

Parish of Central Exeter

**A Service of Spiritual Communion during the period of mourning
for the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.**

13th Sunday after Trinity, 11 September 2022.



Welcome

This service has been produced by the Church of England and I have adapted it for use as a Spiritual Communion.

‘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.’

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,
who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father.

We pray

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. Amen.

You might also wish to light a candle in her memory and as a prayer.

Almighty God,
you judge us with infinite mercy and justice
and love everything you have made.
In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life,
and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven;
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Confession

God has shone in our hearts
to give the light of the knowledge of his glory in the face of Christ.
But we have this treasure in earthen vessels
to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us.

As we acknowledge our human frailty,
we call to mind our sins of word, deed and omission, and confess them before
God our Father.

Silence is kept.

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart: Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May God our Father forgive us our sins
and bring us to the eternal joy of his kingdom, where dust and ashes have no
dominion. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

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. **Amen.**

READINGS

A reading from the book of 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.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading John 6: 35-40

Alleluia, alleluia.

‘It is the will of him who sent me’, says the Lord,

‘that I should lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up on the last day’.

Alleluia.

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYERS

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.

We pray for our Sovereign Lord the King
and all the Royal Family,

- that you might reassure them of your continuing love
- and lift them from the depths of grief
- into the peace and light of your presence.

God of mercy,

**entrusting into your hands all that you have made
and rejoicing in our communion with all your faithful people,
we make our prayers through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

A short Spiritual Communion

The Book of Common Prayer reminds us that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly 'eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ', even when we cannot receive the sacrament physically in ourselves.

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

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing
can separate me from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Giving thanks for Christ's death and resurrection you may wish to say

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen. *(after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester)*

Post-Communion Prayer

Father in Heaven, whose Church on earth is a sign of your heavenly peace,
an image of the new and eternal Jerusalem:
grant to us in the days of our pilgrimage that,
fed with the living bread of heaven
and united in the body of your Son,

we may be the temple of your presence,
the place of your glory on earth,
and a sign of your peace in the world;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn

'All my hope of God is founded'

Sung by the Choral Scholars of St Martin's in the Fields

Words are on screen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvrJpNAGVLc>

Closing Prayer and Benediction

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 among us and remain with us always.
Amen.

