

ORDER OF SERVICE

FOR

The Opening of the

ERMINE ESTATE
CHURCH HALL

AND THE

Dedication of its Sanctuary to

ST. JOHN BAPTIST

BY

THE LORD BISHOP OF LINCOLN

20th JANUARY, 1956

at 7.30 p.m.

When the people are assembled, the Bishop and his Chaplain shall be received by the Vicar and Churchwardens of the Parish, and the Vicar shall pray the Bishop to open and dedicate the Building.

Reverend Father in God, we pray you to open and dedicate this Church Hall.

To which the Bishop shall say:

I am ready to proceed to the opening and dedication.

During the singing of the Psalm the Bishop shall be conducted to his seat.

Psalm cxxi.

I will lift up my 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.

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.

Lesson.

Romans xii. 10 to end.

Then shall the Bishop say:

Let us pray.

V. O God make speed to save us:

R. O Lord make haste to help us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; In earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. Amen.

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. Who hath made heaven and earth.

The Bishop shall then speak to the people.

Hymn, during which the offerings of the people shall be received and presented.

Hymn 529.

Tune: Wareham.

Jesus, where'er Thy people meet,
There they behold Thy mercy-seat;
Where'er they seek Thee Thou art found,
And every place is hallow'd ground.

For Thou, within no walls confined,
Inhabitest the humble mind;
Such ever bring Thee when they come,
And going, take Thee to their home.

Great Shepherd of Thy chosen few,
Thy former mercies here renew;
Here to our waiting hearts proclaim
The sweetness of Thy saving Name.

Here may we prove the power of prayer,
To strengthen faith and sweeten care,
To teach our faint desires to rise,
And bring all Heav'n before our eyes.

Lord, we are few, but Thou art near,
Nor short Thine arm, nor deaf Thine ear;
O rend the Heav'ns, come quickly down,
And make a thousand hearts Thine own.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, in Whose blessed Name this house of prayer is built and dedicated, Grant, we beseech Thee, that, as we have prepared this place for the manifestations of Thy love, so we may also be built up a spiritual house for the offering of service acceptable unto Thee, Who livest and reigneth with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

The Blessing.

Grant that their prayers may ascend up into Thy presence, as the incense; and the lifting up of their hands be as the daily sacrifice. Purify their hearts, sanctify their spirits, and fulfil all their minds, that what they may faithfully ask they may effectually obtain, and ever give thanks to Thee. *Amen.*

Grant that their Oblations and Alms may come up as a memorial before Thee; and that they may feel and know that with such sacrifices Thou art well pleased. *Amen.*

Grant that this whole place which is here dedicated to Thee by our office and ministry, may also be hallowed by Thy Holy Spirit, through Thy mercy. O blessed Lord God, Who dost live and govern all things, world without end. *Amen.*

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be honour and glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Hymn 675.

Tune: University.

The Church of God a kingdom is,
Where Christ in power doth reign;
Where spirits yearn till, seen in bliss,
Their Lord shall come again.

Glad companies of saints possess
This Church below, above:
And God's perpetual calm doth bless
Their paradise of love.

An altar stands within the shrine
Whereon, once sacrificed,
Is set, immaculate, divine,
The Lamb of God, the Christ.

There rich and poor, from countless lands,
Praise God on mystic rood:
There nations reach forth holy hands
To take God's holy food.

There pure life-giving streams o'erflow
The sower's garden-ground:
And faith and hope fair blossoms show,
And fruits of love abound.

O King, O Christ, this endless grace
To us and all men bring,
To see the vision of Thy face
In joy, O Christ, our King.

O Father of lights, from Whom cometh down every good and every perfect gift, and through Whom alone it is that we can offer to Thee of Thine own; Accept the offering now humbly made of this Building for good, pious, and charitable uses, that whatsoever is done here may be for Thy glory and for the good of Thy people, both in body and soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

V. Behold how good and joyful a thing it is:

R. For brethren to dwell together in unity.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, Who art the head Corner-stone of Thy Church; Bless this Building which is now completed in Thy Name, and grant that it may tend to promote Thy glory, and the welfare of Thy people in this place. Fill those who shall frequent it with the spirit of love towards Thee, and towards all men. Within these walls may harsh thoughts be subdued, and unkind words unspoken, and may those who shall learn the way of Thy statutes, walk before Thee with a perfect heart, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life: who with the Father and the Holy Ghost ever livest one God, world without end. *Amen.*

V. May our sons grow up as the young plants.

R. And our daughters be as the polished corners of the Temple.

Let us pray.

O Lord who never failest to help and govern them whom Thou dost bring up in Thy steadfast fear and love; Keep, we beseech Thee, those who shall meet in this place under the protection of Thy good providence, and make them to have a perpetual fear and love of Thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hymn 690.

Tune: S. Stephen.

Great Shepherd of Thy people, hear,
Thy presence now display;
As Thou hast given a place for prayer,
So give us hearts to pray.
Within these walls let holy peace,
And love, and concord dwell;
Here give the troubled conscience ease,
The wounded spirit heal.
May we in faith receive Thy word,
In faith present our prayers,
And in the presence of our Lord
Unbosom all our cares.
The hearing ear, the seeing eye,
The contrite heart bestow;
And shine upon us from on high,
That we in grace may grow.

The Bishop, standing at the Holy Table and turning to the people, shall say:

Dearly beloved in the Lord, forasmuch as devout and holy men, as well under the Law as under the Gospel, moved by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, have erected houses for the public worship of God, in order to fill men's minds with greater reverence for His glorious Majesty, and to affect their hearts with more devotion and humility in His service; which pious works have been approved and graciously accepted by our heavenly Father: let us not doubt that He will also approve our godly purpose of setting apart this place to the performance of the several offices of divine worship; and let us faithfully and devoutly ask His blessing on this our undertaking.

Then the Bishop shall say:

O Eternal God, mighty of power, and of majesty incomprehensible, Whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of temples made with hands. Who has yet been graciously pleased to promise Thy special presence where two or three are gathered together in Thy Name; Vouchsafe, O Lord, to be present with us who are gathered here to set apart this place to the honour of Thy great Name; accept we beseech Thee, at our hands, this Sanctuary for the promotion of Thy Glory, the ministration of Thy Word and Sacraments, and the salvation of Thy people, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

1 Corinthians x. 15.

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a communion of the body of Christ?

V. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven:

R. That a man may eat thereof and not die.

Then, the people kneeling, the Bishop shall say:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who hast given Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ not only to die for us, but also to be our spiritual food and sustenance in the Holy Sacrament of His Body and Blood; grant that the memorial of His death may here be made with reverence and godly fear, and the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving be offered with holiness and joy, to the honour of Thy glorious name, the benefit of Thy whole Church, and the comfort of souls that feed upon Him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, to Whom with Thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

Vouchsafe, O Lord, our God, to bless, hallow, and consecrate this Altar to Thine honour, and for the perpetual memorial of the one Oblation once offered upon the Cross; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

The Altar shall then be vested and the Bishop shall continue:

In the Faith of Jesus Christ we dedicate these adornings of the Holy Table in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, The Power and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

Then shall all the people, still kneeling, sing the following hymn:

Hymn 157.

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire;
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost Thy sevenfold gifts impart:
The blessed unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love;
Enable with perpetual light
The dullness of our blinded sight:
Anoint and cheer our soiled face
With the abundance of Thy grace:
Keep far our foes, give peace at home;
Where Thou art Guide no ill can come.
Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And Thee, of Both, to be but One;
That through the ages all along
This may be our endless song,
Praise to Thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Then shall the Bishop arise and say, the people standing:

In the Faith of Jesus Christ we dedicate this Church Hall in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that those who shall receive in this place the blessed Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ may come to this holy Mystery with repentance and faith, thanksgiving and love; and being fulfilled with Thy grace and heavenly benediction, may obtain remission of their sins, and all other benefits of His Passion. Amen.

Grant that those who come here to the Holy Communion may offer themselves, their souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto Thee. Amen.