



CHESTER
CATHEDRAL

Choral Evensong

to mark
the death of the Sovereign
The late Queen Elizabeth II



ORDER OF SERVICE

Prior to the start of the service, all are invited to pray quietly and reflect on the life of the late Queen Elizabeth II

All stand as the clergy enter the Cathedral

WELCOME

The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford

HYMN

All sing

- 1 All my hope on God is founded;
He doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
He alone
calls my heart to be his own.**
- 2 God's great goodness ay endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
Splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of nought.
Evermore,
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.**
- 3 Daily doth the almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
His desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.**
- 4 Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all:
Ye who follow shall not fall.**

*Meine Hoffnung stehet feste Joachim Neander (1650-80)
paraphrased Robert Bridges (1844-1930)*

MICHAEL
Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

GREETING

The Dean says

In our shock and sadness, we come to this Cathedral Church today to give thanks for the life of Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, to pray for her soul and for all of the Royal Family. We place before God her outstanding service to this nation, the Commonwealth and the Church. In this service, then, let us offer thanks to our heavenly Father, her example of duty and commitment, her leadership and wisdom, and her faithfulness and loyalty to God which we have witnessed through her life.

Let us pray

Father in heaven, we give you thanks for your servant
Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

We praise you as we remember her long life and cherish her memory.
We thank you for all she has brought to our Commonwealth and Nation,
and for all whose lives she has touched.

For we have seen
in her devoted service, reflections of your compassion;
in her integrity, demonstrations of your goodness;
in her faithfulness, glimpses of your eternal love.
Comfort our nation at this time of sadness and mourning,
and give us grace to follow her good example
so that we may come with her to your everlasting kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who died and rose again
and opened the gate of glory. Amen.

All sit

PSALM 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He shall feed me in a green pasture:
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
- 3 He shall convert my soul:
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
- 5 Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me:
thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
- 6 But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON

A reading from the prophet Isaiah,
chapter 61 beginning to read at the first verse.

61. 1-3

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

Here ends the first lesson.

ANTHEM

In paradisum deducant te Angeli, in tuo adventu suscipiant te martyres,
et perducant te in civitatem sanctam Jerusalem.

Chorus Angelorum te suscipiat, et cum Lazaro quondam paupere aeternam
habeas requiem.

*Into Paradise may the Angels lead thee: at thy coming may the Martyrs receive thee,
and bring thee into the holy city Jerusalem.*

*May the Choir of Angels receive thee, and with Lazarus once poor, mayest thou have
eternal rest.*

THE SECOND LESSON

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans,
chapter 14, beginning to read at the seventh verse.

14. 7-12

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Here ends the second lesson.

All stand

HYMN

- 1 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.**
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.**
- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises
I will ever give to thee.**

*William Williams (1717-91)
tr Peter Williams (1727-96)*

*CWM RHONDDA
John Hughes (1873-1932)*

All sit

HOMILY

The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford

NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation;
which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end.
Amen.

THE PRAYERS

God of all mercies and compassion, you love us with an everlasting love and dispel the dark shadows of death with the bright dawn of life. Give hope and comfort to all who mourn the death of those they love. Support and uphold them; reassure them of your continuing love and give them the light and peace of your presence. Your son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by dying has destroyed our death, and by rising restored life and hope. May we go forward eagerly to meet him, and after this life be reunited with all our loved ones and friends who have died, in that place where every tear is wiped away. We make our prayer in the name of Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

We give thanks to you, O God those whom you gave to us. You did not lose them when you gave them to us, and we do not lose them by their return to you. Your dear Son has taught us that life is eternal and love cannot die. So death is only an horizon, and an horizon is only the limit of our sight. Open our eyes to see more clearly, and draw us closer to you that we may know that we are nearer to our loved ones, who are with you. You have told us that you are preparing a place for us: prepare us also for that happy place, that where you are we may also be always, O dear Lord of life and death. **Amen.**

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Rt Revd Mark Tanner, Bishop of Chester, says

Faced with the mystery of death, we are drawn to silence. I invite you to reflect with thanksgiving on the life of Her Late Majesty the Queen, and to commend her to the mercy and peace of God.

A silence follows

Rest eternal grant to her O Lord:
and let light perpetual shine upon her.

The Dean of Chester says

Eternal God
yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory.
We thank you for the life and service of Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth
as we mourn her passing
As we honour her memory and commend her to your care,
be with our nation in its loss,
and help us to be faithful to your royal call to service;
through Jesus Christ who died for us,
and now lives in your eternal and glorious kingdom.
Amen.

BLESSING

All remain standing as the Bishop of Chester says

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

After a short play over, all sing

**God save our gracious King,
long live our noble King,
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us;
God save the King.**

**Thy choicest gifts in store
on him be pleased to pour,
long may he reign:
May he defend our laws,
and ever give us cause
to sing with heart and voice,
God save the King!**

Anonymous

NATIONAL ANTHEM
Thesaurus Musicus (c.1743)

At the end, all remain standing as the clergy process to the South Transept to sign the books of condolence; all are invited to follow or to wait until an appropriate point to join the queue to sign

ORGAN MUSIC