Christ Church Cathedral
OXFORD

REQUIEM EUCHARIST
for HRH Prince Philip,
the Duke of Edinburgh

Saturday 10 April 2021
1pm Oxford Time
In this period of national mourning for HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, we give thanks for his life; for his faithfulness to duty and his commitment to this nation. We pray for his soul and for all those who loved him, most especially for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and for all the Royal Family. And, as we do day by day and week by week in this cathedral church, we bring our prayers for this nation, for every nation, and for all the world.

The Easter season, with its themes of Christ’s victory over death and the hope of the Resurrection, is peculiarly appropriate for this time of national mourning. We remember that, although we mourn, we do so in the context of our faith that Jesus has conquered death for ever, and that in the new creation that we are promised, there will be no more weeping, or mourning, or pain.

While some of us worship here in the cathedral, we gather as a community both here and in our own homes; and we continue to pray together, to hear God’s word together, and to worship together wherever we are. If you are in the building, please pay attention to Covid risk mitigation measures and please do ask the vergers if you are unsure.

May Prince Philip, with all the faithful departed, rest in peace and rise in glory; and may all those who loved him, each of us and this whole nation receive the comfort and peace of God.

Music before the Service
Played by Benjamin Sheen, Sub Organist
Sonatina, from Cantata 106 ‘Actus Tragicus’
JS Bach (1685–1750)
Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele, Op. 122, no. 5
Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)
President
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

President ‘I am the resurrection and the life’, says the Lord. ‘Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.’

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ, who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father. Grace and mercy be with you.

All And also with you.

The president introduces the service, ending with this prayer:

Almighty God, you judge us with infinite mercy and justice and love everything you have made. In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life, and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven; through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

Confession

President God has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of his glory in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us.

As we acknowledge our human frailty, we call to mind our sins of word, deed and omission, and confess them before God our Father.
Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

May God our Father forgive us our sins
and bring us to the eternal joy of his kingdom,
where dust and ashes have no dominion.

Amen.
The Collect

President
Let us pray.

Merciful Father and Lord of all life, we praise you that we are made in your image and reflect your truth and light. We thank you for the life of His Royal Highness Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, for the love he received from you and showed among us. Above all, we rejoice at your gracious promise to all your servants, living and departed, that we shall rise again at the coming of Christ. And we ask that in due time we may share with your servant Philip that clearer vision promised to us in the same Christ our Lord; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

All
Amen.

Please sit.

First Reading
Lamentations 3:22–26, 31–33 (NRSV)

A reading from the Book of Lamentations.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him.’

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly.
for the salvation of the Lord.
For the Lord will not reject for ever.
Although he causes grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
for he does not willingly afflict
or grieve anyone.

Reader       This is the word of the Lord.
All          Thanks be to God.

Second Reading
2 Corinthians 4: 16–5:4 (NRSV)

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away,
our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary
affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all
measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot
be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is
eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have
a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the
heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our
heavenly dwelling— if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not
be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under
our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further
clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

Reader       This is the word of the Lord.
All          Thanks be to God.
Gospel Reading
John 6: 35–40 (NRSV)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All  Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to those who listened, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All  Praise to you, O Christ.

Organ Music
Chorale Prelude on ‘Eventide’

CHH Parry (1848–1918)

Please be seated for the organ music, in which we bring our thoughts, our prayers, our memories and our grief before God.
Prayers of Intercession

A minister leads the prayers of the People.

Minister Let us pray.

Please sit or kneel. During the intercessions, the following response is used:

Minister Hear us, risen Lord,
All our resurrection and our life.

and at the end:

Minister God of mercy,
All entrusting into your hands all that you have made
and rejoice in our communion
with all your faithful people,
we make our prayers
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

The Peace

President Jesus says:
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I give you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
neither let them be afraid.

President The peace of the risen Lord be always with you
All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Please do not share the peace with physical touch, or move closer to those around you. However, please offer one another a sign of peace with a warm smile, nod or bow, and with the words ‘peace be with you,’ ‘the peace of the Lord,’ or similar.
Erbarm dich mein, O Herre Gott, BWV 721  
JS Bach (1685–1750)

Please sit as the altar is prepared, and stand if you are able for the prayer at the Preparation of the Table and the Eucharistic Prayer. The president will prepare the altar himself. The elements will remain covered throughout the Eucharistic Prayer.

Preparation of the Table

President  Lord God, you have promised  
that Jesus is the bread of life  
and will raise up on the last day all who love you.  
May all who are called to a place at your table  
follow in the way that leads to the unending feast of life.  

All  Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

President  The Lord be with you  
All  and also with you.

President  Lift up your hearts.  
All  We lift them to the Lord.

President  Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
All  It is right to give thanks and praise.

President  Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness  
to be our Saviour.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;  
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.
And now we give you thanks because through him you have given us the hope of a glorious resurrection; so that, although death comes to us all, yet we rejoice in the promise of eternal life; for to your faithful people life is changed, not taken away; and when our mortal flesh is laid aside an everlasting dwelling place is made ready for us in heaven.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

All

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

President Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.
In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith.

All
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

President And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once
for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.
Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Frideswide and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.
Please sit or kneel.

The Lord’s Prayer

President 
As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:
All 
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The President breaks the consecrated bread.

President 
We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
All 
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

Agnus Dei

President 
Lamb of God,
All 
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.
Giving of Communion

President  Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
All      Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Organ Music

Prière à Notre-Dame, from Suite Gothique  Léon Boëllmann (1862–1897)

If you would like to receive Communion, please wait in your place until you are invited by a verger to move towards the High Altar or to the west end Communion station. Please maintain two metres distance from others as you go to the altar, and please follow the instructions of the vergers at all times. If you need Communion bringing to you, please tell the verger when s/he comes to you.

We will receive Communion in one kind only. The President will receive at the altar, consuming the whole of the priest’s host which has been uncovered; then sanitise his hands before picking up the ciborium. He will pick up a host and place it in your hands without touching you. If you would like a blessing, keep your head bowed; the President will take a step back and pray a short blessing without touching you.
Prayer after Communion

President Let us pray.

Please sit or kneel. A time of silent prayer may be kept.

President Father in Heaven, whose Church on earth is a sign of your heavenly peace, an image of the new and eternal Jerusalem: grant to us in the days of our pilgrimage that, fed with the living bread of heaven and united in the body of your Son, we may be the temple of your presence, the place of your glory on earth, and a sign of your peace in the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All Amen.

Blessing

President God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth, and all humankind, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

President Go in the peace of Christ.
All Thanks be to God.
Nimrod, from ‘Enigma Variations’ (Op 36)

Music after the Service
Edward Elgar (1857–1934)