

Readings and Prayers for 14 March 2021: Lent 4 Mothering Sunday

1 Samuel 2:18-20,26

Hannah has given her longed-for first son Samuel to God in gratitude. He is working in the Temple for the High Priest Eli.

¹⁸ Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹ His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband Elkanah to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰ Then Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD'; and then they returned to their home. ²⁶ Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the LORD and with the people.

Psalm 34:11-20

¹¹ Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
¹² Which of you desires life,
and covets many days to enjoy good?
¹³ Keep your tongue from evil,
and your lips from speaking deceit.
¹⁴ Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.
¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their cry.
¹⁶ The face of the LORD is against evildoers,
to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.
¹⁷ When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears,
and rescues them from all their troubles.
¹⁸ The LORD is near to the broken-hearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.
¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD rescues them from them all.
²⁰ He keeps all their bones;
not one of them will be broken.

Colossians 3:12-17

If, as individuals, as families, or as a church, our lives are rooted in Jesus, we will automatically become more like him.

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.

Mark 3:20-21&31-35

As Jesus' ministry develops, rumours reach his family and they are concerned for him.

²⁰ The crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹ When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' ³¹ So his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³² The crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' ³³ And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' ³⁴ And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers!' ³⁵ Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

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.

Post Communion

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;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.