*

*tell of his acts with shouts of joy.*

**New Testament Reading – 1 Thessalonians 2:6b-12**

6 We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. 7 Instead, we were gentle among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, 8 so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. 9 Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. 10 You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. 11 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, 12 encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

**Post Communion**

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Saviour
gave his back to the smiters and did not hide his face from shame:
give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.