

Evening Service of Reflection for the Life of the Queen

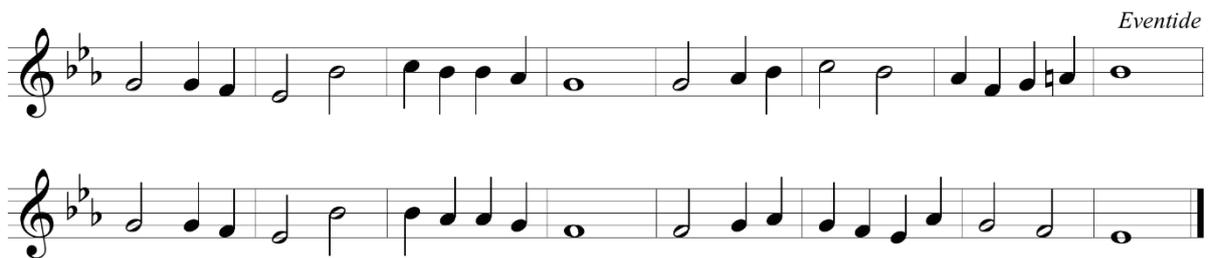
This Service is designed as a quiet, and reflective service of prayer to be used within a day or two of the announcement of Her Majesty's death. It is envisaged to take place at the usual time of the evening service on that day, or on a day when no evening service is planned to be scheduled at an appropriate time.

The Service should be adapted depending on the availability, or lack thereof, of the choir and/or organist. For instance, it may be appropriate to include reflective hymns, a sung canticle and psalm.

THE LITURGY FOR: AN EVENING SERVICE OF REFLECTION FOR THE LIFE OF THE QUEEN

(based on Prayer Before a Funeral)

Where there is an organist present, a hymn may be sung.



**Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.**

**I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.**

**I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.**

**Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies:
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!**

Words: H. F. Lyte (1793-1847) Music: Eventide

The minister shall offer a welcome and greet those present with the words of holy Scripture.

Jesus said,
'I am the resurrection and the life;
even in death,
anyone who believes in me, will live.'

John 11.25

God is with us;
God's love unites us,
God's purpose steadies us,
God's Spirit comforts us.
Blessed be God forever.

Merciful and compassionate God,
we bring you our grief in the loss of Elizabeth, our Queen,
and ask for courage to bear it.
We bring you our thanks
for all you give us in those we love;
and we bring you our prayers for peace of heart
in the knowledge of your mercy and love,
in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The Nunc Dimittis is now said or sung in this or some other version.

Lord now you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation:
which you have prepared in the sight of every people,
a light to reveal you to the nations:
and the glory of your people Israel.

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.

Then shall be said or sung the whole or part of Psalm 27 in this or some other version.

- 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation,
whom then shall I fear?:
the Lord is the stronghold of my life,
of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 2 When the wicked close in on me to devour me:
it is they, my enemies
and my foes who stumble and fall.
- 3 If an army should encamp against me,
my heart shall not be afraid:
if war should arise against me,
even then I will not be dismayed.
- 4 One thing I have asked of the Lord,
which I long for:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze on your beauty O Lord:
and to seek you in your temple.
- 6 For in the time of trouble you will give me shelter:
you will hide me under the cover of your tent,
and set me high upon a rock.
- 7 And now you have raised my head:
above my enemies round about me.
- 8 Therefore I will offer in your dwelling
a sacrifice with great gladness:
I will sing and give praise to you O Lord.
- 9 Hear my voice O Lord when I call:
have mercy on me and answer me.
- 10 Of you my heart has said, 'Seek God's face':
your face Lord I will seek.
- 11 Do not hide your face from me:
or reject your servant in anger.
- 12 You have been my helper:
do not cast me off,
or forsake me O God my saviour.
- 13 Though my father and my mother forsake me:
the Lord will take me up.
- 14 Teach me your way O Lord:
and lead me by a level path,
safe from those who lie in wait for me.
- 15 Do not give me up to the will of my enemies:
for liars, and those who breathe out malice,
have risen up to witness against me.
- 16 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord:
in the land of the living.
- 17 Wait for the Lord,
be strong and let your heart take courage:
yes, wait I say for the Lord.

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.

The following or some other appropriate Reading may follow.

I, Ezra, saw on Mount Zion a great multitude that I could not number, and they all were praising the Lord with songs. In their midst was a young man of great stature, taller than any of the others, and on the head of each of them he placed a crown, but he was more exalted than they. And I was held spellbound. Then I asked an angel, 'Who are these, my lord?' He answered and said to me, 'These are they who have put off mortal clothing and have put on the immortal, and have confessed the name of God. Now they are being crowned, and receive palms.' Then I said to the angel, 'Who is that young man who is placing crowns on them and putting palms in their hands?' He answered and said to me, 'He is the Son of God, whom they confessed in the world.' So I began to praise those who had stood valiantly for the name of the Lord. Then the angel said to me, 'Go, tell my people how great and how many are the wonders of the Lord God that you have seen.'

2 Esdras 2: 42-48

The minister shall offer a Homily or words appropriate to the occasion.

A hymn may be sung if appropriate.



**Ye holy angels bright,
who wait at God's right hand,
or through the realms of light
fly at your Lord's command,
assist our song,
for else the theme
too high doth seem
for mortal tongue.**

**Ye blessèd souls at rest,
who ran this earthly race,
and now, from sin released,
behold your Saviour's face,
his praises sound,
as in his sight
with sweet delight
ye do abound.**

**Ye saints, who toil below,
adore your heavenly King,
and onward as ye go
some joyful anthem sing;
take what he gives
and praise him still,
through good and ill,
who ever lives.**

**My soul, bear thou thy part,
triumph in God above,
and with a well-tuned heart
sing thou the songs of love;
let all thy days
till life shall end,
whate'er he send,
be filled with praise.**

Words: Richard Baxter (1615-1691) and J. H. Gurney (1802-1862)

Music: Darwall's 148th

Prayers shall be offered, which may include a time of silent contemplation, or some act of remembrance. When planning an act of remembrance (eg. lighting votive candles etc.) it should be kept in mind that the main service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving for the Life of The Queen will take place at a later date, and so it is not desirable to include an act of remembrance that will be duplicated at that service.

The Service continues with the following prayer of commendation.

We commend Elizabeth, our Queen, to God,
as she journeys beyond our sight.
God of all consolation,
in your unending love and mercy you turn
the darkness of death
into the dawn of new life.

Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
by dying for us, conquered death,
and by rising again, restored life.

May we not be afraid of death but desire to be with Christ,
and after our life on earth,
to be with those we love,
where every tear is wiped away and all things are made new.
We ask this through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Gathering all our prayers into one,
as our Saviour has taught us, we pray,
**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Dismissal is offered

Now to the One who can keep us from falling
and set us in the presence of the divine glory,
jubilant and above reproach,
to the only God our Saviour,
be glory and majesty, might and authority,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
before all time, now and for evermore. **Amen.**

Or a priest may give a blessing if desired.

A hymn may be sung.



**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

Words: John Ellerton (1826-1893) Music: St Clement

It is appropriate that the people be allowed to depart in silence, although the Church should remain open for a time following the service to allow people to spend time in contemplation and prayer before leaving.

**AN ALTERNATE LITURGY FOR: AN EVENING SERVICE OF REFLECTION
FOR THE LIFE OF THE QUEEN**
(based on Night Prayer)

Where there is an organist present, hymns may be sung at appropriate points.

Invocation

The minister begins with this or some other appropriate Sentence and the opening responses.

I lie down in peace and take rest my rest
for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.

Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips,
that our mouths may proclaim your praise.

Let us worship the God of love.
Alleluia, alleluia.

The minister shall welcome the congregation, and shall make reference to the intention and purpose of the service.

The following prayer may be used.

Merciful and compassionate God,
we bring you our grief in the loss of Elizabeth, our Queen,
and ask for courage to bear it.
We bring you our thanks
for all you give us in those we love;
and we bring you our prayers for peace of heart
in the knowledge of your mercy and love,
in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Then shall be said or sung Psalm 23 in this or some other version (or some other Psalm in whole or part).

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 You Lord make me lie down in green pastures:
and lead me beside the waters of peace.
- 3 You revive my spirit:
and guide me in right pathways
for your name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for you are with me,
your rod and your staff are my comfort.
- 5 You spread a table for me
in the sight of my enemies:
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is overflowing.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

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.

The following or some other appropriate Reading follows.

Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

John 12: 23-26

The minister shall offer a Reflection or words appropriate to the occasion.

A Hymn shall be sung; this or some other; accompanied or unaccompanied.



**Tama ngākau mārie,
Tama a t'Atua,
Tēnei tonu mātou,
Arohaina mai.**

*Son of a peaceful heart,
Son of God,
here we are,
love us.*

**Murua rā ngā hara:
Wetekina mai
Ēnei here kino,
Whakararu nei.**

*Take away
our sins.
Undo these evil ties
which bind us.*

**Takahia ki raro,
Tāu e kino ai;
Kei pā kaha tonu
Ko ngā mahi hē.**

*Trample under foot
whatever is evil
lest the power remain
of the evil deeds.*

**Hōmai he aroha
Mōu i mate nei.
Tēnei rā, e Īhu,
Tākina e koe;**

*Give us love
for you who died.
This day, Jesus,
you lead us.*

**Tēnei arahina
A tutuki noa:
Putā i te pōuri,
Whiwhi hari nui.**

*This is the pathway
to the end
through the darkness
to receive great joy.*

**Tama ngākau mārie,
Tama a t'Atua,
Tēnei tonu mātou,
Arohaina mai.**

*Son of a peaceful heart,
Son of God,
here we are,
love us.*

Words: traditional Māori hymn Music: Tama ngākau mārie

The Prayers

Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O God of truth and love.

Keep me, O God, as the apple of an eye;
hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Then is said or sung the Nunc Dimittis with Antiphons in this or some other version.

Preserve us, O God, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep may rest in your peace.

Praise be to God, I have lived to see this day.
God's promise is fulfilled, and my duty done.
At last you have given me peace,
for I have seen with my own eyes
the salvation you have prepared for all nations -
a light to the world in its darkness,
and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory be God, sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying,
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever.
Amen.

Preserve us, O God, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep may rest in your peace.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

Prayers are offered, and may include the following prayer of commendation.

We commend Elizabeth, our Queen, to God,
as she journeys beyond our sight.
God of all consolation,
in your unending love and mercy you turn
the darkness of death
into the dawn of new life.

Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
by dying for us, conquered death,
and by rising again, restored life.

May we not be afraid of death but desire to be with Christ,
and after our life on earth,
to be with those we love,
where every tear is wiped away and all things are made new.
We ask this through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer is said.

As Christ teaches us we pray,

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The minister and people pray responsively.

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,
for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.

Let us bless the Earth-maker, the Pain-bearer, the Life-giver,
let us praise and exalt God above all for ever.

May God's name be praised beyond the furthest star,
glorified and exalted above all for ever.

One or both of the following is said, concluding with the Sentence of the Day and Final Versicle.

O living God, in Jesus Christ you were laid in the tomb at this evening hour, and so sanctified the grave to be a bed of hope to your people. Give us courage and faith to die daily to our sin and pride, that even as this flesh and blood decays, our lives still may grow in you, that at our last day our dying may be done so well that we live in you for ever. **Amen.**

And/Or

God our Creator, our centre, our friend,
we thank you for our good life,
for those who are dear to us,
for our dead, and for all who have helped and influenced us.
We thank you for the measure of freedom we have,
and the extent to which we control our lives;
and most of all we thank you for the faith that is in us,
for our awareness of you and our hope in you.
Keep us, we pray you, thankful and hopeful
and useful until our lives shall end. **Amen.**

Then continuing,

O God, strengthen your servants with your heavenly grace,
that we may continue yours for ever,
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more,
until we come to your everlasting kingdom.

The service concludes,

The divine Spirit dwells in us.
Thanks be to God.