



Order of Service for
THE UNVEILING AND DEDICATION
of
THE
BATTLE *of* BRITAIN
CHAPEL

IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY

JULY 10th, 1947

at 12 noon



ORDER OF SERVICE

While the congregation is assembling the Central Band of the Royal Air Force, conducted by Wing-Commander R. P. O'Donnell, M.V.O., will play the following music :

PRELUDE	}	.. .. .	}	Henry Purcell
MINUET				(arranged by
VIVACE.				Sir Henry J. Wood)
SURSUM CORDA	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	Sir Edward Elgar
CHORALE		" Jesu, joy of man's desiring "		J. S. Bach
SELECTIONS FROM THE WATER MUSIC	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	Handel
BENEDICTUS	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	Sir Alexander C. Mackenzie

The Fanfares played during the Service were composed by Arthur Bliss and R. P. O'Donnell.

The Dean and Chapter of Westminster and other members of the Collegiate Body together with the Archbishop of Canterbury will await the members of the Royal Family in the Nave.

The Central Band of the Royal Air Force will play
THE ROYAL AIR FORCE MARCH PAST
by Sir H. Walford Davies

On the arrival of Their Majesties THE KING and QUEEN there shall be sounded

A FANFARE

Whereupon the Processions shall move eastward in the following order :

PROCESSION OF
THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Verger
The Chaplain in Chief of the Royal Air Force
The Cross of Canterbury
The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury
The Archbishop's Chaplains

PROCESSION OF
THE COLLEGIATE BODY OF ST. PETER
IN WESTMINSTER

The Beadle bearing the Mace
The Cross of Westminster
The Banner of St. Edward, King and Confessor
King's Scholars
The Master of the King's Scholars
The Head Master
The Choir Beadle
The Banner of St. Oswald
The Bearer of the Book
The Precentor of Westminster
The Choristers
The Lay Vicars
The Sub-Sacrist
The Banner of St. Martin
The Minor Canons of Westminster
The Canons' Verger
The Canons of Westminster
The King's Almsmen
The Sacrist bearing the Cross of Ivory
The Dean's Verger
The Dean of Westminster

THE QUEEN THE KING

Princess Margaret Queen Mary Princess Elizabeth
The Duchess of Gloucester The Duke of Gloucester
The Marquess of Carisbrooke The Duchess of Kent
The High Bailiff The High Steward
The Chapter Clerk
Suites in Attendance
The Banner of the Patron The Banner of Our Lady

As the Processions move to the Sacrarium the following psalms shall be sung :

PSALM 124. *Nisi quia Dominus*

IF the Lord himself had not been on our side, now may Israel say : if the Lord himself had not been on our side, when men rose up against us ;
They had swallowed us up quick : when they were so wrathfully displeased at us.

Yea, the waters had drowned us : and the stream had gone over our soul.

The deep waters of the proud : had gone even over our soul.

But praised be the Lord : who hath not given us over for a prey unto their teeth.

Our soul is escaped even as a bird out of the snare of the fowler : the snare is broken, and we are delivered.

Our help standeth in the Name of the Lord : who hath made heaven and earth.

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.

PSALM 126. *In convertendo*

WHEN the Lord turned again the captivity of Sion : then were we like unto them that dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter : and our tongue with joy.

Then said they among the heathen : The Lord hath done great things for them.

Yea, the Lord hath done great things for us already : whereof we rejoice.

Turn our captivity, O Lord : as the rivers in the south.

They that sow in tears : shall reap in joy.

He that now goeth on his way weeping, and beareth forth good seed : shall doubtless come again with joy, and bring his sheaves with him.

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 Ensign of the Royal Air Force be presented by the Colour Party to the Dean, who shall lay it upon the High Altar.

Whereupon a Fanfare shall be sounded, and all shall sing

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Then, all kneeling, the Precentor shall say :

Let us pray
Lord, have mercy upon us
Christ, have mercy upon us
Lord, have mercy upon us

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.

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

Here, all standing up, the Precentor shall say :

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.*

Praise ye the Lord
The Lord's Name be praised

Then shall be sung this hymn following :

ALL people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice ;
Him serve with fear, His praise forthtell,
Come ye before Him, and rejoice.

For why, the Lord our God is good :
His mercy is for ever sure ;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the angel-host
Be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

The congregation being seated, the Chaplain in Chief of the Royal Air Force shall read the LESSON taken from the thirty-seventh chapter of the Book of the prophet Isaiah :

HEZEKIAH went up unto the house of the Lord and prayed unto the Lord saying :

O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth : thou hast made heaven and earth.

Incline thine ear, O Lord, and hear ; open thine eyes, O Lord, and see : and hear all the words of Sennachérib, which hath sent to reproach the living God.

Of a truth, Lord, the Kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations and their countries, and have cast their gods into the fire : for they were no gods but the work of men's hands, wood and stone : therefore they have destroyed them.

Now therefore, O Lord our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the Lord, even thou only.

Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent unto Hezekiah, saying,

Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Whereas thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria : This is the word which the Lord hath spoken concerning him ; The virgin, the daughter of Zion, hath despised thee, and laughed thee to scorn ; the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee. Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed ? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high ? even against the Holy One of Israel.

Because thy rage against me, and thy tumult, is come up into mine ears, therefore will I put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest.

Therefore thus saith the Lord concerning the King of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shields, nor cast a bank against it.

By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the Lord.

The Lesson ended, the congregation shall stand and sing this hymn following :

Ⓞ GOD, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of thy throne
Thy Saints have dwelt secure ;
Sufficient is thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guide while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

Then the Precentor shall say :

The Lord be with you

And with thy spirit

Let us pray

Ⓞ GOD, who didst move thy servant King Edward the Confessor to build here an house to the honour of thy Majesty, and didst enthrone him in the hearts of the English people ; mercifully grant to our King and Queen that as they received their earthly crowns in this, the place of his burial, so they, ever possessing the hearts of their people, may with him attain unto an heavenly crown, through Him who is the only Potentate and King of Kings, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, the physician of men and nations, the restorer of the years that have been destroyed ; look upon the distractions of the world, and complete the work of thy healing hand ; draw all men unto thee and one to another by the bands of thy love ; make thy Church one, and fill it with thy Spirit, that by thy power it may unite the world in a sacred brotherhood of nations, wherein justice, mercy and faith, truth and freedom may flourish, and thou mayest be ever glorified : through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty God, whose love is over all thy works in this and every world ; into thy hands we commit the souls of those whom thou hast taken into the world of light ; beseeching thee to grant unto them the unutterable joys of thine eternal Kingdom, and unto all who mourn them grace to abide thy will in fortitude of spirit and in perfect faith ; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The congregation shall then be seated while the Choir sing the Motet composed for the occasion by Ralph Vaughan Williams, O.M., D.Mus.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them.

In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die, and their departure is taken for misery, and their going from us to be utter destruction, but they are in peace. For though they be punished in the sight of men, yet is their hope full of immortality.

And having been a little chastised, they shall be greatly rewarded.

For God proved them, and found them worthy for himself.

Wisdom III, 1-5.

His Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury shall then be conducted by the Dean's Verger to the pulpit for

THE ADDRESS

THE HALLOWING OF THE MEMORIAL

The Address ended, all shall stand while His Majesty the King, with the Queen and other members of the Royal Family, passes the Shrine of St. Edward into the Chapel of King Henry VII, escorted by the Dean and Chapter, other members of the Collegiate Body, the Archbishop of Canterbury and high officers of the Royal Air Force.

Meanwhile shall be sung the hymn following :

IMMORTAL, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

To all life thou givest—to both great and small ;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all ;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish—but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of Glory, pure Father of Light,
Thine Angels adore thee, all veiling their sight ;
All laud we would render : O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

THE KING'S CHARGE

Arrived at the East End of the Abbey, His Majesty the King, standing before the entrance to the easternmost Chapel, shall give his charge as followeth :

WITH PROUD THANKSGIVING WE ORDAIN
THAT THIS CHAPEL BE SET APART FOR ALL
TIME AS A MEMORIAL OF THE MEN OF THE
FLYING FORCES WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN
THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN, AND WE CHARGE
YOU, MR. DEAN, TO DEDICATE IT AND THE
GIFTS WHEREWITH IT IS ADORNED TO THE
WORSHIP OF ALMIGHTY GOD.

THE DEDICATION

Then shall the Dean say :

Ⓞ GOD, who dwellest not in temples made with hands, yet hast suffered holy places to be dedicated to thy service ; we thank thee for the beauty of this place, and for the skill and care of those who have adorned and furnished it. We pray that all who seek thy Presence here may find thee and be found of thee, and go forth in peace to serve thee truly all the days of their life : through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BY VIRTUE OF THE SACRED OFFICE IN THE CHURCH OF GOD COMMITTED UNTO US, WE SET APART THIS CHAPEL AS A SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE IN GRATEFUL RECOLLECTION OF GOD'S ABOUNDING MERCY, AND NOW DEDICATE IT IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY GHOST. Amen.

Then shall the King unveil the Roll of Honour

Thereupon the sounding of the Call of the Royal Air Force from the steps of King Henry VII's Chapel shall proclaim the opening of the Battle of Britain Chapel to the congregation assembled throughout the Abbey.

While the King and his attendants return to their places in the Sanctuary, the Central Band of the Royal Air Force shall play

" NIMROD " (from the " Enigma Variations ")

by Sir Edward Elgar, O.M.

THE THANKSGIVING

Then shall the whole congregation lift up their hearts and sing :

PRAISE, my soul, the King of Heaven ;
To his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me his praise should sing ?
Praise him ! Praise him ! Praise him ! Praise him !
Praise the everlasting King.

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,
Praise him ! Praise him ! Praise him ! Praise him !
Glorious in his faithfulness.

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.
Praise him ! Praise him ! Praise him ! Praise him !
Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels help us to adore him ;
Ye behold him face to face ;
Sun and moon, bow down before him ;
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him ! Praise him ! Praise him ! Praise him !
Praise with us the God of grace.

The congregation still standing, the Dean shall say :

Let us crown this our act of remembrance and of praise by offering to Almighty God ourselves, our souls and bodies, saying with one voice :

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, We thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us, and to all men ; We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life ; But above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives ; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days ; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

Then, all kneeling, the Dean shall pronounce

THE BLESSING

The Ensign of the Royal Air Force shall then be returned by the Dean to the Colour Party.

The "CROWN IMPERIAL" March by William Walton shall be played.

The Processions, ordered as before, shall move towards the Great West Door.

And the bells of the Abbey shall ring.

The congregation are requested to remain in their places until directed by the Stewards to leave.