

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATED MASONIC LODGES  
GROUP 4

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# Form of Service

FOR FREEMASONS  
and their friends

IN THE

**Parish Church, Halesowen**

*By kind permission of*

THE RECTOR, THE REV. J. C. WILLIAMS, M.A.

— ON —

SUNDAY, MAY 3rd, 1959

at 3.0 p.m.

*Conducted by*

**THE RECTOR**

**THE REV. J. C. WILLIAMS, M.A.**

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*Address will be given by*

**The Venerable A. V. HURLEY, C.B.E., M.A.**

The Archdeacon of Dudley

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*Organist: WOR. BRO. W. FAIRHURST*

# ORDER OF SERVICE

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

A. & M. 298

*All*

Praise my Soul the King of Heaven,  
To His feet Thy tribute bring;  
Ransom'd, heal'd, restored, forgiven,  
Evermore His praises sing;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise the everlasting King.

*Choir only*

Father-like, He tends and spares us,  
Well our feeble frame He knows,  
In His Hands He gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Widely yet His mercy flows.

*All*

Praise Him for His grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise Him still the same as ever,  
Slow to chide and swift to bless;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Glorious in His faithfulness.

*All*

Angel, in the height adore Him;  
Y behold Him face to face;  
Saints triumphant, bow before Him,  
Gather'd in from every race;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of Grace.

Amen.

## OPENING HYMN

*(Sung by Freemasons only)*

Hail Eternal! by whose aid  
All created things were made,  
Heaven and Earth Thy vast design;  
Hear us Architect Divine.

May our work begun in Thee  
Ever blest with order be,  
And may we, when labours cease,  
Part in harmony and peace.

By Thy Glorious Majesty,  
By the trust we place in Thee,  
By the badge and mystic sign  
Hear us Architect Divine.

So mote it be.

WOR. BRO. VENERABLE A. V. HURLEY :

Brethren, we are met together this day in the Presence of Almighty God, the Great Architect of the Universe, to seek the aid of our Heavenly Master, in all our undertakings, and to strengthen the sacred ties which bind us to our Order and to one another. It is no light matter for weak and sinful men deliberately to place themselves in the Presence of the Most High God; let us therefore kneel in all humility and penitence, while we invoke the blessing of His Most Holy Spirit.

LET US PRAY

(*All kneel*)

Almighty and Eternal God, Architect and Ruler of the Universe, at Whose creative Fiat all things first were made, we the frail creatures of Thy Providence humbly implore Thee to pour down upon this convocation, assembled in Thy Holy Name, the continual dew of Thy Blessing; especially we beseech Thee to impart Thy grace to us Thy servants, that, being led by Thy Holy Spirit, we may unfold the mysteries of true Godliness; and, being fitly joined together in unity and love, we may be built up as living stones into a spiritual House, meet for Thy Habitation. All this we beg in the Name and Meditation of Jesus Christ, our most blessed Lord and Master, Who taught us thus to pray;

*All:* Our Father, which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that 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.

*Chaplain:* O Lord, open Thou our eyes.

*All:* And our mouths shall show forth Thy praise.

*Chaplain:* O God, make speed to save us.

*All:* O Lord, make haste to help us.

(*All stand*)

*Chaplain:* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

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

Amen.

*Chaplain:* Praise ye the Lord.

*All:* The Lord's Name be praised.

1st LESSON

1 Chronicles XXIX, verses 10-20

Read by Wor. Brother H. G. PINNER, J.P., P.P.G.D., P.M., 5407 and 6356.

PSALM 121

(Sung by all)

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills: from whence cometh my help.  
My help cometh even from the Lord; who hath made heaven and earth.  
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel: shall neither slumber nor sleep.  
The Lord himself is thy keeper: the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;  
So that the sun shall not burn thee by day: neither the moon by night.  
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in: from this time forth for evermore.

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.

2nd LESSON

1 Cor. III, 9 to end

Read by THE RECTOR, THE REV. J. C. WILLIAMS, M.A.

(In a modern translation)

Brethren, in our work we work with God, that means that we are like a house being built to His plan. I, like a wise Master Builder, by the grace God has given me, lay the foundation, others build upon it—but whoever builds up on it, let him be careful how he builds, for no one can lay any other foundation than the one that is already there, namely Jesus Christ.

On this foundation, different men will build with different materials—gold, silver, precious stone, wood, hay, or stubble—but each must know that one day his work will be seen for what it is; it is the Day of the Lord that will disclose it.

For that Day will arise in a blast of fire, and the fire will prove the nature of each man's work; if the superstructure he has erected stands firm under the test, he will receive his reward; but if it is destroyed, he will lose it all, and, if he himself escapes, it will only be through the flames of the burning building.

Do you not know that you are the Temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells within you? God will destroy anyone who defiles His Temple, for His Temples are holy—and that is what you are!

Make no mistake: if any one of you thinks himself to be a man of the world, and a clever fellow, let him become a fool in order to be truly wise. For this world's cleverness is folly in the sight of God, as witness these two sentences from Scriptures:

"He outwits the clever in their cunning," and again:

"The Lord knows the arguments of the clever ones, and how foolish they are."

You must not then boast of belonging to any mortal man, for all things belong to you—the world, life, death, the present and the future, all are yours; for you belong to Christ, and Christ to God.

## HYMN

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;    Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
He makes me down to lie    Yet will I fear none ill:  
In pastures green; He leadeth me    For Thou art with me, and Thy rod  
The quiet waters by.    And staff me comfort still.

My soul He doth restore again,    My table Thou hast furnishèd  
And me to walk doth make    In presence of my foes;  
Within the paths of righteousness,    My head Thou dost with oil anoint,  
Ev'n for His own name's sake.    And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
Shall surely follow me,  
And in God's house for evermore.  
My dwelling-place shall be.    Amen.

## THE PRAYERS

THE RECTOR *will then say*:

### The Collect for Rogation Sunday.

We beseech Thee, Almighty God, mercifully to look upon Thy people; that by Thy great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore, both in body and soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*So mote it be.*

### For the Queen, and all who are set in authority under Her.

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, we humbly beseech Thee to bless our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth, the Parliaments in all her dominions, and all who are set in authority under her; that they may order all things in wisdom, righteousness, and peace, to the honour of Thy Holy Name, and the good of Thy Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Master.

*So mote it be.*

WOR. BRO. THE VENERABLE A. V. HURLEY *will then say*:

### For our Order.

Most Holy and Glorious Lord God, Great and Mighty Father of all men, we Thy humble servants desire to approach Thee with all reverence, to invoke Thy blessing upon our Masonic Order; especially we beseech Thee to pour the abundance of Thy grace upon our Grand Master and Provincial Grand Master, upon their Deputies and Assistants, and upon the Masters of our several Lodges; fill their hearts, we pray Thee, with Thy fear and love, and make them steadfast in Thy service, that they may be examples to us all, that we need not hesitate to follow; so may we all, by our life and conversation, ever promote the Honour and Glory of Thy Most Holy Name.

*So mote it be.*

### For the Royal Masonic Institutions for Girls and for Boys.

We supplicate the continuance of Thine aid, Almighty Father, on behalf of our Schools for Girls and Boys; prosper with Thy blessing the teachers and scholars; and grant that as the minds of Thy children are enlightened with worldly knowledge, so their hearts may be daily drawn by Thy Holy Spirit to a deeper love and fuller knowledge of Thee, Who art the Eternal Wisdom.

*So mote it be.*

### For the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

Most merciful Father, bless, we beseech Thee, Thine aged servants who pass their latter days in our Homes, or assisted by our Brotherhood; give them a clear knowledge of Thy love, and a sure faith in Thy mercy; let not their minds be clouded by doubt or darkness, but may their path be as the shining light, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day; and, at the last, may each pass joyfully from the weakness and weariness of this life to the peace and rest of Paradise; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Master.

*So mote it be.*

### For the Royal Masonic Hospital.

Almighty God, Whose blessed Son Jesus Christ went about doing good and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people: Continue, we beseech Thee this His gracious work among us, especially in our own Masonic Hospital; cheer, heal, and sanctify the sick; grant to the physicians, surgeons, and nurses wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience; and send down Thy Blessing on all who labour to prevent suffering and to forward Thy purposes of Love; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Master.

*So mote it be.*

**Thanksgiving to God for all His Blessings to Masonry, and for  
our illustrious predecessors, who passed on to us the Light.**

*By all Freemasons.*

O Lord God Most High, Father of Light, Maker and Builder of every House not made with hands: We give Thee thanks for all the members of our Ancient and Honourable Institution Who have served Thee with fruitful labour in diffusing Light and Knowledge, And in the increase of Wisdom, Strength and Beauty; As Thou didst enable them to add their share to Thy work, Wrought out by many hands from age to age, So teach and strengthen us, we pray Thee, To do Thy will in the task which Thou hast given to us in this our generation; And grant that with them we may find That which we have lost, And enter with Joy into the consummation of Thy Perfect Plan, Through the assistance of our Great Master, Jesus Christ; to Whom with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. So mote it be.

HYMN

A. & M. No. 160

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!  
 Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee:  
 Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!  
 God in Three Persons, Blessèd Trinity!

Holy, Holy, Holy! all the Saints adore Thee,  
 Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
 Cherubim and Seraphim falling down before Thee,  
 Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, Holy, Holy! though the darkness hide Thee,  
 Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,  
 Only Thou art Holy, there is none beside Thee  
 Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!  
 All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea:  
 Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!  
 God in Three Persons, Blessèd Trinity. Amen.

ADDRESS

by the WOR. BRO. THE VENERABLE A. V. HURLEY

WOR. BRO. THE VENERABLE A. V. HURLEY *will then say:*

Consecrate, O Lord, in the heart of every Brother a hidden Sanctuary,  
 wherein Thou alone mayest enter; where secret sacrifices are offered up, which  
 no man knoweth, but Thou alone; to the Glory of Thy Name.

*So mote it be.*

HYMN

A. & M. No. 161

*During this Hymn, a collection will be made for the interior of Parish Church*

*All*

Bright the vision that delighted  
 Once the sight of Judah's seer;  
 Sweet the countless tongues united  
 To entrance the prophet's ear.

*All*

Round the Lord in glory seated  
 Cherubim and Seraphim  
 Fill'd His temple, and repeated  
 Each to each th' alternate hymn;

*Choir only*

"Lord Thy glory fills the Heaven;  
 Earth is with its fullness stored;  
 Unto Thee be glory given,  
 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord."

*All*

Heav'n is still with glory ringing,  
 Earth takes up the Angels' cry,  
 "Holy, Holy, Holy,"—singing,  
 "Lord of hosts, The Lord most  
 High."

*Choir only*

With His seraph train before Him,  
 With His holy Church below,  
 Thus unite we to adore Him,  
 Bid we thus our anthem flow;

*All*

"Lord, Thy glory fills the Heaven;  
 Earth is with its fullness stored;  
 Unto Thee be glory given,  
 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord." Amen.

THE RECTOR *will then say:*

THE MOSAIC BENEDICTION

*(All kneel)*

Unto God's gracious mercy  
and protection we commit you:  
The Lord bless you, and keep you;  
The Lord make His Face to shine  
upon you, and be gracious unto you;  
The Lord lift up the light of His Countenance  
upon you, and give you His Peace;  
This day and for ever more.

*So mote it be.*

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

*(1st Verse)*

CLOSING HYMN

*(Sung by Freemasons only)*

Now the evening shadows closing,      God of life, whose love unceasing,  
Worn from toil to peaceful rest,      Doth to all Thy works extend,  
Mystic arts and rites reposing,      Crown our Order with Thy blessing;  
Sacred in each faithful breast,      Build, sustain us to the end.

Humbly now we bow before Thee,  
Grateful for Thy aid divine,  
Everlasting power and glory,  
Mighty Architect be Thine.

*So mote it be.*