

that the lives of prophets are not easy, and President Monson's life is not easy. He referred specifically to that last night in priesthood meeting. Called to the apostleship at age 36, his children were ages 12, 9, and 4, respectively. Sister Monson and those children have given their husband and father to the Church and its duties for more than 50 years. They have endured the illnesses and demands, the bumps and bruises of mortality which everyone faces, some of which undoubtedly yet lie ahead of them. But President Monson stays irrepressibly cheerful through it all. Nothing gets him down. He has remarkable faith and unusual stamina.

President, for this entire congregation, seen and unseen, I say we love and honor you. Your devotion is an example to us all. We thank you for your leadership. Fourteen others holding the apostolic office, plus others on this stand, those seated in the congregation, and legions gathered around the world love you, sustain you, and stand shoulder to shoulder with you in this work. We will lighten your load any way we can. You are one of those angelic messengers called from before the foundation of the world to wave the ensign of the gospel of Jesus Christ to all the world. You are doing so magnificently. Of that gospel being declared, the salvation it provides, and He who provides it, I so testify in the grand and glorious name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

President Thomas S. Monson

At the close of conference

My brothers and sisters, my heart is full as we come to the close of this conference. We have felt the Spirit of the Lord in rich abundance. I express my appreciation and that of members of the Church everywhere to each one who has participated,

NOTES

1. Isaiah 2:2; 11:12.
2. "The Morning Breaks," *Hymns*, no. 1.
3. Doctrine and Covenants 68:4.
4. See 1 Corinthians 13:13.
5. See 1 Corinthians 1:23.
6. Doctrine and Covenants 6:9; 11:9.
7. Isaiah 61:1.
8. Ephesians 3:8.
9. Harold B. Lee, in "The Message," *New Era*, Jan. 1971, 6.
10. See Matthew 5:3–12.
11. Matthew 5:21–22; see also 3 Nephi 12:22.
12. Matthew 5:27–28.
13. Matthew 5:48.
14. See Romans 14:11; Mosiah 27:31.
15. Doctrine and Covenants 88:81.
16. Doctrine and Covenants 88:89–90, 92.

President Eyring

As we conclude the conference, we express appreciation to the Tabernacle Choir, the combined choir from BYU–Idaho, and the priesthood choir from the Ogden Utah and Logan Utah Institutes and their conductors and organists for the beautiful and inspiring music. We also extend thanks to all who have participated in any way in these proceedings.

Our concluding speaker at this session will be our beloved prophet, President Thomas S. Monson. Following President Monson's remarks, the choir will sing our closing hymn, "More Holiness Give Me." The benediction will then be offered by Elder Kent D. Watson of the Seventy.

including those who have offered prayers. May we long remember the messages we have heard. As we receive the issues of the *Ensign* and *Liahona* magazines which will contain these messages in written form, may we read and study them.

Once again the music in all of the sessions has been wonderful. I express my

personal gratitude for those willing to share with us their talents, touching and inspiring us in the process.

We have sustained, by uplifted hand, Brethren who have been called to new positions during this conference. We want them to know that we look forward to working with them in the cause of the Master.

I express my love and appreciation for my devoted counselors, President Henry B. Eyring and President Dieter F. Uchtdorf. They are men of wisdom and understanding. Their service is invaluable. I love and support my Brethren of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. They serve most effectively, and they are completely dedicated to the work. I also express my love to the members of the Seventy and the Presiding Bishopric.

Heavenly Father is mindful of us

We face many challenges in the world today, but I assure you that our Heavenly Father is mindful of us. He loves each of us and will bless us as we seek Him through prayer and strive to keep His commandments.

We are a global church. Our membership is found throughout the world. May we be good citizens of the nations in which we live and good neighbors in our communities, reaching out to those of other faiths as well as to those of our own. May we be examples of honesty and integrity wherever we go and in whatever we do.

Thank you for your prayers in my behalf, brothers and sisters, and in behalf of all of the General Authorities of the Church. We are deeply grateful for you and for all that you do to further the work of the Lord.

As you return to your homes, may you do so safely. May the blessings of heaven be upon you.

Reflections on the Savior

Now, before we leave today, may I share with you my love for the Savior and for His great atoning sacrifice for us. In three weeks' time the entire Christian world will be celebrating Easter. I believe that none of us can conceive the full import of what Christ did for us in Gethsemane, but I am grateful every day of my life for His atoning sacrifice in our behalf.

At the last moment, He could have turned back. But He did not. He passed beneath all things that He might save all things. In doing so, He gave us life beyond this mortal existence. He reclaimed us from the Fall of Adam.

To the depths of my very soul, I am grateful to Him. He taught us how to live. He taught us how to die. He secured our salvation.

As I close, may I share with you touching words written by Emily Harris which describe so well my feelings as Easter comes:

The linen which once held Him is empty.

It lies there,

Fresh and white and clean.

The door stands opened.

The stone is rolled away,

And I can almost hear the angels singing His praises.

Linen cannot hold Him.

Stone cannot hold Him.

The words echo through the empty limestone chamber,

"He is not here."

The linen which once held Him is now empty.

It lies there,

Fresh and white and clean

And oh, hallelujah, it is empty.¹

Blessings to you, my brothers and sisters. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, amen.

NOTE

1. Emily Harris, “Empty Linen,” *New Era*, Apr. 2011, 49.

The choir sang “More Holiness Give Me.”

Elder Kent D. Watson offered the benediction.

SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE MUSIC

The Tabernacle Choir provided the music for the Saturday morning, Sunday morning, and Sunday afternoon sessions. Mack Wilberg and Ryan Murphy directed the choir. Clay Christiansen, Richard Elliott, Andrew Unsworth, Bonnie Goodliffe, and Linda Margetts were the organists.

A combined choir from Brigham Young University–Idaho provided music for the Saturday afternoon session. Eda Ashby and Randall Kempton directed the choir, and Bonnie Goodliffe was the organist.

A priesthood choir from the Ogden Utah and Logan Utah Institutes provided the

music for the priesthood session. Jerald F. Simon, J. Nyles Salmond, and Alan T. Saunders directed the choir, and Andrew Unsworth was the organist.

Throughout the conference sessions, prelude, postlude, and interlude music and accompaniments on the organ were played by Clay Christiansen, Richard Elliott, Andrew Unsworth, Bonnie Goodliffe, and Linda Margetts.

Brook P. Hales

Clerk of the Conference