

Westminster Abbey



Service

attended by
the Lord Chancellor
and Secretary of State for Justice,
the Lord Chief Justice,
the President and Justices
of the Supreme Court,
and other Judges and Members
of the Legal Profession

Thursday 1st October 2015
11.30 am

The service is sung by the Choir of Westminster Abbey, directed by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers.

The organ is played by Daniel Cook, Sub-Organist.

Music before the service:

*Fantasia super Komm, Heiliger Geist,
Herre Gott BWV 651*

*Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)*

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ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand for the Procession.

All sit when the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice, the Heads of Divisions, and the Justices of the Supreme Court have taken their seats. The remaining members of the procession enter, taking their seats upon reaching their places.

All stand as the Collegiate Procession moves to places in the Quire and Sacrarium.

All remain standing. The Choir sings

THE INTROIT

PREVENT us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favour, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and finally by thy mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

William Byrd (c 1540–1623)

Collect for Holy Communion

All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, gives

THE BIDDING

AT the beginning of the legal year, we gather in the presence of almighty God, who is the judge of all and who knows the secrets of our hearts, to renew our commitment to the service of the Crown and of all the people in the cause of justice.

We acknowledge our high calling to reflect the justice and mercy of God. We seek God's strength and guidance that we might remain true to the highest legal traditions, subtle as we apply ourselves to the causes before us, and wise as we influence the development of the law.

We pray for the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, The Right Honourable Michael Gove MP, for The Right Honourable The Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, and for all who make and administer the law, both in the United Kingdom and in the European Union, and in the other legal jurisdictions represented here today.

We ask God to sustain us in our duties, to grant us humility and sound judgement, to forgive our errors, and to inspire us in our service. Here on earth may we serve more faithfully that heavenly justice in which alone we can in the end trust.

So let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom on earth, saying, as Jesus taught us:

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who 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.

All sit. The Right Honourable Michael Gove MP, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, reads

verses from DEUTERONOMY 10 and 17

SO now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? Only to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord your God and his decrees that I am commanding you today, for your own well-being. Although heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to the Lord your God, the earth also, with all that is in it. The Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them with

food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, 'I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me', you may indeed set over you a king whom the Lord your God will choose. Even so, he must not acquire many horses for himself; also silver and gold he must not acquire in great quantity for himself. When he has taken the throne of his kingdom, he shall have a copy of this law written for him in the presence of the levitical priests. It shall remain with him and he shall read in it all the days of his life, so that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, diligently observing all the words of this law and these statutes, neither exalting himself above other members of the community nor turning aside from the commandment, either to the right or to the left, so that he and his descendants may reign long over his kingdom in Israel.

All stand to sing

THE HYMN



JUDGE eternal, throned in splendour,
Lord of lords and King of kings,
with thy living fire of judgement
purge this realm of bitter things:
solace all its wide dominion
with the healing of thy wings.

Still the weary folk are pining
for the hour that brings release:
and the city's crowded clangour
cries aloud for sin to cease;
and the homesteads and the woodlands
plead in silence for their peace.

Crown, O God, thine own endeavour;
cleave our darkness with thy sword;
feed the faithless and the hungry
with the richness of thy word:
cleanse the body of this nation
through the glory of the Lord.

Rhuddlan 490 NEH
from Edward Jones' Musical Relicks of Welsh Bards 1800

Henry Holland (1847–1918)

All sit. The Right Honourable The Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, reads

ST LUKE 10: 25–37

JUST then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he said, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What do you read there?’ He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.’ And he said to him, ‘You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.’ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbour?’ Jesus replied, ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, “Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.” Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’

All remain seated. The Choir sings

THE ANTHEM

MY soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

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.

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924) Magnificat in A

THE SERMON

by

The Reverend Robin Griffith-Jones
Master of The Temple

All stand to sing

THE HYMN



LOVE of the Father, love of God the Son,
from whom all came, in whom was all begun;
who formest heavenly beauty out of strife,
creation's whole desire and breath of life.

Spirit all-holy, thou supreme in might,
thou dost give peace, thy presence maketh right;
thou with thy favour all things dost enfold,
with thine all-kindness free from harm wilt hold.

Hope of all comfort, splendour of all aid,
that dost not fail nor leave the heart afraid:
to all that cry thou dost all help accord,
the angel's armour, and the saints' reward.

Purest and highest, wisest and most just,
there is no truth save only in thy trust;
thou dost the mind from earthly dreams recall,
and bring, through Christ, to him for whom are all.

Eternal glory, all men thee adore,
who art and shalt be worshipped evermore:
us whom thou madest, comfort with thy might,
and lead us to enjoy thy heavenly light.

Song 22 409 NEH
Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625)
Organist of Westminster Abbey 1623–25

Robert Bridges (1844–1930)
after Amor Patris et Filii 12th century

All sit or kneel. The Reverend Christopher Stoltz, Minor Canon and Precentor of Westminster, leads

THE PRAYERS

LET us pray for this United Kingdom, for its unity, peace, and concord; for Elizabeth our Queen, and for all members of the Royal Family; for both houses of Parliament, and all who bear responsibility in the ordering of our society; that justice, truth, and integrity may direct our common life.

Lord, in thy mercy,
hear our prayer.

The Right Reverend Michael Doe, Preacher of Gray's Inn, says:

LET us remember the victims of crime and its perpetrators in this and every nation; prisoners, both those convicted and those on remand; and let us pray for all who live in anxiety or fear; that wisdom, righteousness, and charity might heal the brokenness of communities torn apart by violence or hatred.

Lord, in thy mercy,
hear our prayer.

The Reverend Mark Hatcher, Reader of The Temple, says:

LET us pray for all who administer justice in this realm; for all judges and the tribunals judiciary, magistrates, jurors, and ombudsmen; for clerks and court officials; for barristers, solicitors, chartered legal executives, and all whose profession or expertise is the law. Let us pray for the police, the armed forces, the probation and the prison services, and those who sustain order in our land; that our nation may live in peace and security.

Lord, in thy mercy,
hear our prayer.

The Reverend Derek Watson, Preacher of Lincoln's Inn, says:

LET us pray for our fellow nations within the European Union, for all who make and administer law within their legal jurisdictions; for those who labour in the field of European law; that our Union may be maintained in righteousness and justice.

Lord, in thy mercy,
hear our prayer.

Ian Denyer, Head of the Crown Office, and Deputy Clerk of the Crown, says:

O GOD, the just and merciful Judge of all mankind, look down from heaven, we beseech thee, on these thy servants, who are set by thy appointment to minister justice in this land. Grant unto them thy Holy Spirit, the Spirit of uprightness, the Spirit of discernment and the Spirit of love, that they may boldly, discreetly, and mercifully fulfil their sacred duties, to the good of thy people and the glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Right Reverend John Sherrington, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, says:

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, whose word alone lights the paths of justice, send down upon our judges the healthful spirit of thy grace; and that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

All stand to sing

THE HYMN



GLORIOUS things of thee are spoken,
Sion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode:
on the rock of ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove:
who can faint, while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord the giver,
never fails from age to age.

Saviour, if of Sion's city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name:
fading is the worldling's pleasure,
all his boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Sion's children know.

*Abbot's Leigh 185 NEH
Cyril Taylor (1907–92)*

*362 NEH
John Newton (1725–1807)*

All remain standing. The Dean pronounces

THE BLESSING

GOD grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, The Queen, the Commonwealth, and all mankind, peace and concord; and to us sinners, life everlasting; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All sing

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

GOD save our gracious Queen,
long live our noble Queen,
God save The Queen.
Send her victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save The Queen.

Thy choicest gifts in store
on her be pleased to pour,
long may she reign.
May she defend our laws,
and ever give us cause
to sing with heart and voice:
God save The Queen.

All remain standing as the Procession leaves.

Music after the service:

Toccatà in G

Théodore Dubois (1837–1924)

The bells of the Abbey Church are rung.