

PREACHES SERMON ON MOTHER'S DAY

Rabbi Lefkowitz Delivers Eloquent
Memorial on World-Sacred
Subject.

Tomorrow will be Mother's day. It will be celebrated by almost every state in the union. Pastors will preach special sermons on it in this city and it will be generally observed by individuals.

The sermon of Rabbi Lefkowitz at Temple Emanuel was devoted to the subject last night. He said in part:

"A mother's love 'Holy, holy, thrice holy is a mother's love—the whole earth is full of its glory! Of all the loves that grace our existence none can be likened unto a mother's love, and no mundane treasure can be compared with its priceless boon. In it the purest, truest, sweetest gift with which heaven has blessed our earth. Without its cheerful glow, the world would, indeed, be dark and dreary, man's habitations cold and cruel, and life a drifting barge with none to guide it.

"Mother's love is the most constant sentinel at the cradle, the tenderest nurse at the bedside, the most faithful guardian at the grave. In life's fierce combat mother's love is our bravest champion, in defeat our strongest comforter, in our quest our staunchest applauder, and in our fame it is the most exultant publisher.

"If heaven ever wrote a love letter to the earth, it was inscribed in a mother's heart. 'God could not be everywhere,' said a rabbi of old, 'therefore He created mother's love.' God wanted to be acknowledged in every human abode. So he placed love, as part of Himself, within every mother's heart. Where mother is esteemed, God is praised; where she is honored, God is exalted.

"If paradise was ever lost, it was regained when—Eve the wife became Eve the mother. It flourishes today, in all its pristine purity and sweetness, in every mother's heart.

"Yet, for reasons that pass finite understanding, the cure pronounced upon her in paradise, still croucheth at her bed side; she must face death that life may be upon the earth.

"The blessing of motherhood is dearly purchased and dearly maintained. To be a mother is to be a martyr. For the privilege of pressing a babe to her bosom, and calling it flesh of her flesh and life of her life, she pays with the most excruciating torture that human being can endure, and though she continues paying for it all her life in the coin of suffering, yet remains she debtor until bedded to rest in the lap of Mother Earth.

"When her children are in want or in danger, she counts her own life for naught. She will fight where men fall back aghast; she will triumph where armies flee in dismay. The more a man's strength cowers, the more mother's courage towers.

"There are other and greater saints than religious saints. If it is glorious to surrender one's life for principle's sake, it is divine to sacrifice one's life for a child's sake. If a Joan of Arc is sainted for taking life, surely a saintship might be given to every mother that lay down her own life that another life might sprout and blossom. And not only can a mother die for her child; she can bury it—and yet live and live a living martyrdom, live to see her heart transformed into a shrine wherein is sacredly cherished, all through her life, the child of her gains, the child of her life.

"And a mother's greatest glory is that she can do all this—suffer and toil and labor for her children, stint and sacrifice for them, live for them, die for them, even survive them, without gaining anything from it for herself. Her love is all unselfishness. If but her child is happy, she craves for no other reward. If but her child is honored, she craves for no other glory.

"Pity the child that knows not the word 'mother,' sweetest word that human lips can utter, that must be reared without a mother's love—without a mother's care. Let your tears fall upon the mound of her who was snatched from the babe that confidently nestled at her bosom. But breathe a prayer of blessing upon every cradle and nursery. There a mother's love softens and guides, quickens and protects. Breathe a prayer of thanksgiving for every mother who has a child to love and to bless, and for every child who is privileged to be loved and blessed by a mother's love—the most precious boon on earth."