The Benefice of Tetbury, Beverston, Long Newnton & Shipton Moyne

A special evening service marking the death of

Her Majesty

QUEEN ELIZABETH 11

21st April 1926 - 8th September 2022

6pm, Friday 9th September 2022

You will be invited to stand as the service begins.

Opening sentences

Leader Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. John 11.25,26

I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38,39

Greeting and opening prayer

In the name of Christ, who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father, grace, mercy and peace be with you.

Tonight we come together to remember before God Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11, to give thanks for her life and to comfort one another in our grief

O God, make speed to save us.

All **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, lover of souls: you uphold us in life and sustain us in death: to you be glory and praise for ever. For the darkness of this age is passing away as Christ the bright and morning star brings to his saints the light of life. As you give light to those in darkness, who walk in the shadow of death, so remember in your kingdom your faithful servant, Queen Elizabeth, that death may be for her the gate to life and to unending fellowship with you; where with your saints you live and reign, one in the perfect union of love, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

1. The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.

2. Where streams of living waters flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.

3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

5. Thou spread'st a table in my sight,
thy unction grace bestoweth:
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6. And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never;
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877) based on Psalm 23

You are invited to sit down.

Old Testament Reading (Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33)

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.' The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. For the Lord will not reject for ever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

We remain seated. May be said antiphonally

1. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2. **He makes me lie down in green pastures;**
   he leads me beside still waters;
3. he restores my soul.
   He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
4. **Even though I walk through the darkest valley,**
   I fear no evil, for you are with me;
   your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
5. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
   you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
6. **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me**
   all the days of my life,
   and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
   my whole life long.

New Testament reading (Revelation 21:1-6)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying: "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Reader For the Word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

1. The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended:
the darkness falls at thy behest;
to thee our morning hymns ascended,
thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

2. We thank thee that thy Church unsleeping,
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping,
and rests not now by day or night.

3. As o'er each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent
nor dies the strain of praise away.

4. The sun that bids us rest is waking
our brethren 'neath the western sky,
and hour by hour fresh lips are making
thy wondrous doings heard on high.

5. So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever
till all thy creatures own thy sway.

John Ellerton (1826-1893)

Prayers

Leader Let us pray.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

All **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,**
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who 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 souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,

All **And there shall no torment touch them.**

You, Lord, have delivered my soul from death,

All **My eyes from tears and my feet from falling.**

I will walk before the Lord

All **In the land of the living.**

Eternal God, our heavenly Father, we bless your holy name for all that you have given us in and through the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth.

We give you thanks: for her love of family and her gift of friendship; for her devotion to this nation and the nations of the Commonwealth; for her grace, dignity and courtesy; and for her generosity and love of life.

We praise you for: the courage that she showed in testing times; the depth and of her Christian faith; and the witness she bore to it in word and deed.

Accept our thanks and praise, we pray,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Father of all mercies and God of all consolation,
you pursue us with untiring love
and dispel the shadow of death
with the bright dawn of life.
Give courage to the Royal Family
in their loss and sorrow.
Be their refuge and strength, O Lord;
reassure them of your continuing love
and lift them from the depths of grief
into the peace and light of your presence.
Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,

by dying has destroyed our death,
and by rising, restored our life.
Your Holy Spirit, our comforter,
speaks for us in groans too deep for words.
Come alongside your people,
remind them of your eternal presence
and give them your comfort and strength. Amen.

All **Amen.**

Lord God, you provide for your people by your power,
and rule over them in love:
Grant to your servant our King
the Spirit of wisdom and discernment,
that being devoted to you with his whole heart,
he may so wisely govern,
that in his time we may live in safety and in peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

1. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.

2. Beneath the shadow of thy throne,
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

3. Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

4. A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
will bear us all away;
we fade and vanish, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748) alt.

Commendation

We remain standing.

Into your hands, O Father and Lord,
we commend your servant, Queen Elizabeth.
Enlighten her with your holy grace
and suffer her never to be separated from you,
O Lord in Trinity, God everlasting.
May God in his mercy grant us,
with all the faithful departed, rest and peace.

All **Amen**.

SHARING IN GOD'S BLESSING

May God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest,
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth
and all people, unity, peace and concord,
and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting;
and may the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

All **Amen.**

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

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.

The following words were spoken by Queen Elizabeth (as HRH The Princess Elizabeth) in a radio broadcast to the whole of the then British Empire from Cape Town on the occasion of her 21st birthday in 1947.

I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service... But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.

Images: Press Association