

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL



MASONIC BENEVOLENT FESTIVAL SERVICE

SUNDAY 25 JUNE 1950 11 A.M.

¶ *The clergy and choir having taken their places, the congregation will be seated while the choir sings—*

BLESSED are they that always keep judgment, and do righteousness. They always are blessed. *Wesley*

¶ *Then shall the congregation stand and sing*

HYMN

SOLDIERS of Christ, arise,
And put your armour on,
Strong in the strength which God supplies,
Through his eternal Son.
From strength to strength go on,
Wrestle and fight and pray;
Tread all the powers of darkness down,
And win the well-fought day;

Strong in the Lord of Hosts,
And in his mighty power
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts
Is more than conqueror.
That, having all things done,
And all your conflicts past,
Ye may obtain, through Christ alone,
A crown of joy at last.

Stand then in his great might,
With all his strength endued;
And take, to arm you for the fight,
The panoply of God.
Jesu, eternal Son,
We praise thee and adore,
Who art with God the Father one
And Spirit evermore.

¶ *Then shall the Minister say—*

Let us humbly confess our sins to almighty God.

¶ *Then shall all kneel and say together this General Confession—*

ALmighty and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; To the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

¶ *Then shall the Priest pronounce the Absolution—*

MAY the Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

¶ *Then shall all say together the Lord's Prayer—*

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.

Minister O Lord, open thou our lips;
People And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
Minister O God, make speed to save us;
People O Lord, make haste to help us.

¶ *Then, all standing, the Minister shall say—*

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

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

Minister Praise ye the Lord;

People The Lord's name be praised.

THE PSALMS

Lord, who shall dwell in thy tabernacle: or who shall rest upon thy holy hill?

Even he, that leadeth an uncorrupt life: and doeth the thing which is right, and speaketh the truth from his heart.

He that hath used no deceit in his tongue nor done evil to his neighbour: and hath not slandered his neighbour.

He that setteth not by himself, but is lowly in his own eyes: and maketh much of them that fear the Lord

He that sweareth unto his neighbour, and disappointeth him not: though it were to his own hindrance.

He that hath not given his money upon usury: nor taken reward against the innocent.

Whoso doeth these things shall never fall.

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.

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

It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down unto the beard: even unto Aaron's beard, and went down to the skirts of his clothing.

Like as the dew of Hermon: which fell upon the hill of Sion.

For there the Lord promised his blessing: and life 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.

THE FIRST LECTION

¶ *Then shall be read by W. Bro. Canon J. E. W. WALLIS, P.P.G. Chaplain (E. Lancs.), from the Volume of the Sacred Law,*

Ezekiel XXXVII, 1—14

¶ *Then shall be sung, to the setting in C by Stanford,*

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS

THE SECOND LECTION

¶ *Then shall be read by V.W. Bro. Prebendary A. T. S. TALBOT, P.G. Chaplain (England), from the Volume of the Sacred Law,*

I Corinthians XII, 27 to end, and XIII

¶ *Then shall be sung, to the setting in C by Stanford,*

JUBILATE

¶ *Then shall be said by all*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried, He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the Life everlasting. Amen.

¶ *Then shall all kneel, and the Minister shall say*

A PRAYER FOR THE KING

ALMIGHTY God, the fountain of all goodness, we pray thee to bless our Sovereign Lord, King George, the Parliaments in all his Dominions, and all who are set in authority under him; that they may order all things in wisdom, righteousness, and peace, to thy honour of thy holy name, and the good of thy Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE CRAFT

ALMIGHTY Architect, at whose creative fiat all things were made, whom heaven and earth cannot comprehend, who yet dost deign to have tabernacles and temples amongst men; thou who art the Beginning and the End, whose aid we ever implore on all our lawful undertakings; look down from heaven and impart thy grace to this congregation assembled in thy holy name to worship thee in the beauty of holiness, to supplicate thine assistance, and to praise thee for thy mercies.

May the principle of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth be ever upheld and promoted in and through our Craft. May Prudence direct us; Temperance restrain us; Fortitude support us; and Justice be the guide of all our actions. Of thine infinite mercy, give us Wisdom in all our doings; Strength of Mind in all our difficulties; and endow us with the Beauty of Love and Harmony in all our communications: that so we may the better be enabled to unfold the beauties of true godliness, to the honour and glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. So mote it be.

A THANKSGIVING

O GOD of all power and wisdom and goodness, accept our praise and thanksgivings for the mercies which thou hast granted to us in the past, the mighty deliverances in times of national peril, and the guidance and blessing through all the centuries of our history. Continue Thy goodness to us, we beseech Thee, in the days to come. Grant us grace to be neither unworthy of Thy help nor unthankful for Thy blessings; for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

¶ *Then shall the congregation be seated, and the choir shall sing*

THE ANTHEM

Haydn

ACHIEVED is the glorious work; our song let be the praise of God.

Glory to his name for ever. He sole, on high, exalted reigns. Hallelujah!

¶ *Then shall the congregation stand and sing*

HYMN

THROUGH all the changing scenes of life,	O magnify the Lord with me,
In trouble and in joy,	With me exalt his name;
The praises of my God shall still	When in distress to him I called,
My heart and tongue employ.	He to my rescue came.

The hosts of God encamp around
The dwellings of the just ;
Deliverance he affords to all
Who on his succour trust.

O make but trial of his love :
Experience will decide
How blest are they, and only they,
Who in his truth confide.

Fear him, ye saints, and you will then
Have nothing else to fear ;
Make you his service your delight,
Your wants shall be his care.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom we adore,
Be glory, as it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

¶ *Then shall W. Bro. EDWARD S. WOODS, D.D., P.P.G. Chaplain (Surrey), Bishop of Lichfield, bid the people to prayer as follows—*

THE BIDDING

YOU shall pray for the King's Most Excellent Majesty, and for his Most Gracious Consort our Queen ; for the Parliaments in his Dominions ; for the Prime Minister ; for all Ministers of the Crown ; and for the Local Authorities set under our Sovereign Lord the King in this Diocese, especially for the Mayor and Corporation of this City.

YOU shall pray for God's stricken world ; for unity and high intent among the rulers and statesmen of all peoples ; for the hungry, the homeless, and the exiled ; for those who by counsel and action are striving to help and save them, and to heal the wounds of the Nations.

AND you shall also pray for the Antient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, especially for the Most Worshipful the Grand Master and his officers, and, as in private duty bound, for the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire, and for all brethren and Lodges throughout this Province, that brotherly love, relief, and truth may prevail among them, and that the Order may ever remain dedicated to the faith and service of the true and living God most high.

YOU shall pray also for the Church of Christ, that is for the blessed company of all faithful people, throughout the world ; that they may be one, as at the beginning, in faith and love. And herein you are bidden specially to pray for the Bishop of this Diocese, for the Dean and Chapter and all who serve this cathedral Church ; that they may minister faithfully in their several vocations, and show forth God's honour and glory in their worship, their witness, and their work.

AND these our prayers we now offer to God our Father in the words our Saviour Christ taught us—

OUR FATHER for ever and ever. Amen.

¶ *Then shall the Bishop of Lichfield give*

THE ADDRESS

¶ *Then shall the congregation stand and sing*

HYMN

PRAISE to the Lord, the Almighty, the
King of creation,
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health
and salvation :
All ye who hear,
Now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so
wondrously reigneth,
Shieldeth thee gently from harm, or when
fainting sustaineth :
Hast thou not seen
How thy heart's wishes have been
Granted in what he ordaineth ?

Praise to the Lord, who dost prosper thy
work and defend thee ;
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily
attend thee :
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do,
If to the end he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord ! O let all that is in me
adore him !
All that hath life and breath, come now with
praises before him !
Let the Amen
Sound from his people again :
Gladly for ay we adore him.

¶ *The congregation will kneel for*

THE BLESSING

The offerings of the congregation will be given to the 1951 Benevolent Festival Fund