

504 Two Days

Our Reflection this time is somewhat different, for obvious reasons.

First are some words of Scripture from “Daily Light on the Daily Path – A Devotional Textbook for Every Day of the Year in the Very Words of Scripture”, (using here the NJKV and J P Green Literal versions). Here are extracts from the entry for the evening of 8th September, in the afternoon of which day Her Majesty the Queen died –

“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep” (from I Corinthians 15.20).

“For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, so also shall we be in the resurrection” (Romans 6.5).

“The Lord Jesus Christ ... shall change our lowly body, that it may be conformed to his glorious body” (from Philippians 3.20-21).

“But if the Spirit of him that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you” (Romans 8.11).

“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live” (John 11.25).

We thank the Lord for Queen Elizabeth II, and for her Christian faith, example and service to the peoples of the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and wider world throughout her reign. Praise God, and by His grace, she, (along with all others “in Christ”), has “laid up” for her a greater crown than she has ever encountered so far - “a crown of righteousness” (from II Timothy 4.8).

Then we come to the words of the Holy Spirit through Paul – “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, [and] giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and [for] all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty” (I Timothy 2.1-2, KJV). So we now pray for King Charles III, using a prayer from the Holy Communion service in the Book of Common Prayer –

“Almighty and everlasting God, we are taught by thy holy Word, that the hearts of Kings are in thy rule and governance, and that thou dost dispose and turn them as it seemeth best to thy godly wisdom. We humbly beseech thee so to dispose and govern the heart of CHARLES thy Servant, our King and Governor, that, in all his thoughts, words and works, he may ever seek thy honour and glory, and study to preserve

thy people committed to his charge, in wealth, peace and godliness. Grant this, O merciful Father, for thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen".

We pray too for the new Prime Minister Liz Truss, for her Cabinet and government colleagues, and for all Members of Parliament.

Finally we note that the Lord God has replaced both a Prime Minister and a Queen within two days of each other. Three months ago, who would have foreseen that? What is more, He ensured rainbows over Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace as the Queen's death was announced. Truly, the Lord is at work: "I am the Lord, and there is no other" (Isaiah 45.5, NIV).

We wait, we watch, we serve, we pray - and we witness.

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