



A SERVICE FOR VE DAY

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.

Dear friends, we have come together on this day to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe, when the sounds of war fell silent on this continent.

We come together 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.

And as we remember the many who gave their lives restraining evil and opposing tyranny, so we also come in thanksgiving for the years of peace that the nations of Europe have enjoyed since the Second World War. We gather joyfully today, as those who gathered on that first Victory day, glad of each other's company, and grateful for the laughter and love that follows times of sadness and loss. But above all things, let us pray 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 it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
forgive us our sins,
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 forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Micah 4.1-4

New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 5.16-21

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.

Reflection

Prayers

Prayers may include the following:

- *an expression of sorrow for the atrocities of war;*
- *that former enemies may be forgiven,*
- *that we may be freed from feelings of fear, revenge, and xenophobia,*
- *and finally, that we may be thankful for times of peace and find joy in the company of one another.*

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.

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.

**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.**

Collect for Peace

Almighty God,
from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:
kindle in the hearts of all people the true love of peace;
and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom
those who take counsel for the nations of the earth;
that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward,
till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

The Blessing

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest;
to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth,
and 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.

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