

The Prayers  
and  
The Readings from God's Word  
at the  
Funeral Service of  
General of the Army  
**Dwight David Eisenhower**  
The Thirty-fourth President of  
The United States

Monday, March 31, 1969

Washington, D. C.

In Memoriam



*For Dr. Edmund A. H. Cross  
with love and  
warm regard from his friend  
Dwight D. Eisenhower*

1890-1969

Portions of the Funeral Service  
Conducted by  
The Reverend Dr. Edward L. R. Elson  
in The Washington Cathedral  
Washington, D. C.  
Monday, March 31, 1969

*Psalms 46 and 121 were read responsively*

*"Hear the reading of God's word, being excerpts from the Letters of Paul, the Apostle, and the words of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

II TIMOTHY 4: 6-7

- 6 ". . . the time of my departure is at hand.  
7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

ROMANS 8: 14, 35, 37-39

- 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.  
35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?  
37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.  
38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,  
39 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.

I THESSALONIANS 4: 13, 14, 18

- 13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.  
14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.  
18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

II CORINTHIANS 4: 5

- 5 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

I CORINTHIANS 13: 9-13

- 9 For we know in part, and we prophecy in part.
- 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.
- 11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.
- 12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.
- 13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

I CORINTHIANS 15: 57, 58

- 57 Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

EPHESIANS 6: 10-18

- 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.
- 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
- 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.
- 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- 14 Stand therefore, having your loins gird about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;
- 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
- 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.
- 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
- 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

MATTHEW 5: 3, 4, 8, 9

- 3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
- 8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
- 9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

JOHN 14 (adapted from the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship)

Jesus said: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.

"These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

*(The 23rd Psalm was sung by the choir  
to the tune from the Scottish Psalter)*

Almighty God, Father of mercies and Giver of all comfort, deal graciously, we pray Thee, with all those who mourn this day, that casting every care on Thee, they may know the consolation of Thy love, the healing of Thy grace, and the companionship of Thy presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Eternal Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, draw us close to Thee and let Thy light and joy fill our souls as we offer unto Thee the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts; for the mystery and wonder of life here and hereafter. We thank Thee that deep in the human heart is an unquenchable trust that life does not end with death, that the Father who made us will care for us beyond the bounds of vision even as He has cared

for us in this earthly pilgrimage. We praise Thy name that our hope has been so wondrously confirmed in the life, the words and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We give Thee thanks for all the sacred memories and hallowed recollections which cluster about this hour.

We thank Thee for Thy servant Dwight David. For his goodly heritage, his godly parents, his boyhood home and early training, and for his beloved companion of the years. We thank Thee for the nobility of his manhood, the integrity of his person, the hospitality of his mind and magnanimity of his spirit; for his steadfastness under provocation, for his gifts of reconciliation, for his kindness and his firmness, for his compassion and mercy, for his warm friendship, his transparent spirituality, his patience in suffering, and for all that endeared him to the multitudes of mankind. Especially do we thank Thee for his Christian testimony, for the depth and durability of his faith, for his constant witness to the spiritual basis of our common life, for his steadfastness in seeking to know and to do Thy will, and for his daily walk with Thee.

We thank Thee too for all the human graces with which Thou didst endow him—for his sheer joy in living, for his infectious humor, his zeal as sportsman and competitor, his love of beauty and his efforts to express it on canvas and in words, for his love of family and for the sanctity of his home.

O God, in whose sovereign will is the destiny of men and nations, who art a God of history and beyond history, we give Thee special thanks for the magnitude of his public service—for his military prowess in defense of freedom; for his leadership in winning and in conserving the peace; for his high service as President of the Republic. We give Thee thanks for his vast labors transcending all parties and factions, encompassing all men and nations, for his high vision of the better world toward which all men of good will strive, and for his devotion to that higher kingdom, the ruler of which is God and the law of which is love.

O Eternal Father, suffer us not to miss the glory of this hour. May a new spirit arise in us this day. Give us eyes to see and hearts to feel the undaunted courage, the invincible faith, the unconquerable love of Thy servant, Dwight David, that we may be true as he was true, loyal as he was loyal; that we may henceforth be good enough and great enough for our times. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

And now, O Father, who doest all things well, with thankful hearts that Thou has given him to us for a season, we give Thy servant, Dwight David, back to Thy tender care, until the shadows flee away, and the brighter day dawns, when the visible and invisible are as one in Thy higher kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



In preparing for his first Inauguration, General Dwight David Eisenhower asked the Rev. Dr. Edward L. R. Elson, Pastor of The National Presbyterian Church, to conduct a private pre-Inaugural service of dedication in the Church on the morning of January 20, 1953. The President invited only the Vice President, members of the Cabinet, members of the White House staff, officials of the Inaugural Committee, and their families to share in this service—a total of 181 persons. Following the 20-minute service, the President-elect went to his suite in the Statler-Hilton Hotel, sat down at a table, and on a yellow pad wrote a brief prayer with which he began his first Inaugural address. The spirit of the man and the language of the prayer profoundly moved people everywhere when he said, "Give us, we pray, the power to discern clearly right from wrong and allow all our words and actions to be governed thereby and by the laws of this land."

President Eisenhower had long considered completing his identification with the Church as an active communicant member of a particular congregation. The matter was discussed with Dr. Elson on several occasions prior to his Inauguration and several notes were exchanged between the minister and the nation's new leader. On February 1, 1953, the President and Mrs. Eisenhower were received into full communicant membership of The National Presbyterian Church. They appeared before the Session of the Church in the room off the N Street entrance of the old Church. Having been a member of the Presbyterian Church from childhood, Mrs. Eisenhower was received on reaffirmation of faith from her Denver church. It not being the practice of President Eisenhower's parents' church to baptize infants, the President therefore made his personal profession of faith and received Christian baptism, kneeling on the prie-dieu provided for that purpose. At the service which followed, President and Mrs. Eisenhower received Holy Communion for the first time as members of this congregation and were publicly acknowledged as two members of a class of fifty new Church members.

During the eight years which followed, President and Mrs. Eisenhower were unfailingly present at Church service and they entered wholly into the life of the congregation.

President Eisenhower gave personal leadership in developing the new National Presbyterian Church and Center. While President he enlisted the support of Presbyterian laymen and he personally contributed to the project. It is fitting that the Chapel of the Presidents be dedicated to him.