

Westminster Abbey



DEDICATION OF A WINDOW
IN MEMORY OF
ELIZABETH CLEGHORN GASKELL
NOVELIST AND BIOGRAPHER
1810–65

Saturday 25 September 2010

4.00 pm



Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell
Portrait by William John Thomson, 1832

The service is conducted by The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster.

ORDER OF SERVICE

The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, says

THE OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, whose majesty is revealed in mercy: grant that as we draw near to thee thy truths may set us free from the bondage of our own thoughts and desires, and that as we abide in thee our prayers may be an instrument of thy righteous will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Elizabeth Williams, Chairman, Gaskell Society, reads

LUKE 4: 16–21

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

THE ADDRESS

by

Jenny Uglow

Vice-President, Gaskell Society

THE DEDICATION OF THE WINDOW

Rosemary Dabbs, great-great granddaughter, says:

I ask you, Mr Dean, to receive into the safe custody of the Dean and Chapter, here in the South Transept, this memorial in honour of Elizabeth Gaskell.

The Dean responds:

To the greater glory of God and in thankful memory of Elizabeth Gaskell, and of all that she achieved, I dedicate this memorial: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Rosemary Dabbs lays a wreath under the window. Silence is kept.

The Dean leads

THE PRAYERS

Let us remember before God Elizabeth's achievements and let us pray that we may have the grace to use our skills for the glory of God.

Almighty God, by whose power thy faithful servants walk and do not faint and in whose strength they mount up on wings like eagles: we give thee thanks for the life, skill, and endeavour of thy servant Elizabeth, and we beseech thee so to grant us that same spirit of life in Christ, that we, inspired by her example and using our gifts aright, may have life and have it abundantly; through him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, even Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us give thanks to God for Elizabeth's ability to be a champion of the poor, and let us pray that we may all strive for social justice.

Almighty God, we give thee thanks for all who work for the relief of those who suffer, and we pray that thou wilt hasten the time when no man shall live in contentment while he knows that his neighbour has need. Inspire in us and in all people the consciousness that we are not our own but thine and our neighbours'; for his sake who prayed that we might be one in him, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us give thanks to God for Elizabeth's writings and for their prophetic voice, and let us give thanks for those who speak where others listen.

Almighty God, who hast proclaimed thine eternal truth by the voice of prophets and evangelists and the skill of those who write: direct and bless, we beseech thee, those who in our generation speak where many listen, and write what many read; that they may play their part in making the heart of the people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous, to the honour of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All these prayers and praises let us offer to the Father in the prayer that Jesus Christ has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who 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.

The Dean pronounces

THE BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no-one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**