

**Sunday 11 September 2022**

# Celebrating the life of HM Queen Elizabeth II



**Sermon** © Revd Dr Paul Monk.

**Liturgy and prayers of intercession** © 2000 The Archbishops' Council.

**Bible readings** © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration appear at the end.

All the hymns are hosted on YouTube. Please click on the links to hear them.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,

<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

## Introduction and welcome

**HYMN 1 Praise my soul, the King of Heaven**

[\(please click here\)](#)

### The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**All And also with you.**

### The Preparation

**All Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**All Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Therefore, let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,  
firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments  
and to live in love and peace with all.

**All** Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** Amen.

## **The Gloria**

This Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

**All** Glory be to God in Heaven,  
Songs of joy and peace we bring,  
Thankful hearts and voices raising,  
To creation's Lord we sing.  
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,  
Glory be to God our King:  
Glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,  
Bore the load of this world's sin;  
Only Son of God the Father,  
You have brought us peace within.  
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,  
Now your glorious reign begin:  
Now your glorious reign begin.

**You O Son of God are Holy,  
You we praise with one accord.  
None in heav'n or earth is like you,  
Only you are Christ the Lord.  
With the Father and the Spirit,  
Ever worshipped and adored:  
Ever worshipped and adored.**

## **The Collect for the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II**

Merciful Father and Lord of all life,  
we praise you that we are made in your image and reflect your truth and light.  
We thank you for the life of our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth,  
for the love she received from you and showed among us.  
Above all, we rejoice at your gracious promise to all your servants,  
living and departed, that we shall rise again at the coming of Christ.  
And we ask that in due time we may share with your servant Elizabeth that  
clearer vision promised to us in the same Christ our Lord;  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, world without end.

**All Amen.**

## **First reading**

A reading from the Book of Psalms

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

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.

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
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. *Psalm 23*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Second reading

A reading from St Paul's First Letter to the Timothy

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. *1 Timothy 4:1-7*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 2 Make me a channel of your peace**  
**Make me a channel of your peace**

(choral version)  
(instrumental version)

## Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**All Glory to you O Lord.**

Jesus said, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' His disciple, Thomas

said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.' *John 14.1-6*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

I guess many of us feel a little bit confused, but grief is a bit like that. We mourn someone that most of us—maybe all of us—never even met. She was the longest reigning Queen in a family lineage that goes back to the Dark Ages, to the dawn of the late 400s, making her a sign of stability. When anything happened in the life of the nation, we tensed until we heard a calming message from the Palace. We would then digest its words, agree or disagree, ponder and only later realise its wisdom.

In some respects, Britain has entered a new Dark Age, an era when it's almost unacceptable to talk about faith. The Queen never let us forget that she herself was a lady of faith. She was one of our finest evangelists. For example, her Christmas message always contained a formal, pithy statement describing the centrality of the Cross and her allegiance to the Lord Jesus.

It is said that the Queen as head of state was at the top of the pyramid, with different layers beneath. In her own mind, if that pyramid did exist, the top of the pyramid was God and she was lower down. In an era of radical equality, it's all too easy to think that all of us are entirely equal—you, me, everyone; with the new error that we are equal to *everyone* and by extension *equal with God*. The Queen never made that mistake. She was Queen of the Realm and was so under God. She owed everything to Him: if nothing else, presumably he had something to do with her being born to a king.

I think it's fair to follow that statement by saying that the Queen did not act in such a way as to be loved. She did not act in such a way as to be respected. It was much simpler for her. She sought to be good: under God, she sought to be what she thought that He wanted her to be. Her life of faith was of course circumscribed by her birth-right. She knew that, so with her trademark wisdom, she looked, analysed, then decided what was right ... then did it. She was loved and respected *because* she lived in this way, not the other way round. May we do the same.

The Queen lived to a great age. She was 96. Almost everything in British life had changed during her long life and reign. It's easy to feel disorientated. Many of us do. With so much change, it all becomes rather difficult and life can feel like a marathon: we 'run out of steam'; we 'hit the wall'. There is a simple way to cope in such

a circumstance: we look to the finishing line with all our concentration. That's what St Paul was saying in today's second reading. He said, 'The time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.' Through this sporting metaphor, he is laying out what's important and what is therefore less important. In a sense it's a distillation, a purifying. I think we saw that same grit and determination as the Queen sought to follow her master to the very end. May we do the same.

That determination needs a direction and a route. Jesus describes them in today's Gospel. There, we hear snippets, soundbites as the Lord Jesus talks one last time with his disciples, saying he is going to prepare a place for them in Heaven. At its end, he tells them he is 'The way, the truth and the life'. If they want Heaven, and if we want to end the race by reaching Heaven, keeping our eyes on the finishing line means always following Jesus as he leads the way—following the Lord who is our shepherd. We must follow his life of total commitment and radical love.

Elsewhere in scripture, in Matthew 25, in a parable sometimes known as the Sheep and the Goats, Jesus describes the scene when a true disciple passes from life in this world to the next. In it, he describes God saying, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.' Being a person of faith, our dear Queen is likely to have heard those words. She ran the race, won the prize of her soul uniting with God.

I think the next consideration needs to be our own response—to the Queen, and to the Gospel that fuelled her faith, and made her who she was. Will we reorient our lives to describe a total commitment to God and a complete dedication to the Gospel. Will we fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith. Will we be His?

## The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
the source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

### **Prayers of intercession**

Gracious God, we give thanks  
for the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth,  
for her faith and her dedication to duty.  
Bless our nation as we mourn her death  
and may her example continue to inspire us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

Everlasting God, we pray for our new King.  
Bless his reign and the life of our nation.  
Help us to work together  
so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness  
flourish among us.

Lord in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father and Lord of all life,  
we praise you that we are made in your image and reflect your truth and light.  
We thank you for the life of our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth,  
for the love she received from you and showed among us.  
Above all, we rejoice at your gracious promise to all your servants,  
living and departed, that we shall rise again at the coming of Christ.  
And we ask that in due time we may share with your servant Elizabeth that  
clearer vision promised to us in the same Christ our Lord.

Lord in your mercy.

**All Hear our prayer.**

O God, our sovereign and shepherd,  
who brought again your Son Jesus Christ  
from the valley of death,  
comfort us with your protecting presence  
and your angels of goodness and love,



that we also may come home  
and dwell with him in your house for ever.

Merciful Father,

**All**    **accept these prayers**  
          **for the sake of your Son,**  
          **our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **The peace**

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.  
Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.  
Peace from the Holy Spirit, the Life-giver

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

**All**    **And also with you.**

**HYMN 3**    **Abide with me**

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

## **The Dismissal**

God grant to the living, grace;  
to the departed, rest;  
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth, and all humankind,  
peace and concord;  
and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.

**All**    **Amen.**

**HYMN 4**    **The Lord's my shepherd**  
                  **The Lord's my shepherd**

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

(modern version)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All**    **In the name of Christ.**  
          **Amen.**

**The National Anthem**

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

And now we give you thanks because through him you have given us eternal life, and delivered us from the bondage of sin and the fear of death into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Therefore, we gladly thank you, with saints and angels praising you, and saying,

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**All Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

**All** We do not presume  
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us.  
Amen.

Communion is distributed.

### **Prayer after Communion**

God of Love, may the death and resurrection of Christ,  
which we have celebrated in this Eucharist,  
bring us, with all the faithful departed,  
into the peace of your eternal home.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,  
our rock and our salvation,  
to whom be glory for time and for eternity.

**All** Amen

**All** Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.