

REQUIEM MASS FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL

CHRISTOPHER OMOAUKHE
OKWEGWA

6th May 1978 - 15th February 2020



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Mickleover

Friday 20th March 2020
at 9.30 am



ORDER OF SERVICE

ENTRANCE HYMN.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

INTRODUCTORY RITE

PENITENTIAL RITE

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, our Father, we firmly believe that your Son died and rose again to life. We pray for our brother, Christopher Omoaukhe Okwegwa, who has died in Christ. May he rejoice at the coming of your glory and enjoy eternal happiness. Raise him at the last day to share the glory of the risen Christ. Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. One God forever and ever. Amen!

FIRST READING

for the prophet Isaiah, Chapter 41: verse 10,
Chapter 44: verse 22 and Chapter 49: verses 15-16

Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed; I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you, and uphold you with my right hand of justice. For I am the Lord your God who grasps your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.' I have brushed away your offences like a cloud, your sins like a mist, return to me, for I have redeemed you. Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child within her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you. See, upon the palm of my hand I have written your name. Yes, in joy you shall depart, in peace you shall be brought back.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM 23
The Lord's My Shepherd

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill:
For thou art with me, and thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house for evermore
My dwelling-place shall be.

SECOND READING

from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians,
Chapter 4: verses 13-18

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,
about those who have fallen asleep,
so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,
so too will God, through Jesus,
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.
Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord,
will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.
For the Lord himself, with a word of command,
with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God,
will come down from heaven,
and the dead in Christ will rise first.
Then we who are alive, who are left,
will be caught up together with them in the clouds
to meet the Lord in the air.

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore, console one another with these words.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John, Chapter 11: verses 25-26

All: Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord:

Whoever believes in me will never die.

All: Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!



GOSPEL

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John, Chapter 14: verses 1-6

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.

You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.

If there were not, would I have told you
that I am going to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come back again and take you to myself,
so that where I am you also may be.

Where I am going you know the way.”

Thomas said to him,

“Master, we do not know where you are going;
how can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

HOMILY

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Priest: Jesus Christ is Risen, the Firstborn of the Dead. With confidence in the Salvation He brings, we now offer our prayers for our brother Christopher Okwegwa.

Let us pray for Christopher our beloved brother. In baptism he died with Christ, may he now share in fullness of his resurrection. Lord in your mercy...

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

God is full of mercy and compassion. May he forgive Christopher any sins he may have committed through human frailty. Lord in your mercy...

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the sorrowing wife, children, family, that they may find strength and consolation in their Christian faith and in the love and support of this community. Lord in your mercy...

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all of us, relatives and friends of Christopher here today, that we may be prepared for hour of our own death, when God will call us by name, to pass from this world to the next. Lord in your mercy...

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

May the prayers of Mary, the Mother of God, who stood by the cross as her son was dying, help those who mourn and be with all of us in our time of need. Lord in your mercy...

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

We place our petitions in the hands of our Blessed Mother Mary, whom Christopher loved, as we pray: **Hail Mary...**

We thank you Lord our God, for all the blessings you bestowed upon your servant Christopher in his life on this world. Hear our humble prayers and grant him eternal happiness in your heavenly kingdom.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



OFFERTORY HYMN

I watch the sunrise lighting the sky,
Casting its shadows near.
And on this morning, bright though it be,
I feel those shadows near me.

But you are always close to me,
Following all my ways.
May I be always close to you,
Following all your ways, Lord.

I watch the sunlight shine through the clouds,
Warming the earth below.
And at the mid-day, life seems to say:
I feel your brightness near me.
For you are always ...

I watch the sunset fading away,
Lighting the clouds with sleep.
And as the evening closes its eyes,
I feel your presence near me.
For you are always ...

I watch the moonlight guarding the night,
Waiting till morning comes.
The air is silent, earth is at rest -
Only your peace is near me.
Yes, you are always ...



PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord, we are united in this sacrament by the love of Jesus Christ. Accept these gifts and receive our brother Christopher into the glory of your Son who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, Lord God of Hosts.
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.**

EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATION

**We proclaim your death, oh Lord, and profess
your resurrection, until you come again!**



COMMUNION HYMN

*Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name; you are mine.*

When you walk through the waters, I'll be with you.
You will never sink beneath the waves.

When the fire is burning all around you,
You will never be consumed by the flames.

When the fear of loneliness is looming,
Then remember I am at your side.

When you dwell in the exile of the stranger,
Remember you are precious in my eyes.

You are mine, O my child; I am your Father,
And I love you with a perfect love.

Gerald Markland (b.1953)



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God, whose Son left us, in the Sacrament of His Body, food for the journey. Mercifully grant that, strengthened by it, our brother Christopher may come to the eternal table of Christ. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

FINAL COMMENDATION

RECESSIONAL 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, O 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!

ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHRIS NDUBUISI



The family would like to thank everyone for their kind words and support at this sad time.

All are welcome for light refreshments at
Church Hall, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church,
36 Uttoxeter Road,
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