

Death is nothing at all (All is well)

*Death is nothing at all.
It does not count.
I have only slipped away into the next room.
Nothing has happened.*

*Everything remains exactly as it was.
I am I, and you are you,
and the old life that we lived so fondly together is untouched, unchanged.
Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.*

*Call me by the old familiar name.
Speak of me in the easy way which you always used.
Put no difference into your tone.
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.*

*Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.
Let it be spoken without an effort, without the ghost of a shadow upon it.*

*Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was.
There is absolute and unbroken continuity.
What is this death but a negligible accident?*

*Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?
I am but waiting for you, for an interval,
somewhere very near,
just round the corner.*

*All is well.
Nothing is hurt; nothing is lost.
One brief moment and all will be as it was before.
How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting when we meet again!*

Opening Hymn

Abide With Me

Abide with me! fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

Come not in terrors, as the King of kings;
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings:
Tears for all woes, a heart for every plea;
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour:
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless:
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

THE FIRST READING

Wisdom 3:1-9

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God,
no torment shall ever touch them.

In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die,
their going looked like a disaster,
their leaving us, like annihilation: but they are in
peace.

If they experienced punishment as men see it, their
hope was rich with immortality: slight was their
affliction, great with their blessings be.

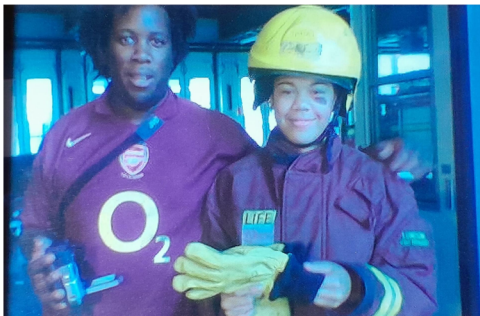
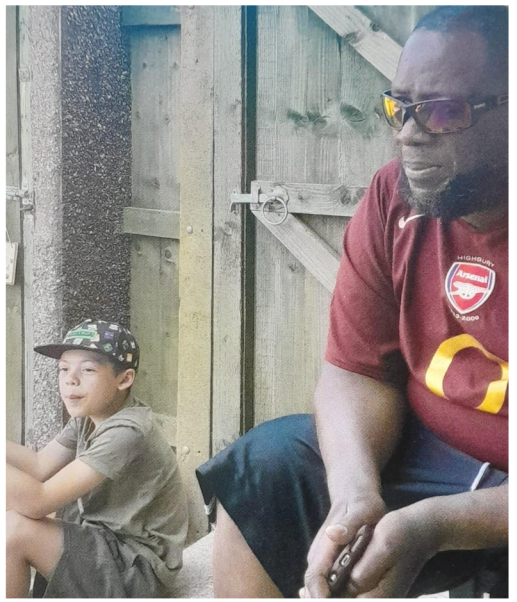
God has put them to the test and proved them
worthy to be with him:

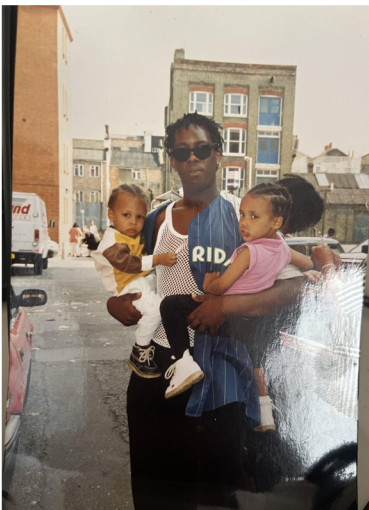
he has tested them like gold in a furnace,
and accepted them as a holocaust.

When the time comes for his visitation they will
shine :

as sparks run through the stubble, so will they.
They shall judge nations, rule over people, and the
Lord will be their king for ever.

They who trust in him will understand the truth,
those who are faithful will live with him in love: for
grace and mercy await those he has chosen.





Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk
though the darkest valley
I will 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 your love will follow me all the days of my
life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Gospel Reading

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew Chapter 5: versus 1-12

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."

Matthew 5:1-12

Offertory Hymn

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

T'was grace that taught my heart to fear
and grace my fears relieved
How precious did, that grace appeared
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come
Tis grace that bought me save thus far
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.