

## Mothers' Day Reflection

**Song:** *You Raise Me up* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-8Tp0IVSI8>



Just as God is  
our Father, so  
God is also  
our Mother.  
- Julian of Norwich

### **Welcome to the Circle of Prayer:**

God with a mother's heart, you have given us birth  
and watched over us in life ...

***We praise and thank you***

Risen Christ, loving brother, you have shared with us  
the gift of life ...

***We praise and thank you***

Holy Spirit, confident sister, you have walked with us and believed in us

***We praise and thank you***

Mary, Mother of God and our mother, you have shown us the path of wisdom  
and grace ...

***We praise and thank you***

Let us now gather as God's family, loved and blessed, grateful for life and for all who  
have given us life over the years ...

### **Prayer:** (Christine Sine)

God with a mother's heart, you gather us as your children.

You comfort and hold us in your warm embrace.

When we hurt, your arms enfold us; when we are afraid, your wings protect us;  
when we are hungry you feed us with the bread of life.

God with a mothers' heart, your love surrounds and supports us,  
in good times and in tough, in the midst of joy and pain, always and everywhere.  
You will never leave or abandon us.

God eternal and loving One, God with a mother's heart  
we thank you this day for the gift of being part of your family. Amen

## **Readings:**

- *It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms ... I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like One who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them.* (Hosea 11:3-4)
- *A society without mothers would not only be a cold society, but a society that has lost its heart ... In today's fragmented world where we risk losing our bearings, a mother's embrace is essential.* (Pope Francis)

... Reflection and Sharing ...

## **Response to Litany: *Mother God, we pray to you***

For our own mothers, living and deceased ...  
For our grandmothers, sisters, aunts and all who have nurtured us over the years ...  
For mothers who continue to make sacrifices for the sake of their children...  
For mothers who are taken for granted, forgotten or abandoned ...  
For mothers who are incarcerated, drug-addicted or prostituted ...  
For mothers of the disappeared ...  
For mothers who have lost children through sickness, suicide, violence and war ...  
For mothers in nursing homes ...  
For single mothers and divorced mothers ...  
For mothers who are homeless, battered or abused ...  
For mothers who are refugees and without a home or homeland ...  
For mothers of disabled and bullied children ...  
For mothers who are struggling with financial problems ...  
For mothers who are unable to care for or protect their children ...  
For our Mother Earth calling us to protect, cherish and heal her ...  
In gratitude for Mary, Mother of God whose life was centered on Jesus...  
In gratitude for all who have given us love and support, security and hope ...

Mother God, for all of these and for all we carry in our hearts, we ask your love and your blessing. Amen

## **Closing Prayer:**

God with a mother's heart, we thank you for your faithful and tender love. We thank you for sending us your Son to show us how to love without limits. We thank you for Mary, the mother of Jesus, who cared for, nurtured and comforted him during his earthly life. We thank you for all mothers, especially our own mothers. On this Mothers' Day we joyfully celebrate all the love, goodness and beauty that has come into our world through mothers. This we pray in the name of Jesus, Your beloved Son and our brother. Amen.