

SERVICE FOR MARGRIT ROSENSTOCK-HUESSY

Congregational Church, Norwich, Vermont
September 4, 1959

Prison over Robin
Aug. 1953

528

Officiating Clergy

Rev. Daniel Goldsmith - Hardwick, Vermont
Rev. Loren House, Jr. - Norwich, Vermont

HYMN "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

1. O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home, --
2. Under the shadow of thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting thou art God,
To endless years the same.
4. A thousand ages in thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends
the night
Before the rising sun.
5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.
6. O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while
troubles last,
And our eternal home.

OPENING SENTENCES:

The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence... before him.

V/ Man that is born of a woman, hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He cometh up, and is cut down, like a flower; he fleeth as it were a shadow, and never continueth in one stay.

In the midst of life we are in death; of whom may we seek for succour, but of thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased?

R/ Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death.

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy merciful ears to our prayer; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and merciful Saviour, thou most worthy judge eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from thee.

FIRST LESSON: Job 14

MAN that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not. And dost thou open thine eyes upon such an one, and bringest me into judgment with thee? Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one. Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast

appointed his bounds that he cannot pass; Turn from him, that he may rest, till he shall accomplish, as an hireling, his day. For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground; Yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant. But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he? As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up: So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep. O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me! If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands. For now thou numberest my steps: dost thou not watch over my sin? My transgression is sealed up in a bag, and thou sewest up mine iniquity. And surely the mountain falling cometh to nought, and the rock is removed out of his place. The waters wear the stones: thou wastest away the things which grow out of the dust of the earth; and thou destroyest the hope of man. Thou prevailest for ever against him, and he passeth: thou changest his countenance, and sendest him away. His sons come to honour, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them. But his flesh upon him shall have pain, and his soul within him shall mourn.

- V/ I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And my flesh shall see God my saviour.
 R/ Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another.
 V/ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.
 R/ And let light perpetual shine upon them.
 V/ May they rest in peace.
 R/ Amen.
- V/ From the gate of hell deliver my soul, O Lord.
 R/ Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

SONG OF HEZEKIAH: Isaiah 38:10-20

I said in the cutting off of my days, I shall go to the gates of the grave: I am deprived of the residue of my years. I said, I shall not see the Lord, even the Lord, in the land of the living: I shall behold man no more with the inhabitants of the world. Mine age is departed, and is removed from me as a shepherd's tent: I have cut off like a weaver my life: he will cut me off with pining sickness from day even to night wilt thou make an end of me. I reckoned till morning, that, as a lion, so will he break all my bones: from day even to night wilt thou make an end of me. Like a crane or a swallow, so did I chatter: I did mourn as a dove: mine eyes fail with looking upward: O Lord, I am oppressed; undertake for me. What shall I say? he hath

both spoken unto me, and himself hath done it: I shall go softly all my years in the bitterness of my soul. O Lord, by these things men live, and in all these things is the life of my spirit: so wilt thou recover me, and make me to live. Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back. For the grave cannot praise thee, death can not celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth. The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth. The Lord was ready to save me: therefore we will sing my songs to the stringed instruments all the days of our life in the house of the Lord.

V/ From the gate of hell deliver my soul, O Lord.

R/ Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

SECOND LESSON: The Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them. In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die: and their departure is taken for misery, And their going from us to be utter destruction: but they are in peace. For though they be punished in the sight of men, yet is their hope full of immortality. And having been a little chastised, they shall be greatly rewarded: for God proved them, and found them worthy for himself. As gold in the furnace hath he tried them, and received them as a burnt-offering. And in the time of their visitation, they shall shine, and run to and fro like sparks among the stubble. They shall judge the nations, and have dominion over the people, and their Lord shall reign for ever. They that put their trust in him shall understand the truth: and such as be faithful in love shall abide with him: for grace and mercy is to his saints, and he hath care for his elect.

Antiphora:

I believe verily to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

PSALM 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid? One thing have I desired of the Lord, which I will require; even that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the fair beauty of the Lord, and to visit his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his tabernacle; yea, in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me, and set me up upon a rock of stone. And now shall he lift up mine head above mine enemies round about me. Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation, with great gladness: I will sing and speak praises unto the Lord. Harken unto my voice, O Lord, when I cry unto thee; have mercy upon me, and hear me. My heart hath talked of thee, Seek ye my face: Thy face, O Lord, will I seek. O hide not thou thy face from me, nor cast thy servant away in displeasure. Thou hast been my succour, leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. I should utterly have fainted, but that I believe verily to see the goodness of

the Lord in the land of the living. O tarry thou the Lord's leisure; be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart; and put thou thy trust in the Lord.

Antiphon:

I believe verily to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Antiphon:

If thou Lord wilt be extreme to mark what is amiss, O Lord, who may abide it?

PSALM 130

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice. O let thine ears consider well the voice of my complaint. If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss, O Lord, who may abide it? For there is mercy with thee; therefore shalt thou be feared. I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for him; in his word is my trust. My soul fleeth unto the Lord before the morning watch; I say, before the morning watch. O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption. And he shall redeem Israel from all his sins.

V/ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.
 R/ And let light perpetual shine upon them.
 V/ May they rest in peace.
 R/ Amen.

THIRD LESSON: Romans 8:14-37

As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God; and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Antiphon:

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

PSALM 121

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills; from whence cometh my help? My help cometh even from the Lord, who hath made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved; and he that keepeth thee will not sleep. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord himself is thy keeper; the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand; So that the sun shall not burn thee by day, neither the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in, from this time forth for evermore.

V/ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.
 R/ And let light perpetual shine upon them.
 V/ May they rest in peace.
 R/ Amen.

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.

FOURTH LESSON: II Timothy 4:6-8

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

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.

THE APOSTLES' CREED (unison)

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: 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.

HYMN "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
 Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
 Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty;
 God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,
 Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
 Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
 Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! tho' the darkness hide thee,
 Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
 Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
 Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
 All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and
 sea;
 Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty;
 God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity! Amen.

PRAYERS

God of all grace, who didst send Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to bring life and immortality to light; most humbly and heartily we give Thee thanks, that by His death He destroyed the power of death, and by His glorious resurrection opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Grant us assuredly to know that because He lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, shall be able to separate us from Thy love, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Father of mercies, and God of all comfort; look in Thy tender love and pity, we beseech Thee, on Thy sorrowing servants. Enable them to find in Thee their refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge. Grant them faith and hope in Him who by death hath conquered death, and by rising again hath opened the gates of everlasting life; even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, before whose face the generations rise and pass away; we bless and praise Thy name for all Thy servants departed this life in Thy faith and fear, and especially for Thy servant, Margrit, whom Thou hast now taken to Thyself. We praise Thee for all Thy lovingkindness towards her throughout her earthly life and for all that she was, by nature and grace, to those who loved her and to the Church of Jesus Christ. And since it was Thy will to call her hence, we thank Thee that for her all sickness and sorrow are ended, that death itself is past, and that she may enter into the rest that remaineth for Thy people.

Remember Thy servant, O Lord, according to the favour which Thou bearest unto Thy people, and grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of Thee, she may go from strength to strength, in the life of perfect service, in Thy heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost ever, one God, world without end.

And we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that we, being inspired by the example of Thy saints, may run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; so that, when this mortal life is ended, we may be gathered with those whom we have loved, in the kingdom of Thy glory, where there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace, both now and evermore. Amen.

V/ Thou hast redeemed us, O Lord our God, by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God a Kingdom.

R/ All his Saints shall praise him, even the children of Israel, even the people that serveth him; such honour have all his Saints.

HYMN "Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand"

Ten thousand times ten thousand, In sparkling raiment bright,
The armies of the ransomed saints throng up the steeps of
light:
'Tis finished, all is finished, their fight with death and
sin;
Fling open wide the golden gates, and let the victors in!

What rush of alleluias fills all the earth and sky!
What ringing of a thousand harps bespeaks the triumph night!
O day, for which creation and all its tribes were made!
O joy, for all its former woes, A thousand-fold repaid!

O, then what raptured greetings on Canaan's happy shore!
What knitting severed friendships up, where partings are no
more!

Then eyes with joy shall sparkle, that brimmed with tears
of late,
Orphans no longer fatherless, nor widows desolate.

Bring near thy great salvation, Thou Lamb for sinners slain;
Fill up the roll of thine elect, Then take thy pow'r and reign;
Appear, Desire of nations, Thine exiles long for home;
Show in the heav'ns thy promised sign, Thou Prince and
Saviour, come! Amen.