

**A special
commemoration service
marking the death
of Her late Majesty
Queen Elizabeth II**

**21 April 1926 -
8 September 2022**

The Four Parishes Benefice

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord.
'Those who believe in me,
even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives
and believes in me will never die.'

John 11:25-26

I am convinced that neither death,
nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
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

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

We meet this day to remember before God
our late Sovereign Lady QUEEN ELIZABETH,
to renew our trust and confidence in Christ,
and to pray that together we may be one in him,
through whom we offer our prayers and praises to the Father.

O God, make speed to save us.

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, 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.

Amen.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Hymn: The Lord's my shepherd

Old Testament reading

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

A reading from the book of Lamentations.

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 forever.

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.

Thanks be to God.

New Testament reading

Revelation 21:1-7

A reading from the book of Revelation.

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;

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.

Those who conquer will inherit these things,

and I will be their God and they will be my children.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Lord of all hopefulness

Gospel reading

John 14:1-6, 27

A reading from the Gospel of John.

“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.”

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.

Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not let them be afraid.

Sermon

Hymn: Great is thy faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father.
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! ...

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow;
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! ...

Prayers

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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,
and there shall no torment touch them.

You, Lord, have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears and my feet from falling.

I will walk before the Lord
in the land of the living.

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.
Amen.

Eternal God, our maker and redeemer,
grant us, with your servant QUEEN ELIZABETH
and all the faithful departed,
the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion
and glorious resurrection:
that, in the last day,
when you gather up all things in Christ,
we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Almighty God,
Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort:
deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn,
the members of the Royal Family,
this Nation and all the Nations of the Commonwealth,
that casting all our care on you,
we may know the consolation of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Commendation

Into your hands, O Father and Lord,
we commend your servant,
our late Sovereign Lady 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.

Amen.

Hymn: O God, our help in ages past

Concluding Prayer

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,
bless our Sovereign Lord KING CHARLES III,
and all who are in authority under him;
that they may order all things
in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace,
to the honour of your name,
and the good of your Church and people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Blessing

May God in his infinite love and mercy
bring the whole Church, living and departed,
to a joyful resurrection
and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom,
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

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 give us ever cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.

