

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING TO MARK THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY

THE HYMN: I VOW TO THEE MY COUNTRY

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:
The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
We may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace

THE UNION FLAG IS LAID IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR

THE SENTENCES

God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46.1

I lift up my eyes to the hills - from whence will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121.1-2

OPENING PRAYER

LET US PRAY

We commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may live in freedom, justice and peace. We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror. We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

THE COLLECTS

God, who is our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: Hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord

AND THE COLLECT FOR JULIAN OF NORWICH

Most holy God, the ground of our beseeching, who through your servant Julian revealed the wonders of your love: grant that as we are created in your nature and restored by your grace, our wills may be so made one with yours that we may come to see you face to face and gaze on you for ever; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

THE FIRST READING [Isaiah 58: 6-9a, 11-12](#)

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and

to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear-guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. *Here ends the first reading.*

Before the Epistle we say

PSALM 3

ALL: O LORD, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying to me, 'There is no help for you in God.'

But you, O LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, and the one who lifts up my head. I cry aloud to the LORD, and he answers me from his holy hill.

I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the LORD sustains me. I am not afraid of tens of thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.

Rise up, O LORD! Deliver me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked.

Deliverance belongs to the LORD; may your blessing be on your people. *Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.*

THE EPISTLE Romans 8: 31-39

God's Love in Christ Jesus

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

There is no Gradual Hymn

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

The Beatitudes

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.

SERMON

CREED

THE INTERCESSIONS

Trusting the promises of God, and with faith in his mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Today we give thanks for the selfless and courageous service and sacrifice of those who brought peace to Europe, and for the good example they have given us;

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We pray for nations still devastated by war, for their people and their leaders, and for those who suffer the effects or memories of past wars; for veterans, for those who mourn, and for all innocent victims whose lives have been shattered by the cruelty of others.

Lord God of truth and justice, we hold before you those men and women who have died in active service: in Iraq, in Afghanistan and in other places where the armed forces of the Crown have

served or are serving. As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We give thanks for the reconciliation of former enemies, for the flourishing of goodwill between all, and for the many blessings we enjoy as a result of the sacrifices which have made for peace.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ exchanged the glory of a heavenly throne for the form of a servant, we give thanks that you have given us our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth our Queen and have given her a heart to serve her people, have kept her devoted in the service of this and all Nations of which she is Queen and also her great devotion to the Commonwealth of Nations encourage us by her example to serve one another, and to seek the common good, until you call us all to reign with Christ in your eternal kingdom.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We pray for the young people of our own day and for all who will shape the future of this nation, that they may be inspired by those who have gone before them to serve as they have been served;

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

AN ACT OF REDEDICATION

In normal times I would ask a senior member of our congregation and a pupil from our school to lead this Act but I will do it now on behalf of us all:

We fought for peace, that the world might never again know such violence and destruction. I ask us all to work for peace and reconciliation in our homes and communities, and promote peace throughout the world?

With the help of God, we will.

We fought for justice, that prejudice and oppression might never again take root in our societies. I ask us all to work for a world in which hatred and injustice never again become the curse of humanity.

With the help of God, we will

We struggled so that the whole human family might know good will, security, and freedom. I ask us all to acknowledge how precious are these gifts that God has entrusted to us, so that we may exercise our precious freedom and responsibility that is entrusted to us with gratitude and humility?

With the help of God, we will

May almighty God, who has given us the will to undertake these things, bless us with the strength to perform them. Amen.

And today we say these special prayers:

A Prayer for the National Health Service

LORD Jesus Christ, who gave healing and comfort to the sick in body, mind and spirit give knowledge, wisdom, kindness and gentleness and power, to all our physicians, surgeons, nurses; and all other workers in our National Health Service and for Pharmacists and the staff of our Chemist shops your guiding hand and our thanks.

A Prayer for medical researchers

Almighty God, who at creation gave to us your children, a very part of yourself - a soul and the ability to create guide and encourage all who are engaged in medical research so that we may come out of this terrible pandemic through their knowledge, skill and dedication. Amen.

A prayer for Shop-workers, refuse collectors, m postmen and all who quietly help us in our daily lives.

Gracious God we give you thanks that you have placed in the hearts of all who work on our behalf a spirit of dedication and love for their fellow human beings. Amen.

We pray for all we know who are sick in body mind and spirit and

we pray for Sue Hodson, Mo Pollitt, Pauline and David Jessop, Stuart Chisholm, now in respite care and people we know who are Suffering, including **Jack and Sam Bourne suffering from COVID 19 and for Shan the sister in law of Lance Prince's (Roman Soldier) who is undergoing a bone marrow transplant**

We pray for the housebound **Mary Lunt. Marjorie Isles and Jean Rowlands and Audrey Wilson of Callin Court and indeed all in Callin Court** We pray for the homeless and the destitute and for the lonely and those who are sad in spirit. Remembering, at this time people we may know and we think of those who are or disfigured by pain and sadness.

Lord in your mercy - Hear our prayer

We pray for the Departed particularly at this time for Désirée Pearl Cartwright and Adele Edwards and those who mourn, and today we think of **The years' mind of Cecily Elizabeth Morley and Robert Arthur, of Frances Gawthorpe and William Elliott** and also for those in our own Families and those we knew, May your perpetual light shine upon them - may they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory

Lord in your mercy - Hear our prayer

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God. And we join these simple prayers with those of Our Lady your Mother, St John the Baptist, Julian of Norwich and all your saints both living and departed and we say: Merciful Father

AN ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them.

All: We will remember them.

The Last Post

A Minute's Silence

(The Reveille)

Laying of a Poppy Wreath

On behalf of the Church

THE OFFERTORY

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

Lead us heavenly Father Lead us

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
For we have no help but Thee;
Yet possessing every blessing
If our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;
All our weakness Thou dost know;
Thou didst tread this earth before us,
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;
Lone and dreary, faint and weary,
Through the desert Thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
Love with every passion blending,
Pleasure that can never cloy;
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,
Nothing can our peace destroy.

POST COMMUNION:

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom of God and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

*"When You Go Home, Tell Them of Us and Say,
For Your Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today"*

FINAL HYMN

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.
- 2 Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.
- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal home.

THE PRAYER OF ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

Teach us, good Lord to serve thee as thou deservest,
to give and not to count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds;
to toil and not to seek for rest;
to labour and not to ask for any reward;
except that of knowing that we do thy will. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth, and all mankind, peace and concord; and to us sinners, life everlasting; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen:
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us:
God save the Queen.

Thy choicest gifts in store,
On her be pleased to pour;
Long may she reign:
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice
God save the Queen

THE DISMISSAL