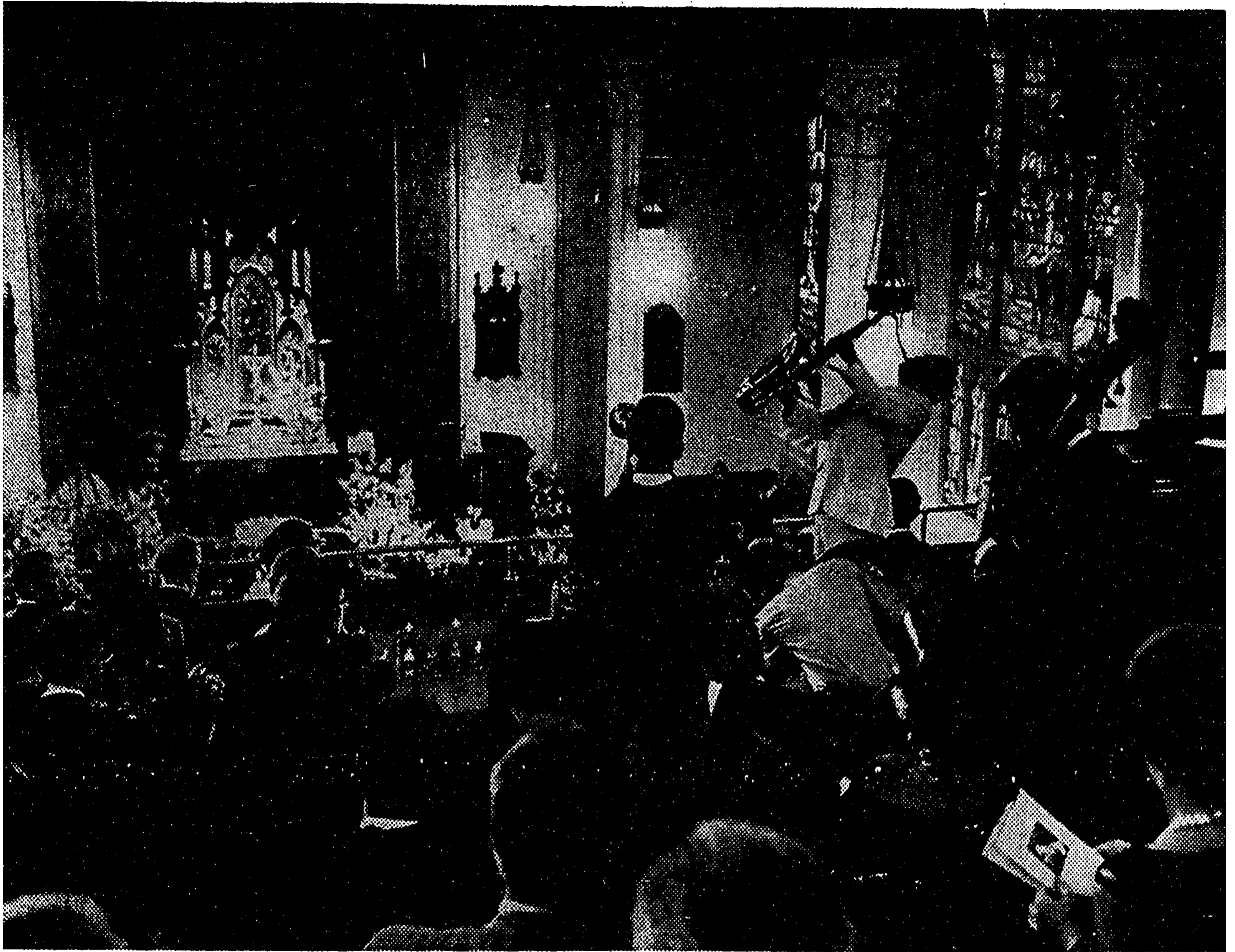


Coltrane Is Given a Jazzman's Funeral Here



DIRGE FOR A JAZZMAN: The Albert Ayler Quartet performs during services for John W. Coltrane, the musician, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Albert Ayler plays tenor saxophone, the instrument that made Mr. Coltrane famous.

The New York Times (by Neal Boenzi)

Avant garde jazz music crashed, whimpered and wailed yesterday at the funeral of John W. Coltrane.

Over a thousand friends, fans, relatives and jazzmen attended the service for the 40-year-old saxophonist who was considered one of the most gifted modern jazz men of this decade.

The music for the service at St. Peter's Lutheran Church on Lexington Avenue and 54th Street was played by two of Mr. Coltrane's friends, Ornette Coleman and Albert Ayler, who composed original compositions for the funeral.

As the service began, Mr. Ayler and his quartet were playing "Truth is Marching" in the balcony of the Neo-Gothic Church. Mourners filled the 650 seats and continued to file in, filling the rear of the church and the narthex.

As more arrived they spilled down the front steps on to Lexington Avenue, where the

cacophony of traffic added another dimension of sound to the atonal music that could be heard from the church.

"Rarely have so many musicians congregated in one place," said Rev. John G. Gensel a Lutheran pastor who was appointed by his church a minister to the jazz community in New York in 1965.

He read chapters from the book of John from a gold filigree bible given to him by Duke Ellington, who brought it back from Jerusalem two years ago. "I use this bible whenever I have a funeral service for a musician," said Reverend Gensel.

One admirer of Mr. Coltrane who came from Japan, where his music is as well known as it is in America, missed the funeral. Tepei Inokuchi, a writer for the Japanese jazz magazine, The Swing Journal, arrived just as the funeral was ending. He said that John Col-

trane was the most popular jazz musician in Japan.

Instead of a eulogy, Mr. Coltrane's friend, Calvin Massey, read a long religious poem called "A Love Supreme" written by the dead musician in 1965. It was used in a Coltrane album of the same name which was chosen the record of the year in 1965 by Down Beat Magazine.

According to a letter written by Mr. Coltrane, who died Monday at the age of 40, the poem was a result of a "spiritual awakening in 1957." In it, he wrote:

It is all with God
It is all with Thee
Obey the Lord
Blessed is He.

"The loss of this musician to the world of jazz in inexplicable," said Dizzy Gillespie.

"I guess somebody will carry on his music," said Milt Jackson, vibraphonist with the Modern Jazz Quartet.

The casket, covered with

yellow roses and white lilies, was flanked by flowers sent by Duke Ellington, Nina Simone, Stan Getz the Horace Silver Quartet, Max Roach and many other musicians.

Instead of a benediction, Reverend Gensel closed the service with a letter written to his listeners by John Coltrane and used as liner notes in his album "A Love Supreme." . . . May we never forget that in the sunshine of our lives, through the storm and after the rain—it is all with God. . . . All Praise to God. With Love to all, I thank you.

Ornette Colman's quartet sent music from his composition, "Holiday for a Graveyard," floating over the congregation at the end of the service, where celebrities and friends stood while John Coltrane's casket was rolled out of the church. He was buried at Pinelawn Memorial Park, Farmingdale, L.I.