

The  
United Religious and Military Orders  
of  
The Temple  
and of  
St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes, and Malta.

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Province of Worcestershire.

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Order of Festal Evensong

in the

Benedictine Abbey, Pershore,

on

Sunday, 24th May, 1936,

At 3-15 p.m.

THE UNITED RELIGIOUS AND MILITARY ORDERS OF  
THE TEMPLE AND OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM,  
PALESTINE, RHODES, AND MALTA.

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PROVINCE OF WORCESTERSHIRE.

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ORDER OF FESTAL EVENSONG IN THE  
BENEDICTINE ABBEY, PERSHORE,  
ON SUNDAY, THE 24th MAY, 1936, AT 3.15 P.M.

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The Provincial Prelates (Present and Past) shall enter with  
the Choir and Clergy and take their places in the Chancel.  
Then shall be sung the Hymn, "O Lord, how joyful 'tis to see."

*" Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is, brethren,  
to dwell together in unity! "*

O LORD, how joyful 'tis to see  
The brethren join in love to Thee!  
On Thee alone their hearts rely,  
Their only strength Thy grace supplies.

How sweet within Thy holy place  
With one accord to sing Thy grace,  
Besieging Thine attentive ear  
With all the force of fervent prayer!

O may we love the House of God,  
Of peace and joy the best abode;  
O may no angry strife destroy  
That sacred peace, that holy joy.

The world without may rage, but we  
Will only cling more close to Thee,  
With hearts to Thee more wholly given,  
More wean'd from earth, more fix'd on Heav'n.

Lord, shower upon us from above  
The sacred gift of mutual love;  
Each other's wants may we supply,  
And reign together in the sky.

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him, all creatures here below,  
Praise Him above, Angelic host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

During the singing of this hymn the Provincial Prior escorted  
by his Constables and the Sword, Standard and Banner Bearers,  
shall advance to the Chancel steps. The Sword and Standards  
shall then be carried to the Sanctuary where they shall be received  
by the Provincial Prelate, and by him be deposited in the places  
appointed. The Sword and Standard Bearers shall then rejoin  
the Provincial Prior.

## THE ORDER FOR EVENING PRAYER.

The Exhortation.

The General Confession.

The Absolution.

The Lord's Prayer.

The Versicles and Responses.

The Psalm CXXII.

I WAS glad when they said unto me: We will go into the house of the Lord.

Our feet shall stand in thy gates: O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city: that is at unity in itself.

For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord to testify unto Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of the Lord.

For there is the seat of judgement: even the seat of the house of David.

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee.

Peace be within thy walls: and plenteousness within thy palaces.

For my brethren and companions' sakes. I will wish thee prosperity.

Yea, because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do thee good.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Then shall the Provincial Prior be conducted to the Lectern and read the Lesson (Ephesians vi., 10-17).

The "Nunc Dimittis."

The Apostle's Creed.

The Lord's Prayer.

The Versicles and Responses.

The Collects.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE ORDER.

O MERCIFUL LORD, grant Thy holy protection and salutary blessing to this Order. Enlighten its members with the rays of Thy brightness, that they may see the just ways of our Heavenly Captain, and may by their example induce the companions committed to their charge so as to follow them through the wilderness of temptation that, having overcome the enemies of Thy Holy Name, they may finally arrive at the Heavenly Jerusalem, armed with the Shield of Faith, and the Breastplate of Righteousness, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

O MERCIFUL REDEEMER of perishing mankind, who hast promised that Thou wouldst be in the midst of those assembled in Thy Holy Name; look down upon us, Thy humble servants, with an eye of tender compassion; and so direct us that our labours may be begun, continued, and ended in love to Thee, affection to our companions, protection to the distressed, and obedience to our Order; and this we ask, O Lord, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

The Prayer for the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

The Prayer for the Empire.

Then shall be sung the Hymn "Soldiers who are Christ's below."

*"To him that overcometh."*

SOLDIERS, who are Christ's below,  
Strong in faith resist the foe:  
Boundless is the pledg'd reward  
Unto them who serve the Lord.

'Tis no palm of fading leaves  
That the conqueror's hand receives;  
Joys are his, serene and pure,  
Light that ever shall endure.

For the souls that overcome  
Waits the beauteous heavenly home,  
Where the Blessèd evermore  
Tread, on high, the starry floor.

Passing soon and little worth  
Are the things that tempt on earth:  
Heavenward lift thy soul's regard;  
God Himself is thy Reward.

Father, Who the crown dost give,  
Saviour, by Whose Death we live,  
Spirit, Who our hearts dost raise,  
Three in One, Thy Name we praise. Amen.

Then shall the Provincial Prelate be conducted to the Pulpit and address the Congregation.

*"Compass'd about with so great a cloud of witnesses."*

FOR all the Saints who from their labours rest,  
Who Thee by faith before the world confess'd,  
Thy Name, O Jesu, be for ever blest.  
Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might;  
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;  
Thou in the darkness drear their one true Light.  
Alleluia!

O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,  
Fight as the Saints who nobly fought of old,  
And win, with them, the victor's crown of gold.  
Alleluia!

O blest communion! fellowship Divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.  
Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph-song,  
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.  
Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;  
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;  
Sweet is the calm of Paradise the blest.  
Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;  
The Saints triumphant rise in bright array:  
The King of glory passes on His way.  
Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host  
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia! Amen.

During the singing of the hymn the Alms will be collected in aid of the Abbey Restoration Fund, and received by the Past Great Almoner.

Then shall the Benediction be pronounced by the Provincial Prelate.

#### 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! Amen.

At the conclusion of the National Anthem the Sword and Standard Bearer shall repair to the Sanctuary and receive again the Sword and Standards from the Prelate, and shall remain facing East until the Procession of the Clergy shall have left the Chancel. Then shall they turn about and escort the Provincial Prior to the Transept, the Sub-Prior following with the Great Officers, and the Present Officers of Provincial Priory.

*All other Knights shall remain in their places until the Procession has passed.*