



## GOD'S WORD FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### *The Collect of the Day*

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.

## Bible Verses about Feminine Love

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

**Proverbs 31:25:** "She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come."

**Proverbs 31:26:** "She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue."

**Proverbs 31:31:** "Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."

**1 Peter 3:4:** "You should be known for the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God."

**Luke 2:51:** "And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart."

## *The Old Testament Reading*

*This remarkable story always touches the heart to think of a Mother separated from her child for any reason. What is particularly poignant is the next part of the story of Hannah. The Scriptures tell us that, in keeping with Custom, Hannah would visit her son every year at the Temple in Shiloh. With her she would bring a small tunic which she had made for him. Every year, Hannah would have to estimate how much her son had grown since she had seen him last!*

### **1 Samuel 1: 20-28**

<sup>20</sup> So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name <sup>[a]</sup>Samuel, saying, “Because I have asked for him from the Lord.”

<sup>21</sup> Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice and his vow. <sup>22</sup> But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, “Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the Lord and remain there forever.”

<sup>23</sup> So Elkanah her husband said to her, “Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the Lord <sup>[a]</sup>establish <sup>[a]</sup>His word.” Then the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him.



<sup>24</sup> Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with <sup>[a]</sup>three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the Lord in Shiloh. And the child was young. <sup>25</sup> Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli. <sup>26</sup> And she said, “O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the Lord. <sup>27</sup> For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. <sup>28</sup> Therefore I also have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be <sup>[a]</sup>lent to the Lord.” So they worshiped the Lord there.

### *Pray Today*

*For those within our lives who have shown us that quiet thoughtfulness and consideration for us, even from far away or from the outskirts of our lives. Who are the people who come to mind – male or female – inside and outside your own family circle who have nurtured you this way?*

### *Psalm 139: 13-14*



An intimate relationship with God is unavoidable when we consider his knowledge of us to the very depths of our being. Isn't there a type of security in this knowledge and a type of freedom to be ourselves with the one who knows the words we are going to say before they are on our lips!

### **Pray Today**

Father, beneath the person we often present to this world you see our true selves. Help us to trust in you so that we may form and continue an intimate relationship with you in all the circumstances that arise in our lives.

### **John 19: 26-27**

It never ceases to fascinate how, in extremis, Jesus still looks to the welfare of the other person; in this case his ministry to his mother continues - even from the cross. The placing of his mother and close friend John as 'familial' epitomises the heart of Jesus' mission as God in human form. Not only did he dismantle barriers between societal groups and traditions but, in his last breath, he united the people he loved as one family.

This Mother's Day, we celebrate the bonds of a type of love that knows no gender and no boundaries. It is nurturing and kind, gentle and strong; it cares and accompanies and it can stand up against any force and survive.

When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her into his own *household*.



### *Pray Today*

*Father, open our hearts to see more clearly the unconditional love you offer us, that we might offer that same form of resilient and nurturing love to all in our lives. In Jesus name we ask. Amen.*