

# A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING TO MARK THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### ISAIAH 58: 6–9A, 11–12

Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward. Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

### ROMANS 8: 31–39

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

# THE PRAYERS

Trusting the promises of God, and with faith in his mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

Let us give thanks for the selfless and courageous service and sacrifice of those who brought peace to Europe, and for the good example they have given us; let us bless the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

We pray for nations still devastated by war, for their people and their leaders, and for those who suffer the effects or memories of past wars; for veterans, for those who mourn, and for all innocent victims whose lives have been shattered by the cruelty of others; Lord, hear us.

**LORD, GRACIOUSLY HEAR US.**

Let us give thanks for those who work for peace and liberty throughout the world, for the Armed Forces of the Crown, and for all who strive to bring an end to injustice and oppression; let us bless the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

We pray for those in our own day who have grown weary or lost hope as a result of violence or terror; for all refugees and displaced people, and for those who seek to address the causes of discord and distrust; Lord, hear us.

**LORD, GRACIOUSLY HEAR US.**

Let us give thanks for the reconciliation of former enemies, for the flourishing of goodwill between them, and for the many blessings we enjoy as a result of the sacrifices which have made for peace; let us bless the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

We pray for the young people of our own day and for all who will shape the future of this nation, that they may be inspired by those who have gone before them to serve as they have been served; Lord, hear us.

**LORD, GRACIOUSLY HEAR US.**

For the reconciliation of former enemies and for the flourishing of goodwill between them, and for the many freedoms and benefits we enjoy as a result of the sacrifices which have made for peace; let us bless the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

# ACT OF REDEDICATION

*to be led by a Veteran of the Second World War and a young person*

We fought for peace, that the world might never again know such violence and destruction.

Will you work for peace and reconciliation in your homes and communities, and promote peace throughout the world?

## **WITH THE HELP OF GOD, WE WILL.**

We fought for justice, that the scourge of prejudice and oppression might never again take root in our societies.

Will you work for a world in which hatred and injustice never have the final word, and where all people can flourish with dignity and hope?

## **WITH THE HELP OF GOD, WE WILL.**

We struggled so that the whole human family might know good will, security, and freedom.

Will you always acknowledge how precious are the gifts which God has entrusted to us, and exercise the freedoms and responsibilities you have with gratitude and humility?

## **WITH THE HELP OF GOD, WE WILL.**

May almighty God, who has given us the will to undertake these things, bless us with the strength to perform them.

**AMEN.**