

A prayer for Queen Elizabeth

Merciful God and Lord of all life, we praise you that we are made in your image and reflect your truth and light. We thank you for the life of our late sovereign lady **Elizabeth**; for her wise guidance and her love of peace, for the care and devotion with which she served her people, and for the example of her gracious life. May your faithful servant rest in peace and rise in glory. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

A prayer for those who mourn

Almighty God, source of all mercies and giver of all comfort: deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn, the members of the Royal Family, this Nation and all the Nations of the Commonwealth, that casting all our care on you, we may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A prayer for King Charles III

Almighty and eternal God, you uphold and govern all things both in heaven and on earth, and by your grace alone do kings and queens reign. We hold before you your servant **Charles**, our King. Give him the guidance of your Spirit, that under him this nation may be wisely and justly governed, and your Church proclaim your Gospel in peace. May he be dedicated to you in heart, and mind, and soul, persevering in good works to the end: through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

A prayer in times of change

I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.'

*Louise Haskins (1875–1958),
quoted by Queen Elizabeth II's father, King George VI,
in his Christmas broadcast, 1939*

A prayer for our last awakening

Bring us, O 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; no noise nor silence, but one equal music; no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity; in the habitations of thy glory and dominion, world without end.

after John Donne (1571–1631)

A prayer at the time of death

O God, who brought us to birth,
and in whose arms we die,
in our grief and shock
contain and comfort us;
embrace us with your love,
give us hope in our confusion
and grace to let go into new life;
through Jesus Christ.

Amen.