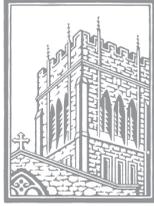




WE COMMEMORATE ON THIS DAY the centennial of the signing of the Armistice that brought an end to the Great War, known today as the First World War. The United States suffered 116,708 combatant deaths from all causes in the war, and 1,075 of them were St. Louisans. The total number of military and civilian casualties exceeded 16 million worldwide, ranking the war among the deadliest conflicts in human history.

With these huge losses, nations sought appropriate forms of public mourning and commemoration to grieve and honor the dead. In 1919 Britain and France established an annual Remembrance Day on November 11. By common accord, they honored the sacrifice of the dead rather than celebrating the victory. A two-minute silence was observed throughout Britain and its empire at eleven o'clock in the morning on Remembrance Day, a practice so rigorously followed in the early years that all traffic stopped, factories turned off machinery, and pedestrians stood still in the street. Memorials to the war dead were erected in most British towns. In France, 36,000 of the communes erected memorials. The U.S. Congress adopted a resolution on June 4, 1926, asking President John Calvin Coolidge Jr. to issue annual proclamations calling for the observance of November 11 with appropriate ceremonies. A Congressional Act approved May 13, 1938, made November 11 of each year a legal holiday and "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as Armistice Day." After the Second World War, bills were introduced in Congress to expand Armistice Day to celebrate veterans of all wars, not just those who died in the Great War.

It is fitting that we have a special Service of Remembrance on this year's Veterans Day. May it be a time of healing for those whose family members, friends, and acquaintances suffered the tragedies of war through death or broken bodies and minds.



THE CHURCH
OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

Requiem Eucharist for Remembrance Sunday

Sunday, November 11, 2018
9:15 AM

Organ Voluntary

Chant Funèbre (*Esquisses Byzantines*)

Henri Mulet
(1878-1967)

¶ *All stand as the Procession enters and the following Anthems are sung*

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 this body be destroyed, yet shall I see God;
whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold,
and not as a stranger.

For none of us liveth to himself,
and no man dieth to himself.
For if we live, we live unto the Lord;
and if we die, we die unto the Lord.
Whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord;
even so saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

*Words: The Book of Common Prayer
Music: William Croft (1678-1727)*

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O GOD OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE, King of the Universe and Judge of the nations upon earth; Grant, we beseech thee, that, in remembering those who in the day of decision ventured much, and whom thou hast gathered from the storm of war into the peace of thy presence, that same peace may calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples, and establish concord among the nations; Through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *People Amen.*

Hymn

Sung by all



1. Once to ev - ery man and na - tion Comes the mo - ment to de - cide,
2. Then to side with truth is no - ble, When we share her wretch - ed crust,
3. By the light of burn - ing mar - tyrs Je - sus' bleed - ing feet I track,
4. Though the cause of e - vil pros - per, Yet 'tis truth a - lone is strong;



1. In the strife of truth and false - hood, For the good or e - vil side;
2. Ere her cause bring fame and pro - fit And 'tis pros - p'rous to be just;
3. Toil - ing up new Cal - varies ev - er With the cross that turns not back;
4. Though her por - tion be the scaf - fold, And up - on the throne be wrong,



1. Some great cause, God's new Mes - si - ah, Of - f'ring each the bloom or blight,
2. Then it is the brave man choos - es, While the cow - ard stands a - side
3. New oc - ca - sions teach new du - ties, Time makes an - cient good un - couth;
4. Yet that scaf - fold sways the fu - ture, And, be - hind the dim un - known,



1. And the choice goes by for ev - er 'Twixt that dark - ness and that light.
2. Till the mul - ti - tude make vir - tue Of the faith they had de - nied.
3. They must up - ward still and on - ward Who would keep a - breast of truth.
4. Stand - eth God with - in the sha - dow Keep - ing watch a - bove his own.

Words: James Russell Lowell (1819-1891)

Music: EBENEZER, Thomas John Williams (1869-1944)

At the conclusion of the Hymn, all are seated

The Word of God

The First Lesson

MICAH 4:1-5

IT SHALL COME TO PASS in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, and many nations shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide for strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and none shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken. For all the peoples walk each in the name of its God, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

¶ All remain seated for the singing of the Psalm

Psalm 46

Deus noster refugium

Anglican Chant: Kellow J. Pye



God is our | hope and | strength, *
a very | present | help in | trouble.

Therefore will we not fear, though the | earth be | moved, *
and though the hills be carried | into • the | midst • of the | sea;

† Though the waters thereof | rage and | swell, *
and though the mountains shake at the | tempest | of the | same.

There is a river, the streams whereof make glad the | city • of | God; *
the holy place of the tabernacle | of the | Most | Highest.

God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she | not • be re- | moved; *
God shall | help her, • and | that right | early.



The nations make much ado, and the | kingdoms • are | moved; *
but God hath showed his voice, and the | earth shall | melt a-| way.

The Lord of | hosts is | with us; *
the God of | Jacob | is our | refuge.

O come hither, and behold the | works • of the | Lord, *
what destruction he hath | brought up-| on the | earth.

He maketh wars to cease in | all the | world; *
he breaketh the bow, and knappeth the spear in sunder,
and burneth the | chari•ots | in the | fire.

Be still then, and know that | I am | God: *
I will be exalted among the nations, and I will be ex-| alted | in the | earth.

The Lord of | hosts is | with us; *
the God of | Jacob | is our | refuge.

The Second Lesson

JAMES 4:1-10

WHAT CAUSES WARS, and what causes fightings among you? Is it not your passions that are at war in your members? You desire and do not have; so you kill. And you covet and cannot obtain; so you fight and wage war. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. Unfaithful creatures! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is in vain that the scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit which he has made to dwell in us”? But he gives more grace; therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you men of double mind. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to dejection. Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

g All stand for the singing of the Hymn and Gospel Procession

Hymn at the Sequence



1 O God of earth and al - tar, bow down and hear our cry,
2 From all that ter - ror teach - es, from lies of tongue and pen,
3 Tie in a liv - ing teth - er the prince and priest and thrall,



our earth - ly ru - lers fal - ter, our peo - ple drift and die;
from all the eas - y speech - es that com - fort cru - el men,
bind all our lives to - geth - er, smite us and save us all;



the walls of gold en - tomb us, the swords of scorn di - vide,
from sale and prof - a - na - tion of hon - or, and the sword,
in ire and ex - ul - ta - tion a - flame with faith, and free,



take not thy thun - der from us, but take a - way our pride.
from sleep and from dam - na - tion, de - liv - er us, good Lord!
lift up a liv - ing na - tion, a sin - gle sword to thee.

Words: Gilbert Keith Chesterton (1874–1936)

Music: KING'S LYNN, Traditional English;

adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

Gospeler ✝ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

SEEING THE CROWDS, HE WENT UP ON THE MOUNTAIN, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Andrew John Archie

¶ Following the Homily, all stand and say together

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, ✝
and the life everlasting. Amen.

¶ The Deacon says

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace:

¶ The People kneel

¶ Then the Deacon continues

Let us pray for the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God.

¶ Silence

Let us pray for those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss.

¶ Silence

Let us pray for all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return.

¶ Silence

Let us pray for civilian women, children, and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity.

¶ Silence

Let us pray for peacemakers and peacekeepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free.

¶ Silence

Let us pray for all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership: political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace.

¶ Silence

Let us remember before God, and commend to his safe keeping, those who have died for their country in war; those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure, and all who have lived and died in the service of the peoples of the world.

Let us remember especially:

Montgomery Schuyler Batdorf
Alexander Rives Skinker
John Ingram Albach
Judson Eliot Bridge
Arthur Charters Gains
George Barnard Gannett Jr.
David Ferrar Hughesy

Waldo Clark Jackman Jr.
Don C. McCord Jr.
Howard Turner Noland Jr.
Harry Mercer Orwig Jr.
James Jasper Searcy III
Willard Bailey Shelp III

¶ Silence

Let us offer unto God our fears that have not yet been cast out by love: may we accept the hope he has placed in the hearts of all people, and live lives of justice, courage, and mercy.

¶ *Silence*

¶ *Then the Celebrant says this concluding Collect*

O ETERNAL LORD GOD, who holdest all souls in life: Give, we beseech thee, to thy whole Church in paradise and on earth thy light and thy peace; and grant that we, following the good examples of those who have served thee here and are now at rest, may at the last enter with them into thine unending joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ¶ *People Amen.*

¶ *All stand*

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

¶ *Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord*

The Holy Communion

¶ *The musical setting of the Mass Ordinary is the
Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena of Healey Willan (1880–1968)*

Anthem at the Offertory

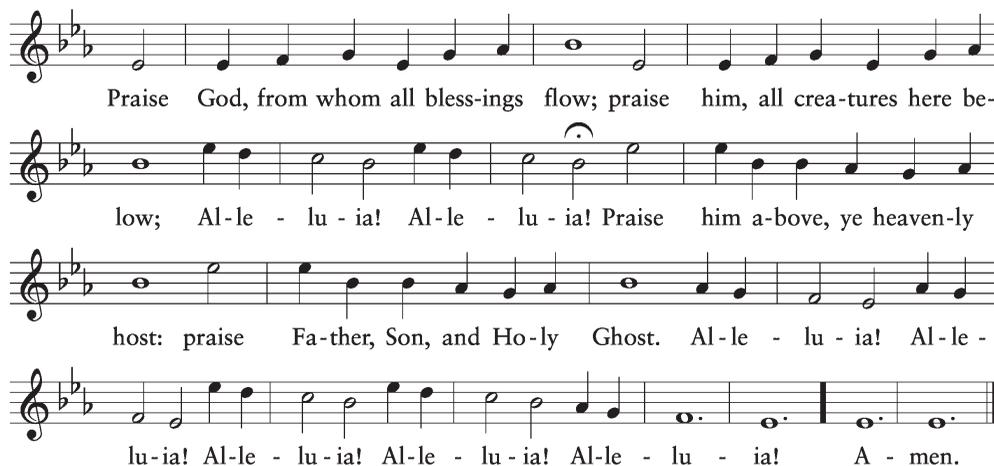
Remember for good, O Father,
Those whose names we commemorate before thee:
To whom we render honour and give thanks in thy holy house.
They went through the air and space without fear,
And the shining stars marked their shining deeds.
They counted not their lives dear unto themselves
But laid them down for their friends.
O Christ, O Lord of Lords, prince of the armies of Heaven,
Write their names in thy book of immortality.
And give to them that on earth were faithful unto death,
Thy crown of life in the paradise of God.

Words: Eric Milner-White (1884–1963)

Music: Francis Jackson (b. 1917)

¶ *Following the singing of the Anthem, all stand to sing*

Hymn at the Presentation



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be-
low; Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Praise him above, ye heaven-ly
host: praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le -
lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! A - men.

Words: Thomas Ken (1637–1711)

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN: Aueserlesene Kirchengesang, 1623

The Great Thanksgiving

- Celebrant* The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them up unto the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People It is meet and right so to do.

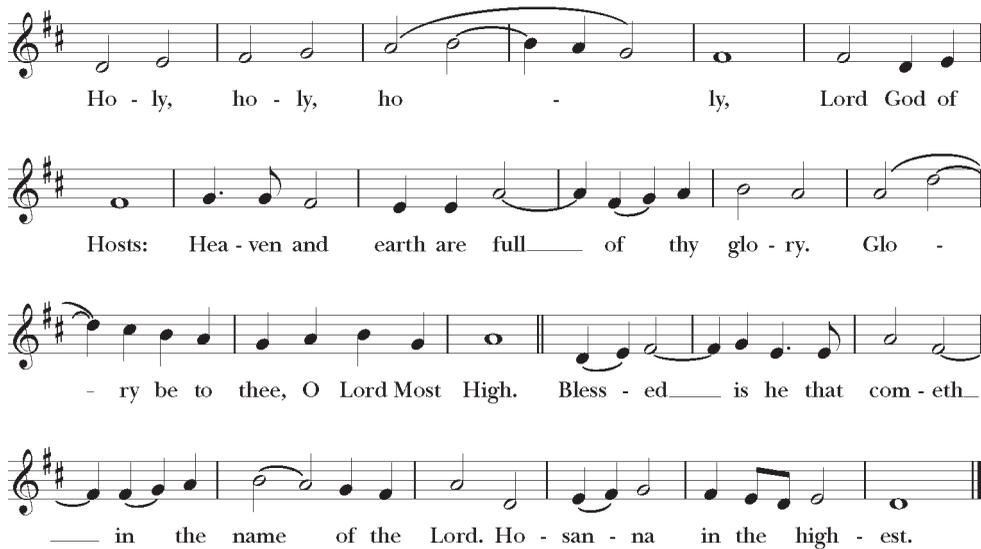
¶ *Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus and Benedictus qui venit



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -
- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

¶ *The People kneel*

¶ *Then the Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer*

ALL GLORY BE TO THEE, ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake 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.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled  with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.  *All* AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

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, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

♩ The Celebrant breaks the Bread and a period of silence is kept; then is sung

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.

The Prayer of Humble Access *♩ Said by all*

WE DO NOT PRESUME TO COME TO THIS THY TABLE, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Invitation and Ministration of Communion

☞ *All Christians baptized with water in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To receive the Bread, extend your palms, crossed and upward; when offered the Chalice, please assist in guiding it. Those who do not wish to receive Holy Communion may come forward for a blessing; please indicate this to the Priest by crossing your arms over your chest.*

Anthem at the Communion ☞ *Sung by the Choir*

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Words: Laurence Binyon (1869–1943)

Music: Douglas Guest (1916–1996)

Hymn at the Communion ☞ *Sung by all*

1 Let saints on earth in con - cert sing with those whose work is done;
2 One fam - i - ly we dwell in him, one Church, a - bove, be - neath,
3 One ar - my of the liv - ing God, to his com - mand we bow;
4 E'en now by faith we join our hands with those that went be - fore,
5 Je - sus, be thou our con - stant Guide; then, when the word is given,

1 for all the ser - vants of our King in heaven and earth are one.
2 though now di - vid - ed by the stream, the nar - row stream of death.
3 part of the host have crossed the flood, and part are cross - ing now.
4 and greet the ev - er - liv - ing bands on the e - ter - nal shore.
5 bid Jor - dan's nar - row stream di - vide, and bring us safe to heaven.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Music: DUNDEE, The CL Psalms of David, 1615;

harm. Thomas Ravenscroft (c. 1592–c. 1635)

The Postcommunion Prayer *¶ Said by all kneeling*

ALMIGHTY GOD, WE THANK THEE that in thy great love thou hast fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and hast given unto us a foretaste of thy heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be unto us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all thy saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Celebrant Give rest, O Christ, to thy servants with thy saints,
People where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Celebrant Thou only art immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and unto earth shall we return. For so thou didst ordain when thou createdst me, saying, “Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” All we go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

People Give rest, O Christ, to thy servants with thy saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Nunc dimittis *Collegium Regale* *¶ Sung by the Choir*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word;
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory 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.

Words: Luke 2:29–32 with Gloria Patri
Music: Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

The Blessing *✠* *¶ The Celebrant blesses the People*

MAY ALMIGHTY GOD grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, our country, and all people, unity, peace, and concord, and to us, and all God’s servants, life everlasting; And the blessing *✠* of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *People Amen.*

¶ Once the Celebrant has blessed the People, all stand

Hymn

¶ Sung by all



1. I vow to thee, my coun - try, all earth - ly things a - bove, En -
2. And there's an - oth - er coun - try, I've heard of long a - go, Most



tire and whole and per - fect, the ser - vice of my love: The
dear to them that love her, most great to them that know; We



love that asks no ques - tion, the love that stands the test, That
may not count her arm - ies, we_ may not see her King; Her



lays up - on the al - tar the dear - est and the best; The
for - tress is a faith - ful heart, her pride is suf - fer - ing; And



love that nev - er fal - ters, the love that pays the price, The_
soul by soul and si - lent - ly her shi - ning bounds in - crease, And her



love that makes un - daunt - ed the fi - nal sac - ri - fice.
ways are ways of gen - tle - ness and all her paths are peace.

Words: Sir Cecil Spring-Rice (1859-1918)

Music: THAXTED: Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

The Dismissal

¶ The Deacon dismisses the People and they respond

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

¶ Following the Dismissal, the Congregation remains standing as the procession retires

The Great War touches The Church of St. Michael & St. George

Corporal **Montgomery Schuyler Batdorf**, a member of this Church, was a gas officer in Company M of the 138th Infantry Regiment, 35th Division, in the Great War. He was killed in action on September 29, 1918, in the Battle of the Argonne Forest. He was twenty-two years old. He had been a scoutmaster of our church's Boy Scout Troop No. 28. Like many who were killed in the war, his body was never returned home. He is buried, along with 14,245 of his fallen comrades, at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in France in Plot E, Row 3, Grave 32. Corporal Batdorf's funeral was conducted in this church at four o'clock on Sunday afternoon, December 1, 1918.

Captain **Alexander Rives Skinker**, along with his extended family, were also members of this Church. His father was one of the Church's founders and its first senior warden. Captain Skinker commanded

Company I of the 138th Infantry Regiment, 35th Division. His company I, along with Corporal Batdorf's company M, led the initial charge of the American Expeditionary Forces in the Battle of the Argonne Forest. He fell three days before Corporal Batdorf on September 26, 1918, the first day of that battle. He was thirty-four years old. Like Corporal Batdorf, he had once been scoutmaster of the church's Boy Scout troop. Captain Skinker's funeral was conducted in this church at four o'clock on Sunday afternoon, November 24, 1918, one week before the funeral for Corporal Batdorf. His body was buried where he fell beside a road near Cheppy, France, and was returned home in 1921. He is buried today in the Skinker family plot at Bellefontaine Cemetery. Captain Skinker was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

— John Tyler

A Reflection on the Ending of the Great War a Century Ago

Exactly a hundred years ago the four years of carnage which Europe - and indeed the rest of the world - had endured entered its final, but far from bloodless, chapter. The so-called spring offensive with which the German high command had hoped to crush the allied forces before the arrival of American troops was repulsed. Erich Ludendorff, probably Germany's most determined general launched five great attacks intended to drive a wedge between the British and French armies. It was the biggest artillery bombardment in the entire war and it very nearly succeeded. The Kaiserschlacht or Kaiser's battle as the Germans called it began in the early hours of 21 March 1918 and the Germans fired well over a million shells in the first five hours of the battle and on that first day the German forces took more ground than the allies had gained in twenty weeks of fighting over the same terrain. The British forces were outnumbered three to one by the German army and the retreat which followed 'was as bad a reverse as the British army suffered in the whole war - as bad, many felt, as any in its entire history'. On April 11 with the British High Command facing the real possibility of German troops on the shores of the Channel, General Haig issued the most famous order of the war.

There is no course open to us but to fight it out. Every position must be held to the last man: there must be no retirement. With our backs to the wall and believing in the justice of our cause each one of us must fight on to the end. The safety of our homes and the freedom of mankind alike depend upon the conduct of each one of us at this critical moment.

Maybe Haig's Churchillian rhetoric worked for the German attack was held back, though the fighting was as intense as that endured at the Somme or Passchendaele, with some quarter of a million British casualties, and the French suffering more than 100,000 and the Germans 320,000 in under six weeks. The final phase of the war started with the Battle of Amiens (also known as the third Battle of Picardy) which began an hour before dawn on August 8, 1918. With American reinforcements pouring into Europe and the use of tanks for the first time in any numbers breaking the stalemate of trench warfare the British and empire forces struck at Amiens achieving near total surprise. The battle was a protracted business with the battered German army fighting on for another three months, but forced back by a succession of allied offensives striking different

sectors of the Western Front. At last the end was in sight.

This year will see many commemorations of the events of a century ago at cenotaphs and memorials around the country but also in churches and concert halls. Inevitably the poetry and music of those who lived through, fought in and in some cases died in the Great War will help not only to recollect the horror of those four years, and the ‘pity of war’, but also to recover a sense of what it means to be human and hope for the future.

In my daily selection of poetry to aid my reflection during this period are works from Great War poets. Some of those poets like Wilfred Owen, Rupert Brooke and Edward Thomas did not survive the blood-letting, indeed Owen was killed by a sniper’s bullet just a week before the Armistice was signed. Others like the composer-poet Ivor Gurney, survived the war, but the harrowing experience of his combat years scarred him for the rest of his life, and he died in a Dartford asylum. Vera Brittain, the author of *Testament of Youth* was a VAD nurse serving in France during the war and both her fiancé and one of her brothers were killed in the fighting.

One poet who survived, and indeed won the Military Cross for ‘conspicuous gallantry’ in the Great War was Siegfried Sassoon whose relationship with, and influence upon, Wilfred Owen when they were patients together at Craiglockhart Hospital in Scotland, has been immortalised in her novels *The Regeneration Trilogy* by Pat Barker. It’s particularly appropriate that we give a place to Sassoon; his family lived not far from Edington at Heytesbury and he was educated at Marlborough College (before going on to Clare College, Cambridge). Sassoon died at Heytesbury and he is buried in the Roman Catholic section of the church yard at Mells in Somerset. Decorated for his courage in battle, his courage in opposing ‘the political errors and insincerities for which the fighting men are being sacrificed’ in his Manifesto (*Finished*

with the war: a Soldier’s Declaration), was rewarded by the soldier-poet being sent for medical treatment suffering from shell shock.

He recounts in his fictionalised autobiography *The Complete Memoirs of George Sherston* how he threw his MC into the River Mersey as a protest at the war but nevertheless, recovering from hospitalisation, after a spell in Palestine, he returned to the Western Front only to be wounded by ‘friendly’ fire in July 1918 so that he was invalided back to Britain for the remainder of the war.

In 1918 Sassoon published a poem *I stood with the dead*:

I stood with the Dead, so forsaken and still:
When the dawn was grey I stood with the Dead.
And my slow heart said, ‘You must kill; you must kill:
Soldier, soldier, morning is red’.

On the shapes of the slain in their crumpled disgrace
I stared for a while, through the thin cold rain...
‘O lad that I loved, there is rain on your face,
And your eyes are blurred and sick like the plain’

I stood with the Dead...They were dead; they were dead;
My heart and my head beat a march of dismay;
And gusts of the wind came dulled by the guns....
‘Fall in!’ I shouted; ‘Fall in for your pay!’

Reading this a General from Military Intelligence wrote that though Sassoon was found to have recovered from a nervous breakdown ‘it would appear his mind is still in chaos and that he is not fit to be trusted with men’s lives’. This comment probably says more about the nature of official hysteria than about Sassoon’s state of mind. A hundred years on we remember the times through which he lived in the poetry and prose that he and his fellow writers have left to us in the hope that the tears and horror will drift away and that ‘the singing will never be done’.

— *The Rev. Canon Jeremy Davies*

Requiem Eucharist

November 11, 2018
9:15 AM Holy Eucharist



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6345 Wydown Boulevard

P.O. Box 11887

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