Easter 5 Service

Welcome:

Heaviness may endure for a night:

**But joy comes in the morning**.

God is our refuge and our strength:

**A present help in time of trouble.**

Christ is risen from the dead.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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 acknowledge our need of God’s forgiveness for the sin that leads to conflict between peoples and nations.

We remember with thankfulness the Second Wold War generation whose service and sacrifice brought peace and freedom to our nation, and

We commit ourselves to building a just society in which all are valued and prosperity is shared to the benefit of all.

We begin by singing a hymn of thankfulness for God’s provision and protection

Opening hymn: Bless the Lord

*Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul*

*Worship His holy name*

*Sing like never before O my soul*

*I'll worship Your holy name.*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me

Let me be singing when the evening comes.

*Chorus*

You’re rich in love and You're slow to anger

Your name is great and Your heart is kind

For all Your goodness I will keep on singing

10,000 reasons for my heart to find

*Chorus*

And on that day when my strength is failing

the end draws near and my time has come

Still my soul will sing Your praise unending

10,000 years and then forever more

*Chorus*

Confession:

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden,

to ask for His forgiveness and peace.

**Lord our God,**

**in our sin we have avoided your call.**

**Our love for you is like a morning cloud,**

**Like the dew that goes away early.**

**Have mercy on us;**

**Deliver us from judgement;**

**Bind up our wounds and revive us;**

**In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the God of love bring us back to himself,

Forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love

In Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God,

Who through your only begotten Son Jesus Christ

Have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:

Grant that, as by your grace going before us

You put into our minds good desires,

So by your continual help we may bring them to good effect:

Through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. **Amen.**

Reading: Matthew 5:1-16

A New Hope:

Chorus: Only by grace

Only by grace can we enter,

Only by grace can we stand.

Not by our human endeavor,

But by the blood of the Lamb.

Into Your presence You call us,

You call us to come;

Into Your presence You draw us,

And now by Your grace we come.

Now by Your grace we come.

Lord if You mark our transgressions who would stand?

Thanks to Your grace, we are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.

Lord if You mark our transgressions who would stand?

Thanks to Your grace, we are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.

Reading: 2 Corinthians 15:16-21

Address:

Prayers:

O God of truth and justice,  
we hold before you those men and women  
who have died in active service, particularly in the Second World War,  
whose sacrifice brought Victory in Europe.  
As we honour their courage and cherish their memory,

we give thanks for those serving on the front line today,

Fighting an invisible enemy,

that attacks our homes, our businesses and our way of life.

Lord as you delivered us before, so turn to us again now,  
for you are the source of all life and hope, now and for ever.

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

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness and love,

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 people;

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

Loving Father, who has taught us to love our neighbour,  
and to care for all who are in need:  
we give thanks for the many volunteers who work tirelessly

To support and protect the shielded and the vulnerable in our community;  
In this time of isolation keep us from anxiety,

Sustain us with hope and enfold us in your peace.  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father,

We pray for all who are in hospital, hospice or care settings,

Or living alone at home,

We pray for those unable to visit loved ones,

and are missing their children and grandchildren.

We pray for those grieving the loss of loved ones

and unable to properly celebrate their lives.

Comfort and uphold them in love,

grant them faith to trust in your purposes,

and hope to sustain them through this time.

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

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.**

***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.**

We draw our prayers to a close with the prayer our Lord 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**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: Lord for the years

Lord for the years Your love has kept and guided,

Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,

Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:

Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life, which fires us,

Speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze

Teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:

Lord of the word, receive Your people’s praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,

Spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:

For young and old, for commonwealth and nation,

Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world where men disown and doubt You,

Loveless in strength and comfortless in pain,

Hungry and helpless, lost indeed without You

Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us –

Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,

Past put behind us, for the future take us:

Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

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. **Amen.**