

# WESTMINSTER ABBEY

## A SHORT THANKSGIVING FOR VICTORY

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*The congregation are asked to join heartily in the responses.*

"The Lord hath done great things for us, which ought to be had in remembrance."

Let us therefore offer high praise and thanksgiving to the God of all mercies for the success which He has granted to us and to our Allies : for the faith which has upheld us through years of danger and suffering : for the skill of our leaders and the valour and steadfastness of sailors, soldiers and airmen : for the hope that we are about to enter upon a righteous and abiding peace: for the holy memory and high example of that great company of men and women, known and unknown, whose faith and courage God has inspired and used.

Minister : *O give thanks unto the Lord for He is gracious.*

People : And His mercy endureth for ever

Minister : *Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy Name give the praise*

People : For thy loving mercy and for thy truth's sake

Minister : *In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God*

People : He heard my voice out of his holy temple, and my cry came even unto His ears

Minister : *Let them give thanks whom the Lord hath redeemed*

People : And delivered from the hands of the enemy

Minister : *Glory be the Father, etc.*

People : As it was in the beginning, etc.

Let us Pray

*(The congregation shall remain standing)*

To Thee, O Lord, the Champion Leader of Thy people, do we Thy servants ascribe thankoffering of victory, for Thou hast delivered us in the cloudy and dark day. And as Thou hast invincible power, let the design of Thy great love lighten upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows ; and give peace to Thy Church, peace among nations, peace in our dwellings and peace in our hearts. We ask it in the name of the Victorious Christ, Thy Son our Blessed Lord. *Amen.*

*Here may be sung the Doxology or some other hymn of praise*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ;

Praise him, all creatures here below ;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host ;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*After which a passage of Holy Scripture may be read*

*Hymn 166 A. & M.*

All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice ; Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell, Come ye before Him, and rejoice.	O enter then His gates with praise, Approach with joy His courts unto ; Praise, laud, and bless His Name For it is seemly so to do. [always,
The Lord, ye know, is God indeed ; Without our aid He did us make ; We are His folk, He doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.	For why? the Lord our God is good ; His mercy is for ever sure ; His truth at all times firmly stood, And shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
The God Whom Heav'n and earth adore,  
From men and from the Angel-host  
Be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

*A short address may follow at the discretion of the Minister*

Let us pray

*The congregation shall remain standing*

**Let us remember with pride and all honour those who have laid down their lives in the cause of freedom and justice.**

Remember, O Lord, all those, the brave and the true, who have died the death of honour, and are departed in the hope of resurrection to Eternal Life. We praise Thy Holy Name for the gift of their matchless courage. We thank Thee that their warfare is accomplished, that their sorrows are assuaged, and their grievous wounds all healed. Crown, we beseech Thee, with Thy loving mercy, the offering of their brave lives. Grant unto them Thy eternal peace ; and the blessing of Thy perfect comfort unto all who mourn. We ask it in the name of Him who died and rose again for us all, Thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Let us remember also any who may still be detained in prison camps and those who are prisoners of war in the Far East.**

O God who through Thy Son Jesus Christ dost proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound, look, we beseech Thee, with compassion on all who are still prisoners of war. Comfort them in all their afflictions, and hasten the day of their deliverance, that so both they and we may together glorify Thee for Thy great mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Let us offer ourselves afresh to God praying that we may be enabled to fulfil His purpose in the world.**

Grant, O merciful God, that with malice toward none, with charity to all, with firmness in the right as thou givest us to see the right, we may strive to finish the task which thou hast appointed us ; to bind up the nations' wounds ; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan ; to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(Adapted from the speech of Abraham Lincoln at his second Inauguration as President, March 4, 1865.)*

*Another hymn may here be sung at the discretion of the Minister.*

Let us sum up our prayers and praises by joining together in the prayer  
our Lord Himself has taught us saying—

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name ; Thy kingdom  
come ; Thy will be done ; In earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our  
daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that 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.

#### A FINAL ACT OF THANKSGIVING TO BE SAID BY ALL

Blessing and honour, thanksgiving and praise, more than we can utter,  
more than we can conceive, be unto Thee, O most adorable Trinity, Father,  
Son and Holy Spirit, by all angels, all men, all creatures for ever and ever.  
Amen and Amen. To God the Father who first loved us, and made us accepted  
in the Beloved : to God the Son, who loved us, and washed us from our sins  
in His own blood : to God the Holy Ghost, who sheds the love of God abroad  
in our hearts, be all love and all glory, for time and for eternity. Amen.

#### THE BLESSING

#### THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

#### THANKSGIVING HYMNS

##### *Hymn 165 A. & M.*

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home ;

Beneath the shadow of Thy Throne  
Thy Saints have dwelt secure ;  
Sufficient is Thine Arm alone,  
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

*William Croft (1678-1727)*

A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone ;  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Bears all its sons away ;  
They fly forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,  
And our eternal home.

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

##### *Hymn 298 A. & M.*

Praise my soul, the King of Heaven,  
To His feet thy tribute bring ;  
Ransom'd, heal'd, restored, forgiven,  
Evermore His praises sing ;  
Alleluia ! Alleluia !  
Praise the everlasting King.

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 ;  
Alleluia ! Alleluia !  
Glorious in His faithfulness.

*John Goss (1800-1880)*

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 ;  
Alleluia ! Alleluia !  
Widely yet His mercy flows.

Angels in the height, adore Him ;  
Ye behold Him face to face ;  
Saints triumphant, bow before Him,  
Gather'd in from every race ;  
Alleluia ! Alleluia !  
Praise with us the God of grace.

*H. F. Lyte (1793-1847)*

*Hymn 379 A. & M.*

Now thank we all our God,  
With heart, and hands, and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In Whom His world rejoices ;  
Who from our mother's arms  
Hath bless'd us on our way  
With countless gift of love,  
And still is ours to-day.

O may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us ;  
And keep us in His grace,  
And guide us when perplex'd,  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God  
The Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him Who reigns  
With Them in highest Heaven,  
The One Eternal God,  
Whom earth and heaven adore,  
For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore. Amen.

*Johann Crüger (1598-1662)*

*M. Rinckart (1586-1649)*

*Translated by Catherine Winkworth (1829-1878)*

[Form I]

# THANKSGIVING FOR VICTORY

## ORDER OF SERVICE

May 8 1945

The Clergy and choir having taken their places, the congregation shall stand and sing the first verse of

### THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

God save our gracious King,  
Long live our noble King,  
God save the King!  
Send him victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us,  
God save the King!

The congregation still standing, the Minister shall say

### THE BIDDING

BRETHREN, we are met together on this day to pour out our hearts in fervent thanksgiving to the God and Father of us all, and to dedicate ourselves afresh to the service of his Kingdom. We desire to thank him for deliverance from the hand of our enemies; for the devotion, even to death, of those who for the five years past have stood between us and slavery; and for the hopes of a better world for all his people. I bid you, therefore, lift up your hearts that you may tell the praises of our God, and pray that his wisdom may lead us, and his Spirit strengthen us, in the days that are to come.

Minister Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us:  
People but unto thy Name give the praise.  
Minister The Lord hath done great things for us already:  
People whereof we rejoice.  
Minister Praise the Lord, O my soul:  
People and forget not all his benefits.

### HYMN

"Praise my Soul"

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;  
To his feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Evermore his praises sing.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise the everlasting King.  
Praise him for his grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise him still the same for ever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Glorious in his faithfulness.

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!  
Widely yet his mercy flows.  
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 with us the God of grace.

Then shall the Minister say,

Now bless the Lord your God.

Then, the congregation having knelt down, shall be said

### THE THANKSGIVINGS

Minister We give thanks to thee, O Lord our Father:  
For the call to do battle for the right,  
For the unity of nation and empire,  
For the maintenance of faith and hope in the darkest days,  
People We thank thee, O Lord.

*Minister* For the trust and cooperation between the allied nations,  
For the mighty help of Russia and the United States of America,  
For the wholehearted loyalty of the Dominions and Colonies,

*People* We thank thee, O Lord.

*Minister* For our King and Queen,  
For the gift of great leaders,  
For the ready sacrifice of the whole people,  
For all who endured bravely in pain and loss,

*People* We thank thee, O Lord.

*Minister* For all who have laid down their lives that we might be free,

*People* We thank thee, O Lord.

*(Here shall be made a pause for silent remembrance of the fallen)*

*Minister* For the daring and endurance of our navies,  
For the resolute bravery of our armies,  
For the skill and determination of our airmen,

*People* We thank thee, O Lord.

*Minister* For the devotion of doctors, nurses, and chaplains,  
For the protectors of our homes,  
For all who have laboured to provide food and the tools of war,

*People* We thank thee, O Lord.

*Minister* For thy sustaining power through toil and fear, agonies and most instant perils,  
For the issue awarded upon thy eternal judgment,  
For the promise of peace,

*People* We thank thee, O Lord.

*Minister* For these and all other blessings from the hand of God, let us give thanks in the words of the ancient psalm:

¶ *Then, all standing, shall be said these verses of*

*PSALM 136*

*Minister* O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious:

*People* for his mercy endureth for ever.

*Minister* O thank the Lord of all lords:

*People* for his mercy endureth for ever.

*Minister* Who only doeth great wonders:

*People* for his mercy endureth for ever.

*Minister* Who remembered us when we were in trouble:

*People* for his mercy endureth for ever.

*Minister* And hath delivered us from our enemies:

*People* for his mercy endureth for ever.

*Minister* O give thanks unto the God of heaven:

*People* for his mercy endureth for ever.

*Minister* O give thanks unto the Lord of lords:

*People* for his mercy endureth for ever.

¶ *And all shall sing,*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

LESSON: S. Luke 2, vv. 8-14

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 there 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.

HYMN

"Wareham"

Rejoice, O land, in God thy might,  
His will obey, him serve aright;  
For thee the saints uplift their voice:  
Fear not, O land, in God rejoice.

Glad shalt thou be, with blessing crowned,  
With joy and peace thou shalt abound;  
Yea, love with thee shall make his home  
Until thou see God's kingdom come.

He shall forgive thy sins untold;  
Remember thou his love of old;  
Walk in his way, his word adore,  
And keep his truth for evermore.

Here may follow

THE ADDRESS

Then shall the people kneel; and the Minister, from the pulpit, shall call them to

SOLEMN DEDICATION

Let us, as our best and only worthy thanksgiving, lay our lives before God in penitence for the past and resolve for the future, and dedicate ourselves anew to his service;

Minister That ye, being delivered out of the hand of our enemies:

People might serve him without fear:

Minister In holiness and righteousness before him:

People all the days of our life.

Minister Let us confess our forgetfulness of God, and our share of the sin that brought catastrophe upon the world.

Then shall all say together,

ALMIGHTY GOD, longsuffering and of great goodness: We confess to thee, we confess with our whole heart: our neglect and forgetfulness of thy commandments: our wrong doing, speaking, and thinking: the hurts we have done to others: and the good we have left undone: O God, forgive thy people that have sinned against thee: and blot out all our transgressions: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Minister

GRANT, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray now for a true and lasting peace.

ETERNAL GOD, in whose Kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, and no strength known but the strength of love: We pray thee so mightily to shed and spread abroad thy Spirit, that all peoples and ranks may be gathered under one banner, of the Prince of Peace; as children of one God and Father of all; to whom be the dominion and glory now and for ever. Amen.

Pray for a new world.

**O** MOST HOLY Spirit of God, from whom alone floweth the fulness of wisdom and life: Come in thine everlasting power and glory upon thy Church and into the hearts of men, to bring to the world a new birth of holiness, new understandings of truth and new unity in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with the Father and with thee liveth and reigneth, one God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Let us now make together our resolve to our Father in heaven.

¶ *Then shall be said by the Minister and people together, line by line,*

**O** LORD GOD, we acknowledge thee as our Father:  
ourselves as thy children:  
our neighbours as our brethren:

And we dedicate to thy obedience:  
and to their service:  
our hearts and minds, our wills and works:

Resolved to stand fast in thy faith:  
to seek the help of thy Holy Spirit:  
and to do battle for thy perfect Kingdom:  
In the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**O**UR FATHER, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done: In earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that 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.*

¶ *Then the Minister shall say,*

Finally, in the hour of rejoicing let us silently remember all those for whom the end of war is not the end of suffering.

¶ *At the end of the silence the Minister shall say,*

The Lord be mindful of them and bless them.

¶ *Then shall the congregation stand, and there shall be sung TE DEUM LAUDAMUS, or this*

#### HYMN

Before th'almighty Father's throne,  
Ye nations, bow with sacred joy;  
Know that the Lord is God alone;  
He can create, and he destroy.

His sovereign power, without our aid,  
Made us of clay, and formed us men;  
And when like wandering sheep we strayed,  
He brought us to his fold again.

We'll crowd thy gates with thankful songs;  
High as the heavens our voices raise;  
And earth, with her ten thousand tongues,  
Shall fill thy courts with sounding praise.

Wide as the world is thy command;  
Vast as eternity thy love;  
Firm as a rock thy truth shall stand,  
When rolling years shall cease to move.

#### THE BLESSING

¶ *Let each one go forth from this thanksgiving to practise his dedication, advancing in the service of God, and making by his daily work and life an offering to the Creator for the new creation: to the praise of his holy Name and the good of all.*

*The second Hymn is from the Yattendon Hymnal. By permission of the Oxford University Press.*

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