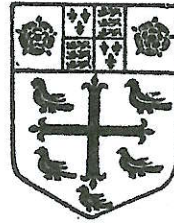


WESTMINSTER ABBEY

A SHORT THANKSGIVING FOR FINAL VICTORY



THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Then shall the Dean say :

Brethren in the Lord we meet here in Westminster Abbey, the most sacred spot on British soil, amid the memorials of our most illustrious dead to 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 suffering and danger : for the skill of our leaders and the valour 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.

V. From the rising up of the sun unto the going down of the same, the Lord's name be praised.

R. *We praise thee, O God.*

V. With all the hosts of heaven, we worship and adore thy glorious name, evermore praising thee and saying :

R. *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts ;
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory ;
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Amen.*

HYMN

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)

Then shall follow the following passage from Holy Writ

ISAIAH LXI 1-9 OR ISAIAH LI 9-16

Let us pray

To thee, O Lord, the Champion Leader of thy people, do we thy servants ascribe thankofferings of victory, for thou has 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.*

Almighty God, Judge of the nations, we come before thee in penitence and thanksgiving, in humility and faith. We give thee hearty thanks for thy mercy shewn to us in the successes granted to our arms and those of our allies ; we thank thee for the courage and endurance of sailors, soldiers, and airmen ; for the vision of statesmen, and the skill of commanders. And we pray thee to uphold the spirit of all the peoples of the United Nations, that we may be worthy of victory and may so dedicate ourselves to thy service that we may be able to use it to thy honour and the benefit of all mankind ; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, may dominion over all the world be given henceforth and for evermore. *Amen.*

Grant, O Lord, that we may be worthy of the victory for which so many have suffered and died. Save us in this hour of deliverance from sinking into selfish ease, and grant us such leadership and such readiness to serve thee, that Britain may be an instrument in thy hands to make of all nations one family and bring healing to the hearts of men. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Eternal God, who alone makest wars to cease in all the world ; we pray for all those who are called to the task of laying the foundations of peace in this distracted and embittered world. Inspire their minds, enlarge their vision, direct their counsels, that, humble and wise, fearless and unfaltering, they may stand for righteousness and truth. Raise the minds of all men everywhere above the mists of suspicion and hatred into the pure light of justice and goodwill, that so freedom and peace may be established throughout the earth : through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HYMN

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)

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 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.)

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 SHALL THEN BE SAID BY ALL STANDING

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