Mothering Sunday
Prayers

Collects for Mothering Sunday

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and 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 bring 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 forever. Amen

Common Worship Shorter 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. Amen.

Methodist Worship

God our Father,
your Son Jesus Christ lived in a family in Nazareth:
Grant that in our families on earth
we may so learn to love and to live together
that we may rejoice as one family in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers

Dear Jesus we thank you for Mothers everywhere
For all who care for us day by day,
Let us not forget that you were a child
And your mother was Mary.
We say thank you for Mums across the world
And in our country too,
Although we may not say it,
We think you are the best.So let us give grateful thanks And let our voices be heard
For all the Mums and Grans
On this very special day. Amen

Hannah Middleton 2005 (URC Northern Synod)
**Gentle, Patient God**

Today we thank God for the gift of mothers and mothering across the world. Isaiah wrote that God is a mother to us, comforting and carrying us in her arms.

*As one whom a mother comforts, so I will comfort you – Isaiah 66:13.*

**Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.**

Isaiah also wrote that God will never forget us and that he knows each one of us just as a mother knows her own children.

*Can a woman forget her baby at her breast, feel no pity for the child she has borne? Even if these were to forget, I shall not forget you. Isaiah 49:15*  

**Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.**

David wrote that in God’s presence, he was quiet and at peace, trusting his God like a child safe in its mother’s arms.

*No I hold myself in quiet and silence, like a child in its mothers’ arms. Psalm 131:2*  

**Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.**

Jesus spoke of himself as a mother, longing to wrap his arms around us like a mother-hen gathering her chicks under her wings.

*How often have I longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings… Matthew 23:37*  

**Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.**

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**A litany for Mothers**

Eve our first mother – thank you for stepping out and being the first to understand the complexities of life.

Sarah, Hannah and Elizabeth – thank you for your patience and courage in waiting for a miracle. May all people longing for children be strengthened by your stories and comforted in their pain.

Hagar – thank you for your resolve in the face of exile. May all mothers who are forced to flee or are forgotten be given hope in you.

Rebecca – thank you for your flexibility. Let us remember all mothers who have to raise their children in a different country or far from their relatives and who feel isolated.

Rachel – you carried the burden of grief and wept for your children. Hold the hands of all those mothers who weep for their children – children who have gone missing, who have died or are lost to them in other ways.

Jochebed – you used wisdom and insight to protect your children. Give to all mothers this wisdom and insight in the bringing up of their children, especially in vulnerable times.

Naomi and Ruth – you showed that love can conquer all trials. Help all mothers to love constantly when life seems impossible and despair weighs hard upon their souls.

Mary – the new Eve whose ‘yes’ to God changed our world forever. Thank you for sheltering the Holy One all those years ago, for your faithful love and tender care of God’s most precious Son. May we never forget that in your giving is our greatest receiving – of the gift of life wrapped in a manger and in a tomb. May we know the true cost of relationship by holding our faith in Christ deep within our hearts as you once held him deep within your womb. Amen
Thanksgiving Prayer

We thank God for giving us others to share in our lives:
For parents, and the love which brought us to birth:
We praise you, O Lord;
_and bring you thanks today_.

For mothers who have cherished and nurtured us:
We praise you, O Lord;
_and bring you thanks today_.

For fathers who have loved and supported us,
We praise you, O Lord;
_and bring you thanks today_.

For brothers and sisters with whom we have shared our home:
We praise you, O Lord;
_and bring you thanks today_.

For children and their parents:
We praise you, O Lord;
_and bring you thanks today_.

For relatives and friends, who have been with us
in our hopes and joys and times of sadness:
We praise you, O Lord;
_and bring you thanks today_.

For all who first spoke to us of Jesus, and have drawn us
into the family of our Father in heaven:
We praise you, O Lord;
_and bring you thanks today_.

Help us to live as those who belong to one another,
and to you, our Father, now and always. Amen

A Prayer of thanksgiving

As a mother protects her children, watching over them day by day,
alert to danger, and ready if necessary to sacrifice herself for their sakes,
so you Lord protect, your arms constantly encircling us,
your hands delivering us from harm.
For the intensity of your love, Lord Jesus we thank you.

Loving God, we thank you for mothers – for all they mean
or have meant, for the love they have shown
and the care they have given.
We thank you for the qualities of mothers –
their patience, their kindness,
concern and understanding.
We thank you for the part they play in our lives,
and we thank you for this day of saying ‘thank you’
this opportunity to say what we so often mean to say
but so rarely do.
For mothers and motherhood,
for children and families
we bring you this day our grateful praise.
Biblical Mothers

Lord God we pray for mothers everywhere. Like Samuel’s mother, may they have wisdom to know how to protect their children and keep them from harm. Like Naomi, may they be able to turn hard situations into good. Like Lois and Eunice, may they be ready to share the love of Christ with their children. In all that they give to others may they have the joy of knowing that they too are children, held in the love and care of God. Amen

Prayers for those for whom Mothering Sunday is a difficult time

Loving Father, we pray for those for whom Mothering Sunday is a time of heartache rather than celebration.

We pray for those who have never known their mother or whose mothers have died. Heavenly Father, bless them with your love.

We pray for those who long to be mothers but as yet have not had their own children. Heavenly Father, bless them with your love.

We pray for those who struggle with the way their children have chosen to live their lives. Heavenly Father, bless them with your love.

We pray for those who have a difficult relationship with their mother. Heavenly Father, bless them with your love.

May they have the comfort of knowing that your love for them is constant, your understanding is perfect, your compassion is never-ending. Amen

Loving God, we give you thanks for all who care for us, who have encouraged us and helped us grow, who have forgiven us, and cared for us when we are unwell, who have supported us when times were hard, who have challenged us, who have told us about you.

Thank you, Lord. Amen

Bath & Wells Diocese Children & Families Adviser

Mothering Sunday Praise

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,

continues...
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**

*Nick Fawcett (Prayers for all Seasons, 1998)*

Dear Jesus,
We thank you for all mothers and carers around the world,
and for all they do for their children.
We thank you for their patience when we don’t get things right.
We thank you for their encouragement when we find life hard.
We pray that mums would feel really special today
and that you would remind us every day to show them
as much love and help as they give to us. Amen

**Mothering Sunday Blessing**

May the Lord who brought us to birth by his Spirit,
strengthen us for the Christian life.
May the Lord who provides for all our needs
sustain us day by day.
May the Lord whose steadfast love is constant as a mother’s care,
send us out to live and work for others.
And the blessing of God Almighty.
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

www.campseaashechurch.org.uk
www.thisischurch.com

**Make a Mother’s Day**

For more information visit www.makeamothersday.org
Mothers’ Union, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB