

# A SERVICE FOR VE DAY – The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory in Europe

## ***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.**

Mindful of our own present concerns, we pause to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe, when the sounds of war fell silent on this continent.

We remember our need of God's forgiveness for the sin which desires to dominate others, and leads to conflict between people, and war between nations.

We remember the thousands of soldiers, sailors, and airmen who gave their lives; we remember the countless civilians who lost their homes, their livelihoods, their lives. We commemorate those in Government, whose courageous decisions enabled the defeat of tyranny.

So, we come in thanksgiving for the years of peace that the nations of Europe have enjoyed for 75 years. We come *joyfully* today, as those who gathered on that first Victory day, grateful for the laughter and love that follows times of sadness and loss. And though we cannot meet in person, we are thankful for those whose company we enjoy, and who share with us the gift of freedom.

But above all things, let us pray that God's will may be done on earth as it is in heaven, as we say together:

*All*    **Our Father in heaven...**

## ***Bible Reading***

**Zechariah 8.3–8**    *Living safely and at peace*

<sup>3</sup> Thus says the LORD: I will return to Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts shall be called the holy mountain. <sup>4</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. <sup>5</sup> And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. <sup>6</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts: Even though it seems impossible to the remnant of this people in these days, should it also seem impossible to me, says the LORD of hosts? <sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts: I will save my people from the east country and from the west country; <sup>8</sup> and I will bring them to live in Jerusalem. They shall be my people and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness.

## ***A Short Reflection***

## ***Our Prayers***

O Lord our God, as we remember, teach us the ways of peace.  
As we treasure memories, teach us to hope.  
As we give thanks for the sacrifices of the past, help us to make your future in this world,  
until your kingdom come. **Amen.**

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,  
bless our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth,  
and all who are in authority under her;  
that they may order all things in wisdom and equity,  
righteousness and peace,  
to the honour of your name,  
and the good of your Church and people;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

We are not people of fear:  
we are people of courage.  
We are not people who protect our own safety:  
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.  
We are not people of greed:  
we are people of generosity.  
We are your people God,  
giving and loving,  
wherever we are,  
whatever it costs  
For as long as it takes  
wherever you call us.  
So, help us we pray. **Amen.**

## ***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 of the nations.

*All* **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.**

## ***The Blessing***

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest;  
to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth, and to all people,  
peace and concord;  
and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;  
and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
come down upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**