

**A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING TO MARK THE 75th ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY
8 May 2020, 17:00**

The Greeting and Introduction

Heaviness may endure for a night:

But joy comes in the morning.

God has been our refuge and our strength:

A present help in time of trouble.

We are here to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe when the sounds of war fell silent on this continent.

We come conscious of our need for God's forgiveness for the sin and the desire to dominate others that leads to conflict between people, and war between nations.

We come to remember the many soldiers, sailors, and aircrew, as well as millions of citizens across Europe, who suffered and died in the battle against evil and tyranny.

We give thanks to God for the cooperation that there was then between East and West, and for the peace which there has subsequently been in most of Europe.

And we pray for peace and reconciliation and healing, that God's will may be done on earth as it is in heaven, as we join our voices together and say:

Our Father in Heaven

Hallowed be Your name.

Your Kingdom come

Your will be done

On earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sin as we forgive those who sin against us;

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory are yours,

Now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn: Praise my Soul the King of heaven

550 Henry Francis Lyre (1793-1847) based on Psalm 103

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven!

To his feet thy tribute bring;

ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,

who like me his praise should sing?

Praise him! Praise him!

Praise him! Praise him!

Praise the everlasting King!

**2. Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same as ever,
slow to chide and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness!**

**3. Father-like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows!**

**4. Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace!**

**A reading from Luke 2:8-14, read by the British Ambassador, H.E. Deborah Bronnert CMG
(These verses were read at Westminster Abbey service of Thanksgiving on the 8 May 1945)
*The beginning of the everlasting Gospel of Peace***

And there were shepherds in the same country abiding in the field, and keeping watch by night over their flock. And an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.
And the angel said unto them, Be not afraid: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all the people. For here is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this is the sign unto you; Ye shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased.

A reading from Philippians 4:4-8, read by the US Ambassador, H.E. John J. Sullivan

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Responsory

Your salvation is near to those who fear you,

that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

that glory may dwell in our land.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

**Your salvation is near to those who fear you,
that glory may dwell in our land.**

Cf Psalms 84, 89

*Hymn: O God our help in ages past
483 Isaac Wares (1674-1748) alt.*

**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. Beneath 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,
will bear us all away;
we fade and vanish, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.**

**6. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.**

Reflection: Rev Canon Malcolm Rogers, Chaplain of St Andrew's

Solo: *Salva Regina, Mater Misericordiae* by Puccini. Sung and contributed to this service by Dame Svetlana Kasyan. She is accompanied by Maestro Sibirzev, director of the New Opera Theatre

A prayer asking that, in this valley of tears and place of exile, we might be shown Jesus

Prayers:

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

Thanks be to God.

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, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us give thanks for those who work for peace and liberty throughout the world, and for the appropriate deployment of Armed Forces to bring an end to injustice and oppression; let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We pray for those in our own day who have grown weary or lost hope as a result of violence or terror; for all refugees and displaced people, and for those who seek to address the causes of discord and distrust; Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us give thanks for the reconciliation of former enemies, for the flourishing of goodwill between them, and for the many blessings we enjoy as a result of the sacrifices which have made for peace; let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the reconciliation of former allies and enemies and for the flourishing of goodwill between them, and for the many freedoms and benefits we enjoy as a result of the sacrifices which have made for peace; let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Today we face a different global enemy, and so we pray for an end to the spread of Covid-19; for all who are involved in the battle against the virus; for doctors, nurses and medical staff on the front line; for scientists seeking a vaccine; for leaders making critical decisions, and for all working in essential sectors to enable our cities and communities to survive; we pray for protection, inspiration and for grace for our nations to work together. Lord, hear us

Lord, graciously hear us.

An Act of Commitment

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow men and women: that we may help, encourage and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare and healing of the nations.

**Lord God our Father,
we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind,
in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering,
and for the praise of your name.**

**Guide us by your Spirit;
give us wisdom;
give us courage;
give us hope;
and keep us faithful now and always. Amen**

Hymn: Guide me O thou great Redeemer

240 William Williams (1717-1791) trans. Peter Williams (1727-1796) and others

**1. Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy pow'rful hand:
Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.**

**2. Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through;
strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.**

The Blessing

May God grant to His Church
to the Queen, the Commonwealth,
to President Trump and the peoples of the United States,
to President Putin and the nation of Russia,
and all people, peace;
and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The service will conclude with the Nunc Dimittis to a setting by Geoffrey Burgon, sung by
Nicolette Kirk, St Andrew's Director of Music*