

A Service to Give Thanks  
for the 75th Anniversary  
of the End of the  
Second World War

Friday 8th May 2020

## Introduction

### Psalm 116

I love the Lord, for he has heard the voice of my supplication; because he inclined his ear to me on the day I called to him.

The snares of death encompassed me; the pains of hell took hold of me; by grief and sorrow was I held.

Then I called upon the name of the Lord: 'O Lord, I beg you, deliver my soul.'

Gracious is the Lord and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

The Lord watches over the simple; I was brought very low and he saved me.

Turn again to your rest, O my soul, for the Lord has been gracious to you.

For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears and my feet from falling.

I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

I believed that I should perish for I was sorely troubled; and I said in my alarm, 'Everyone is a liar.'

How shall I repay the Lord for all the benefits he has given to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.

O Lord, I am your servant, your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,

In the courts of the house of the Lord, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Alleluia.

## Address

## Prayers

Let us thank God for His goodness to us in granting victory to the Allies, and ask that his guidance and blessing may rest upon those who make and keep the peace.

O Eternal Lord God, our only refuge and strength, who from generation to generation receives the prayers of your people who call upon you: we heartily thank you that you heard their prayers, and blessed them with final victory in Europe. Grant that a just and merciful peace may continue to repair the losses and heal the wounds of war; and continually guide the counsels of the nations, to your glory and for the lasting good of all humankind, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

Let us ask God that his healing power be with the wounded, the sick, and all who suffer.

Almighty God, who looks in Fatherly love on all who suffer, hear our prayers for the wounded and sick; give to each of them your help, in spirit and in body, according to their need. Sanctify them, cheer them, and if it is your will, restore them, and in your redeeming love, have mercy on the fallen. All this we ask through the mediation of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us ask God, who has given us so many blessings, to help us to serve him faithfully throughout our generation.

Heavenly Father, you have called us in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ to continue his work of reconciliation and reveal you to the world. Forgive us the sins which tear us apart; give us the courage to overcome our fears and to seek that unity which is your gift and your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for God's grace in this current crisis, that he may bless us now, as he blessed us then.

Almighty God, have mercy upon your people in the face of this disease. Turn back, we pray, the spread of infection, and save us. Bless and heal those who suffer, and bring them safely through their illness. Give to those who are infected courage and wisdom to protect those around them, and grace and trust to ask for help and prayer. Bless the work of the medical and emergency services- keep them safe, and prosper the work of their hands in the prevention, treatment and cure of this disease. Bless and guide our leaders in the impossible choices they face. Be with them and those who advise them in their planning and in their decisions, and through their leadership, let your people be blessed. Guide us and all your people in our love and care for one another. This we ask in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

#### The Thanksgiving

*The response is 'We thank you, O Lord'.*

O Lord, we thank you for the Royal Navy, and all who laboured so willingly in our ports and docks.

**'We thank you, O Lord'**

For the Royal Air Force and the Allied Air Forces

**'We thank you, O Lord'**

For our Army and the armies of the allies who fought with them, and for the spirit of friendship and cooperation that existed between them.

**'We thank you, O Lord'**

For the men and women who worked long hours in factories, mines and fields

**'We thank you, O Lord'**

For families and friends, and for the whole country, who by their great confidence encouraged each other through the bitterest days.

**'We thank you, O Lord'**

For those who cared for and cheered the wounded, and by their skill and patience assisted your work of mercy

**'We thank you, O Lord'**

For those who mourn the loss of loved ones, and who bore their sacrifices with patience and fortitude

**'We thank you, O Lord'**

For the commanders and leaders who guided our forces through so many battles

**'We thank you, O Lord'**

For the knowledge that you were present in all dangers, trials and tribulations, and for granting final victory to the allies.

**'We thank you, O Lord'**

### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

### The Act of Remembrance

Let us remain in silence for a moment as we remember those who made the supreme sacrifice, and commend their souls to God.

*Two minutes of silence follow.*

Remember, O Lord, your servants who laid down their lives for their friends; those who did not count the price of their sacrifice, even unto death. In that place of light, whence sorrow and mourning are far vanished, give them rest, O Lord, lover of souls; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**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.**

### The Blessing

God grant to the living, grace. To the departed, rest.  
To the church, the Queen, the commonwealth and all people,  
Unity, peace and concord,  
And to us and all God's servants, 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**

*Please raise a glass at 3pm today, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, in joint celebration of the victory that was won 75 years ago, and in solidarity with those working and praying with us for an end to the crisis that faces us today.*

*This service was taken largely from a booklet entitled 'Second Army Thanksgiving service on conclusion of the campaign in North West Europe, 6th June 1944 to 5th May 1945'. With grateful thanks to Mr Mike Moore, who lent his father's copy to the church.*