

# VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Thanksgiving and Prayers

*We begin our service by hearing the opening prayers from Westminster Abbey's Thanksgiving Service for Victory in 1945.*

Minister: 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 forever**

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 to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

**People: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, Amen**

.....

Seventy-five years have passed since this first VE Day celebration, and we remain thankful for the peace and security we enjoy, and for the sacrifices made so many years ago. Here is a reading from the prophecy of Micah in the Old Testament of the Bible, which promises a time of peace and companionship.

<sup>1</sup>In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. <sup>2</sup>Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. <sup>4</sup>Everyone will sit under their own vine and

under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken.

Let us pray.

Lord God, we thank you for the sacrifice of a previous generation who gained for us our peace, security and justice for the oppressed, and we pray for those who still make sacrifices for the good of humanity.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for communities who stood together through adversity, and we pray for fortitude and community spirit in the time we now find ourselves.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We thank you for our Queen, our country, our heritage, our community, and we pray that we may continue to exhibit the virtues of loyalty and courage as we celebrate together.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Let us pray together as our Saviour has taught us

**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,  
Forever and ever, Amen**

In gratitude to those who gave their lives in the last great war, and remembering those who still make great sacrifices for the common good, let us keep two minutes silence...

.....

**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 of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
Be among you and all those you love, now and always, Amen