

Devotion for Week of September 18, 2022
Rev. Jeanne Simpson

I just finished watching the queen's funeral, and the music especially touched me. In addition to the congregation singing "Love Divine, All Love's Excelling," the Westminster boys'/men's choir sang a beautiful short anthem, "O Taste and See," from Psalm 34:8. Here are the first 8 verses:

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.

O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.

I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant,
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

This poor soul cried and was heard by the Lord
and was saved from every trouble.

The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him and delivers them.

O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.

Ralph Vaughan Williams composed this arrangement for the coronation of the queen in 1953. I find this a fitting tribute to a monarch who served her country for 70 years, not only as queen of the realm, but as head of the Church of England. As the Dean of Westminster Abbey, the Rev. David Hoyle, said in his commitment message: "Go forth, oh Christian soul." May we all celebrate the life of this woman who led a Commonwealth for so long. She wasn't our queen, but in many ways, she was the world's queen.

Jeanne