

WESTMINSTER ABBEY



ORDER OF SERVICE

at the

FUNERAL

of

ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET

THE EARL MOUNTBATTEN
OF BURMA

1900—1979

Wednesday

5 September 1979

11.30 a.m.

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As the Cortège enters the Great West Door a Fanfare of Trumpets is sounded.

At 11.30 a.m. the Procession of the Collegiate Body, preceded by Representative Clergy, moves from the West End of the Abbey while the Choir sings the following Sentences :

I AM the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

I KNOW that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another.

WE brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord preserveth in life; blessed be the Name of the Lord.

William Croft (1678-1727)

Organist of Westminster Abbey (1708-27)

The following Hymn is then sung by all:

HYMN 558 E.H.

GOD of our fathers, known of old,
Lord of our far-flung battle-line,
Beneath whose awful hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

The tumult and the shouting dies;
The captains and the kings depart:
Still stands thine ancient sacrifice,
An humble and a contrite heart.
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

Far-called, our navies melt away;
On dune and headland sinks the fire:
Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!
Judge of the Nations, spare us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

G. F. Blanchard (1868-1926)

Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

The Congregation sits and His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales reads the Lesson:

PSALM CVII, vv. 23-26, 28-30

THEY that go down to the sea in ships: and occupy their business
in great waters;

These men see the works of the Lord: and his wonders in the deep.

For at his word the stormy wind ariseth: which lifteth up the waves
thereof.

They are carried up to the heaven, and down again to the deep:
their soul melteth away because of the trouble.

So when they cry unto the Lord in their trouble: he delivereth them
out of their distress.

For he maketh the storm to cease: so that the waves thereof are
still.

Then are they glad, because they are at rest: and so he bringeth
them unto the haven where they would be.

All stand to sing the following Hymn :

HYMN 579 A.&M.R.

I VOW to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love :
The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best ;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know ;
We may not count her armies, we may not see her King ;
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering ;
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

G. Holst (1874-1934)

C. Spring-Rice (1859-1918)

*The Congregation sits and a corporate Act of Recollection is made while
the Choir sings the Anthem :*

FAIR is the heaven, where happy souls have place
In full enjoyment of felicity,
Whence they do still behold the glorious face
Of the divine eternal Majesty :
Yet far more fair be those bright Cherubins,
Which all with golden wings are overdight,
And those eternal burning Seraphins,
Which from their faces dart out fiery light ;
Yet fairer than they both, and much more bright
Be th' Angels and Archangels, which attend
On God's own person, without rest or end.
These then in fair each other far excelling,
As to the Highest they approach more near,
Yet is that Highest far beyond all telling,
Fairer than all the rest which there appear,
Though all their beauties joined together were :
How then can mortal tongue hope to express
The image of such endless perfectness ?

W. H. Harris (1883-1973)

Edmund Spenser (1552-1599)

All kneel for the Prayers, led by the Reverend Roger Job, Precentor and Sacrist of Westminster Abbey:

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. Amen.

V. Enter not into judgment with thy servant, O Lord;

R. For in thy sight shall no man living be justified.

V. Grant unto him eternal rest;

R. And let perpetual light shine upon him.

V. We believe verily to see the goodness of the Lord;

R. In the land of the living.

V. O Lord, hear our prayer;

R. And let our cry come unto thee.

*Douglas Guest, C.V.O.,
Organist and Master of the Choristers*

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Donald Coggan, Archbishop of Canterbury, standing at the High Altar, says the Commendatory Prayer:

Let us keep silence for a space as we recollect, with admiration and affection, Louis Mountbatten.

O ETERNAL God, before whose face the generations rise and pass away, thyself unchanged abiding, we bless thy holy Name for all who have completed their earthly course in thy faith and following, and are now at rest; we remember before thee this our brother, rendering thanks to thee for

his outstanding gifts, high enthusiasm and liberality of spirit;
his integrity, and flair for leadership; his life-long devotion to the Royal Navy; his courage and sense of companionship in times of war;

his dedication to the cause of freedom and justice; his service to the peoples of South East Asia, and to India at a critical period in her history;

his being so rare a person.

To him and his family, with all the faithful departed, recalling the members of those Regiments who suffered severely on the same day, grant thy peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in thy loving wisdom and almighty power work in them the good purpose of thy perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Right Reverend Professor Robin Barbour, M.C., D.D., Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, says:

Let us pray for Lord Mountbatten's family.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort: Deal graciously, we pray thee, with those who mourn, that casting every care on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

His Eminence Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, prays for peace:

O GOD, who art the lover of justice and peace; Give thy grace, we humbly beseech thee, to those who now guide the counsels of the nations; and so lead them by thy Holy Spirit, that by word and by deed they may promote thy glory, and set forward peace and goodwill among men; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

The Congregation stands to sing the following Hymn:

HYMN 578 A.&M.R.

AND did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among those dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.

C. H. H. Parry (1848-1918)

William Blake (1757-1827)

All kneel for the following Prayers, led by the Venerable Basil O'Ferrall, C.B., Q.H.C., M.A., Chaplain of the Fleet :

The Naval Prayer

O ETERNAL Lord God, who alone spreadest out the heavens and rulest the raging of the sea; who hast compassed the waters with bounds until day and night come to an end: Be pleased to receive into thy Almighty and most gracious protection the persons of us thy servants, and the Fleet in which we serve. Preserve us from the dangers of the sea, and from the violence of the enemy; that we may be a safeguard unto our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth, and her Dominions, and a security for such as pass on the seas upon their lawful occasions; that the inhabitants of our Island and Commonwealth may in peace and quietness serve thee our God; and that we may return in safety to enjoy the blessings of the land, with the fruits of our labours, and with a thankful remembrance of thy mercies to praise and glorify thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Royal Marines Prayer

O ETERNAL Lord God, who through many generations hast united and inspired the members of our Corps, grant thy blessing, we beseech thee, on Royal Marines serving all round the globe. Bestow thy crown of righteousness upon all our efforts and endeavours, and may our laurels be those of gallantry and honour, loyalty and courage. We ask this in the Name of him whose courage never failed; our Redeemer Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

The Life Guards Prayer

O EVERLASTING God, King of Kings, in whose service we put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for an helmet the hope of salvation, grant we beseech thee that the Life Guards may be faithful unto death and receive at last the crown of life, from Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Reverend Raymond George, M.A., B.D., Moderator of the National Free Church Federal Council, says the Prayer of Sir Francis Drake :

O LORD God, when thou givest to thy servants to endeavour any great matter, grant us also to know that it is not the beginning, but the continuing of the same unto the end, until it be thoroughly finished, which yieldeth the true glory; through him who for the finishing of thy work laid down his life, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

I HEARD a voice from heaven, saying unto me, Write, From henceforth blessed are the dead which die in the Lord: even so saith the Spirit; for they rest from their labours.

All then stand while the Buglers sound :

LAST POST

and

REVEILLE

The following Hymn is then sung by all :

HYMN 487 A.&M.R.

ETERNAL Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep :
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, whose voice the waters heard
And hushed their raging at thy word,
Who walkedst on the foaming deep,
And calm amid the storm didst sleep :
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Holy Spirit, who didst brood
Upon the waters dark and rude,
And bid their angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace :
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,
Our brethren shield in danger's hour ;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go :
Thus evermore shall rise to thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

J. B. Dykes (1823-1876)

W. Whiting (1825-1878)

The Dean of Westminster, standing at the High Altar, says the concluding Prayer and gives the Blessing, the Congregation kneeling:

GOD save our gracious Sovereign and all the Companions, living and departed, of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, and all the Brotherhood, living and departed, of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath. *Amen.*

GOD grant to the living, grace; rest to the dead; to The Queen, the Commonwealth and all mankind, peace with righteousness; to us his servants, life everlasting both now and hereafter; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

The Congregation remains kneeling as the Choir sings:

GOD be in my head :
And in my understanding ;
God be in mine eyes :
And in my looking ;
God be in my mouth :
And in my speaking ;
God be in my heart :
And in my thinking ;
God be at mine end :
And at my departing .

H. Walford Davies (1869-1941)

Sarum Primer (1558)

*The Congregation stands while there is sounded from the Great Organ
The Dead March in 'Saul'.*

The Bells of the Abbey Church are now rung, half-muffled.

*At the conclusion of the Service the Processions leave the Abbey in the
same order as on entering.*

**Members of the Congregation are kindly requested to remain in
their seats until directed to move by the Ushers and Stewards.**