

In thanksgiving for the
grace of God in the life of

Elisabeth Ratiu

Mortlake Crematorium
12 noon, Monday 7 November 2016

O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.

from Psalm 139, one of Elisabeth's favourite readings



Elisabeth

4 April 1921 - 19 October 2016

The service begins with the following said by the priest from the rear of the Chapel. Please remain seated.

Merciful God, we give you thanks for the life of your child Elisabeth; and we pray that, preserving the good of her example among us, you will guard your truth from generation to generation; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**



I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.38,39



'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord. 'Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

John 11.25,26

Please stand. The coffin is brought in as Henry Purcell's Thou knowest Lord the secrets of our hearts is sung by the choir.

Followed by words of introduction.

The Revd Hugh Valentine, St James's Church Piccadilly W1

Reading

Psalm 23 *Read by Nicolae Ratiu*

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff - they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my
enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of
my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

Choir: God Be In My Head (Henry Walford Davies)



Reading

The Gospel According to Matthew (Ch. 5 vv1-12)

Read by Caroline Butler

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people 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 in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

A moment of silence is kept

Reading

Psalm 139 *Read by Indrei Ratiu*

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,

and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night',
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written



all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.

*Choir: In The Departure of the Lord
John Bull (1562-1628)*

Prayers

*Prayers are said, followed by our saying together the Lord's
Prayer -*

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.



The Commendation

All stand. Please say the words in bold

**Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints:
where sorrow and pain are no more; neither sighing, but
life everlasting.**

You alone are immortal, our creator and maker; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to the earth we shall return; for you so ordained when you created us, saying 'Dust you are, and to dust you shall return'; we shall all go down to the dust, and weeping over the grave, sing alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints:
where sorrow and pain are no more; neither sighing, but
life everlasting.**

Into your hands, O Lord, our faithful creator and most loving God, we commend your child Elisabeth. For she is yours in death as in life. In your great mercy fulfil in her your purpose; gather her to yourself in gentleness and peace, that rejoicing in the light of your presence, she may enjoy that rest which you have prepared for all your faithful servants; through Christ our Lord. *All say Amen*

Go forth upon your journey from this world, O Christian soul; in the name of God the Father Almighty who created you; in the name of Jesus Christ who suffered death for you; in the name of the Holy Spirit, who strengthens you; in communion with the blessed saints, aided by angels and archangels and all the heavenly host. May you dwell this day in peace. *All say Amen*

Elisabeth, as God freely gave you to us, so we freely let you go. We thank you, O God, for her life, for every memory of love and joy, for every good deed done by her, and for all we shared with her. And with our love we continue to surround her. Amen

We remain standing as Jubilate Deo (WA Mozart) is sung

The Committal

We have entrusted our sister Elisabeth to God's mercy, and we now commit her body to be cremated: earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust: in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our frail bodies that they may be conformed to his glorious body, who died, was buried, and rose again for us. To him be glory for ever.

All say **Amen**

Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake (Richard Farrant, 16th century) is sung. Immediately after which Elisabeth's sons and other family members lead us in departing from the Chapel. You are invited to join them afterwards - see following page.



Following the service please join us at The Tapestry 1 Lower Richmond Road SW14 7EZ (020 8878 7177). It is a short walk through the Crematorium Garden, along the tow path to the right, then right again at the Ship Inn. Cars may be left parked until 5pm in the Mortlake Crematorium grounds.

A **Memorial Service** to celebrate Elisabeth's life will be held at the church she attended for many years -

St James's Piccadilly London W1J 9LL
Saturday 3 December 2016 at 12 noon

To be followed by a reception at the
Ratiu Foundation, 18 Fitzhardinge Street,
Manchester Square, W1H 6EQ

www.ratiufamilyfoundation.com