

# **The Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II**

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## ***Pohřeb Královny Alžběty II.***

*by*

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BBC Radio 4 / British Broadcasting Corporation

## **SYNOPSIS**

### **The Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II**

The BBC News submission is a news report covering the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

The late Queen had been the subject of ten days of mourning, services of remembrance and lying-in-State. The report describes events in London, particularly the movement of her coffin from Parliament and the short journey from there on a gun carriage to Westminster Abbey. The service at the Abbey is covered in the report – including the music and readings, which were chosen by the Queen herself – but this is balanced with reflection and reporting on the sights and atmosphere around and inside the Abbey.

The report follows the coffin as it is taken through ceremonial London and in front of the tens of thousands who lined the streets for the Queen's last journey and ends as the Queen's coffin is transferred to another vehicle for her journey to Windsor.

### **Pohřeb Královny Alžběty II.**

Reportáž se týká desetidenního smutku, vzpomínkových obřadů a státního pohřbu zesnulé královny. Popisuje události v Londýně, zejména převoz její rakve z parlamentu a krátkou cestu na dělovém voze do Westminsterského opatství. Reportáž se věnuje bohoslužbě v opatství – včetně hudby a čtení, které vybrala sama královna, ale je vyvážena úvahami a reportážemi o památkách a atmosféře kolem opatství a uvnitř něj.

Reportáž sleduje převoz rakve ceremoniálním Londýnem a před zraky desetitisíců lidí, kteří stáli v ulicích na královnině poslední cestě, a končí ve chvíli, kdy je královnina rakev přeložena do jiného vozidla na cestu do Windsoru.

## **English script**

At just before half past nine, the first of 96 tolls that the tenor bell of Westminster Abbey would ring. One every minute, one for every year of the Queen's life.

Sun had been promised, but grey skies were above the air chill with the mood of penetrating sadness.

The coffin emerged from Westminster Hall was inched slowly onto the gun carriage front and back tightly packed squares of naval ratings.

As the massed Pipes and Drums began, the gun carriage moved off. Behind the ratings the Queen's children, the King, the Princess Royal, the Duke of York, the Earl of Wessex. Inside the Abbey, the congregation waited a sea of black, some of the most powerful men and women in the world, waiting for the woman who had met so many of them and those that came before them, and those that came before them.

Still, the tenor bell tolled iron faces on those that pulled the coffin.

The procession turned left into the small yard in front of the Abbey's West door. Halt. The white hats of the sailors came down, their heads bowed to the ground, and the Royal Family saluted the Monarch that had been drawn to her funeral.

The coffin was lifted by the pallbearers turned and slowly walked to the west door inched up the steps, and it paused outside, nothing moved.

### **Choir**

"I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord..."

After a slow, slow journey up the aisle skirting the black Tomb of the Unknown warrior, the coffin came to rest. In the midst of the black the Royal Standard that fell over the coffin, vivid yellow and red and blue shone out, wedged into the wreath on top, a handwritten note: In Loving and Devoted Memory. Charles R. The Dean of Westminster gave the bidding.

### **Dean of Westminster**

Here, why Queen Elizabeth was married and crowned.

**Dean of Westminster:** We gather from across the nation, from the Commonwealth and from the nations of the world, to mourn our loss to remember her long life of selfless service and ensure confidence to commit her to the mercy of God, our maker and Redeemer.

### **The congregation singing**

“The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended...”

Through all the world her watch is keeping sang the congregation a reminder of the Queen's devotion to the Commonwealth. And it was that organisations Secretary General Baroness Scotland who gave the first reading from Corinthians.

Oh death where is the sting? She asked, Oh grave where is the victory

### **Choir of Westminster Abbey**

“So longeth my soul after thee, O God”

Psalm 42 reflection of the Queen's deep and unwavering faith, the music composed especially for this service.

And then the hymn played so long ago in that Abbey when she was a beautiful princess, and that her side a dashing young prince that wouldn't be for many decades her strength and stay, he had gone, she was joining him.

### **The congregation singing**

“The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; he makes me down to lie”

The Archbishop of Canterbury gave the sermon, he spoke of her faith, and of how her service had its foundation in her following Christ. He spoke of the recent time when she rallied a fearful nation.

### **Archbishop of Canterbury**

Her late Majesty's broadcast during COVID lockdown ended with we will meet again, words of hope from a song of Vera Lynn. Christian hope means certain expectation of something not yet seen. Service in life, hope in death, all who follow the Queen's example, and inspiration of trust and faith in God can with her say. We will meet again.

From the leaders of different Christian denominations from around the country came prayers and a reminder of the social and institutional change that the Queen's long reign had seen.

### **The Reverend Dr Iain Greenshields, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland:**

Let us give thanks to God for Queen Elizabeth's long life and reign. Recalling, with gratitude, her gifts of wisdom, diligence, and service,

### **The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, Bishop of London and Dean of His Majesty's Chapels Royal**

Let us pray for His Majesty the King, and all the royal family, that they may know the sustaining power of God's love, and the prayerful fellowship of God's people

### **His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster**

Oh Almighty and everlasting God, hear our prayer for the Commonwealth, and granted the guidance of thy wisdom. inspire those in authority, that they may promote justice and the common good.

### **The Precentor, The Reverend Mark Birch**

Bring us oh Lord God at our last awakening into the house and gate of heaven to enter into that gate, and dwell in that house where there shall be no darkness, nor dazzling, but one equal light

### **Westminster Abbey Choir**

"how Gracious the Lord is"

Psalm 34, set to music composed for and played at the Queen's coronation all those years ago.

### **Westminster Abbey Choir**

"This is the Lord"

The Lord's prayer was heard and then her favourite hymn was sung.

**The congregation singing Blaenwern by Charles Wesley**

“Love divine, all loves excelling”

The Archbishop of Canterbury gave the commendation to Heavenly Father, he said, We entrust the soul of Elizabeth, our sister here departed to thy merciful keeping no longer queen, but a sister, entrusted to God's mercy.

**Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby**

Let us commend to the mercy of God, our maker and Redeemer, the soul of Elizabeth, our late Queen,

The cathedral came to a kind of attention, heads bowed inside and outside the abbey for two minutes silence.

Silence broken by Reveille.

The Queen's time in Westminster Abbey, her church, was over. Once again the bearer party formed and the coffin was lifted out through the West door where the naval ratings weighted with a gun carriage.

The band's struck up and took up the long procession to the waiting hearse.

The crowds excluded from the heart of Westminster saw their queen, their king, their military, down The Mall, they went a procession so unlike the jubilees, and weddings and celebrations of the past.

Then the last stage of the gun carriages journey to Wellington arch the corner of Hyde Park. With the sun pushing weakly through the clouds, the procession came to a halt.

Again, the coffin was lifted from the gun carriage and this time inched into the state hearse with crowds in every possible vantage point. The Queen left her capital for the final time.