

Westminster Abbey



A VIGIL AND REQUIEM TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

Friday 1st July 2016
7.15 am and 8.00 am

The service is being broadcast live from 7.00 am on BBC One.

Members of the congregation are kindly requested to refrain from using private cameras, video, or sound recording equipment. Please ensure that mobile phones, pagers, and other electronic devices are switched off.

The church is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aid to the setting marked T.

The services are conducted by The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster.

ORDER OF SERVICE

At 7.15 am, the final Watch takes up its position at the Grave of the Unknown Warrior.

At 7.25 am, the Left Half Battery of The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery fires a bombardment in Parliament Square for one hundred seconds. All stand.

At 7.27 am, Luke Thompson, actor, reads

AN ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE

HUNDREDS of men in full fighting kit, and strangely quiet, came streaming down, packing the front line and reserve trenches.

We had all received our special instructions and been informed that the huge mine, under Beaumont Hamel, would be blown up at 7.30 am, and the great explosion would be the signal to go over the top.

We took up our position in a communication trench leading into the front line. There we stood, rather silently leaning against the side of the trench, wondering if we had much longer to live and suddenly brushing the ugly thought of death away.

Just as the waiting was becoming unbearable and the terrible strain causing some men to utter almost unnatural noises, we felt a queer dull thud and our trench fairly rocked, and a great blue flame shot into the sky, carrying with it hundreds of tons of earth and fragments of sandbags.

The great mine had gone up.
It was 7.30.
Zero hour.

*Corporal George Ashurst (1895–1988)
1st Battalion, The Lancashire Fusiliers*

At 7.30 am, Second Lieutenant Matthew Narey, 2nd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment, blows a trench whistle issued in 1915, to commemorate the moment of the beginning of the Battle of the Somme.

The final Watch at the Grave of the Unknown Warrior departs the Abbey Church through the Great West Door in silence.

Lance Corporal Ritchie Spence, Irish Guards, plays:

Flowers of the Forest *traditional Scottish lament*

The clergy depart the Abbey Church in silence.

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

*Members of the congregation may remain
for a Requiem at 8.00 am, or depart in silence.*

*A Requiem will be celebrated by the Dean of Westminster at the
Lantern Altar at 8.00 am. This is a service of Holy Communion at
which prayers are offered for those who died at the Somme.
Honorary Stewards will direct those who wish to attend this
service to the Lantern.*

REQUIEM

for those who died at the Battle of the Somme

All stand as the clergy enter.

THE GATHERING

The president, The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, says:

IN the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

REST eternal grant unto them, O Lord: and let light perpetual shine upon them. You, O God, are praised in Zion: and to you shall the vow be performed in Jerusalem. Hear our prayer: to you shall all flesh come.

The president introduces

THE PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

MOST merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The president says

ALMIGHTY God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The president says

THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

ETERNAL God, our maker and redeemer, grant us, with all the faithful departed, the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion and glorious resurrection: that, in the last day, when you gather up all things in Christ, we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit. The Reverend Mark Birch, Minor Canon and Chaplain, reads

THE EPISTLE

WE know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8: 28–39

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand. The Reverend Jane Sinclair, Canon in Residence, proclaims

THE GOSPEL

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

JESUS said to the people, ‘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.’

St John 6: 35–40

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

All remain standing. The Reverend Paul Arbuthnot, Minor Canon and Sacrist, leads

THE INTERCESSIONS

After each petition the following response is used:

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

The Intercessions conclude:

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

All stand for

THE PEACE

The president says:

ONCE we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood; for he is our peace.

Ephesians 2: 13

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

Members of the congregation may greet each other with a sign of peace.

The Altar is prepared during which these prayers are used:

BLESSED are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.
Blessed be God for ever.

All remain standing for

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

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

The president continues the Eucharistic Prayer, concluding:

...evermore praising you and saying:

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.

The president continues the Eucharistic Prayer:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Dying you destroyed our death,

rising you restored our life:

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

The president continues the Eucharistic Prayer, at the end of which all say: Amen.

The president introduces

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words our Saviour 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.

The president breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

All say

AGNUS DEI

LAMB of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant them rest.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant them rest.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant them eternal rest.**

The president says:

JESUS is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

Those who receive Communion in their own church are invited to do so here. Those who do not wish to receive Communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please carry this order of service with you to indicate that you are asking for a blessing.

The minister says to each communicant:

The Body of Christ. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ. **Amen.**

Once all have received Communion, the president says:

LET light perpetual shine upon them, Lord, with your saints for ever, for you are holy. Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord: and let light perpetual shine upon them.

All stand. The president says

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

GOD of love, may the death and resurrection of Christ, which we have celebrated in this Eucharist, bring us, with all the faithful departed, into the peace of your eternal home. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our rock and our salvation. **Amen.**

The president pronounces

THE BLESSING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

MAY God give you his comfort and his peace, his light and his joy, in this world and the next; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

The clergy depart the Abbey Church in silence.

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