



ALBERT JOHN STEVENS

BORN JULY 6th, 1884

DIED JUNE 15th, 1956

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, WOLVERHAMPTON

28th June, 1956

ORDER OF SERVICE

"Largo" *Handel*

THE INTRODUCTION

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.

John xi, 25, 26

I KNOW that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand up at the last upon the earth : whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another.

Job xix, 25-27

WE brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away : blessed be the name of the Lord.

1 Tim. vi, 7 : Job i, 21

NEITHER death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom. viii, 38, 39

LET not your heart be troubled ; ye believe in God, believe also in me, In my Father's house are many mansions.

John xiv, 1

PSALM XXIII.

The Lord is my shepherd : therefore can I lack nothing.

He shall feed me in a green pasture : and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

He shall convert my soul : and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil : for thou art with me : thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me : thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life : and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Glorify 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 LESSON

REV. XXI. 1-7

AND I saw a new heaven and a new earth : for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away : and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes ; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain : for the former things are passed away.

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write : for these words are true and faithful.

And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things : and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

HYMN

SUN of my soul, Thou SAVIOUR dear,
It is not night if Thou be near :
O may no earth-born cloud arise
To hide Thee from Thy servant's eyes.
When the soft dews of kindly sleep
My wearied eyelids gently steep,
Be my last thought, how sweet to rest
For ever on my Saviour's breast.
Abide with me from morn till eve,
For without Thee I cannot live ;
Abide with me when night is nigh,
For without Thee I dare not die.
If some poor wandering child of Thine
Have spurned today the voice Divine,
Now, LORD, the gracious work begin ;
Let him no more lie down in sin.
Watch by the sick : enrich the poor
With blessings from Thy boundless store ;
Be every mourner's sleep tonight
Like infant's slumbers, pure and light.
Come near and bless us when we wake,
Ere through the world our way we take ;
Till in the ocean of Thy love
We lose ourselves in Heaven above.
Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Then the Priest shall say :

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 on 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.

Let us pray :

ALMIGHTY God, with whom do live the spirits of them that depart hence in thine Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful after they are delivered from the burden of the flesh, are in joy and felicity : We give thee hearty thanks for that it hath pleased thee to deliver this our brother out of the miseries of this sinful world ; beseeching thee, that it may please thee, of thy gracious goodness, shortly to accomplish the number of thine elect, and to hasten thy kingdom : that we, with all those that are departed in the true faith of thy holy name, may have our perfect consummation and bliss, both in body and soul, in thy eternal and everlasting glory : through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect

O MERCIFUL GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life ; in whom whosoever believeth shall live, though he die ; and whosoever liveth and believeth in Him, shall not die eternally ; who also hath taught us, by Thy Holy Apostle Saint Paul, not to be sorry, as men without hope, for them that sleep in Him : We meekly beseech thee, O Father, to raise us from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness : that, when we shall depart this life, we may live in Him as our hope as this our brother doth ; and that, at the general Resurrection in the last day, we may be found acceptable in Thy sight ; and receive that blessing which Thy well-beloved Son shall then pronounce to all that love and fear thee, saying, Come, ye blessed children of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world : Grant this, we beseech Thee, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer.

Amen.

WE give thanks, O God, to thee for our brother, ALBERT JOHN STEVENS : for his devotion as husband and father : for his capacity for friendship, especially with the young or those in trouble : for his forthrightness and rejection of all hypocrisy : for his hospitality of his home : for his courage : for the happiness that is his : and for our fellowship with him in Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

O FATHER of all, we pray to thee for those whom we love, but see no longer. Grant them 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.

O HEAVENLY Father, who in thy Son Jesus Christ, hast given us a true faith, and a sure hope : Help us we pray thee, to live as those who believe and trust in the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting, and strengthen this faith and hope in us all the days of our life : through the love of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

HYMN

ABIDE with me ; fast falls the eventide ;
The darkness deepens ; LORD with me abide ;
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day ;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away ;
Change and decay in all around I see ;
O Thou, who changest not, abide with me.
I need Thy Presence every passing hour ;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's
power ?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be ?
Through cloud and sunshine, LORD,
abide with me.
I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless ;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness ;
Where is death's sting ? Where Grave, thy
victory ?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.
Hold Thou Thy Cross before my closing eyes ;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to
the skies ;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain
shadows flee ;
In life, in death, O LORD, abide with me. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The congregation are asked to sit for the Voluntary.

"Nimrod"

Elgar