

## CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF MOTHERS

While Jesus was speaking, a woman from the crowd called out and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts at which You nursed." He replied, "Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it." Luke 11: 27-28



The grace and the peace of the Risen Lord be with you. I was glad when they said to me: Let us go into the House of the Lord! So here we are! A family together! Young and old alike! Here we are celebrating that God is our true Parent and Jesus our true brother!

Let us worship the Lord today in gladness and in song as we honor our mothers and all those who have nurtured us. We remember birth mothers adoptive mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, teachers, child care workers and all women who have touched our lives.



We pause and remember that the God Who created us, Who redeemed us, and Who continually calls us to life and to holiness is alive and dwelling in and around us. He is our God and we are His people made in His image and likeness. "Behind and before You encircle us and rest Your hand upon us." Psalm 139:5

### PSALM 139:13-18, 23-24

You formed my inmost being; You knit me in my mother's womb.  
I praise you, so wonderfully You made me; wonderful are Your works!  
My very self You knew;  
my bones were not hidden from You,  
When I was being made in secret, fashioned as in the depths of the earth.  
Your eyes foresaw my actions;  
in Your book all are written down;  
my days were shaped, before one came to be.  
How precious to me are Your designs, O God;  
how vast the sum of them!  
Were I to count, they would outnumber the sands;  
to finish, I would need eternity.  
Glory to You, Source of All Being,  
Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit.  
As it was, is now, and forever shall be. Amen.



O Lord, open our ears and hearts to hear Your Holy Word.  
May it inspire me to a closer relationship with You. Alleluia!



## SCRIPTURE

### DEUTERONOMY 5:16

Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord, your God, has commanded you, that you may have a long life and prosperity in the land that the Lord, your God, is giving you.

### PROVERBS 1:8-9

My child, hear the instruction of your father, and forsake not the law of your mother for they shall be an ornament of grace unto your head.

### PROVERBS 10: 1

A wise child makes a father glad: but a foolish child is the heaviness of the mother.

### PROVERBS 19: 26-27

Whoever mistreats their father, or drives away their mother, is a worthless and disgraceful child. If they cease to hear instruction, they wander from words of knowledge.

### JOHN 2: 1- 8

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

Jesus and His disciples were also invited to the wedding.

When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect Me? My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever He tells you."

Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons.

Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim.

Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom

and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now."

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in Him.

After this, He and his mother, brothers, and his disciples went down to Capernaum and stayed there only a few days.

## REFLECTION

In today's Scripture reading from John, we see Mary as the solicitous person caring for others. She seeks out her Son and tells Him of the situation and knows in her heart that He will do something and that is why she told the servants to do whatever Jesus told them. Mary was in tune with her Son as well as being there for others in their time of need or distress. How fortunate we are to have her as our mother, too. We believe that when Jesus told John to take Mary as his mother, we too inherited her as our mother. Never be afraid to go to Mary for we know that she has a direct "pipeline" to the Lord.

We all learned a lot from our mothers though we never would have admitted it growing up!. What a double blessing those of us enjoy who had a Christian mother from whom we learned things of a spiritual nature.

"...I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.....from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15).

Take a moment to give thanks to God for all that you learned from your mother. We ask God to bless her wherever she is for the gift of life she gave us and the guiding ways she instilled in us.

## HYMN      YOU ARE A KIND AND LOVING GOD by JUDY BAILEY

This hymn describes the love that God has for us, and how He cares for every person, and it also reveals the tender heart of God that is expressed in a Mother's heart too.

You are a kind and loving God.

You keep us safe; watch over us.

You know our lives in every part, You care for us.

You did not leave us on the earth all alone  
and out of touch.

But You left Your home in heaven;  
and gave Your life upon the cross.

We are guided by Your Spirit;  
we are guided by Your love, You care for us.

Your ways are true; Your ways are just,  
You dry our tears when times are tough.

You are strong when we are not strong enough, You care for us.  
Unshaken in Your faithfulness,  
You hear our prayers and answer them.  
You discipline the ones You love, You care for them.

#### PRAYER to MARY

Father, Source of light in every age,  
the Virgin Mary conceived and bore Your Son  
Who is called Wonderful God,  
Prince of Peace. our Emmanuel.  
May her prayer,  
the gift of a mother's love,  
be Your people's joy through all ages.  
May her response,  
born of a humble heart,  
draw Your Spirit to rest on Your people.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### HYMN      NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done, In whom His world rejoices;  
Who from our mother's arms Hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in His grace And guide us when perplexed  
And free us from all ills In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven:  
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heaven adore!  
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.



## BLESSING of MOTHERS

This blessing is for all the mothers who have sat up all night with sick toddlers saying, "It's OK honey, Mommy's here."

This blessing is for the mothers who gave birth to babies they may never see. And the mothers who took those babies—forever to be their own children.

This blessing is for all the mothers who attended ball games, recitals, rehearsals, etc. etc. and who said, "I wouldn't have missed it for the world," and meant it.

This blessing is for all the mothers of war torn lands who fled in the night and can't find their children or can't feed their children.

Creator God, what makes a good mother anyway? Is it patience? Firmness? A soft lap? Or is mothering what is in her heart?

Is it the ache she feels when she watches her child disappear down the street, walking to school alone for the very first time?

The jolt that takes her from sleep to dread, from bed to crib at 2 a.m. to put her hand on the back of a sleeping baby?

The need to flee from wherever she is and hug her child when she hears news of a school shooting, a fire, a car accident, a baby dying?

Yes it is so.

So this blessing is for all the mothers who sat down with their children and explained all about making babies. And for all the mothers who wanted to but just couldn't.

This blessing is for all the mothers who yell at their kids in the grocery store with frustration and despair.

This blessing is for the mothers who show up at work with milk stains on their blouses and diapers in their purse.

This blessing is for all the mothers who teach their sons to cook and their daughters to speak up with pride.

This blessing is for mothers who put pinwheels, teddy bears, or flowers on their children's graves.

This blessing is for mothers whose children have gone astray, who haven't the words to reach them, and yet have never put them from their heart.

This blessing is for new mothers stumbling through diaper changes and sleep deprivation. And mature mothers learning to let go. For working mothers and stay-at-home mothers. Single mothers and married mothers.

And this blessing is for all of us who will move beyond sentiment into actions which support mothers and mothering persons in all of their life-giving and life-nurturing roles.

May the Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace.  
So they shall invoke My name on the children and I then will bless them."  
(Numbers 6:22-27). Amen



Mary, Mother of the Lord and our Mother by adoption,  
watch over , guard and guide all mothers.

Saint John Baptist de La Salle  
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,  
inspire us to have the vigilance and caring  
that mothers have in regard to their children.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!



May God take your hands,  
and work through them,  
take your minds,  
and think through them,  
take your hearts,  
and set them on fire with love  
by the power of Jesus Who goes with them.

