



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Choral Evensong

for the Commemoration of the
80th Anniversary of
Victory in Europe Day



Thursday 8th May 2025

5.30pm

Nave

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

Livestreaming

This service will be livestreamed and you may be seen on camera, although we will not deliberately take any close-ups of the congregation. By attending you agree to be seen in this way.

If you have any concerns please speak to a member of the clergy.



THE COLLECTION is an opportunity to give generously to Canterbury Cathedral in response to God's generosity, and there are many ways to give regularly.



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Parish Giving Scheme – Scan the QR code to make a one-off or regular donation to the Cathedral by joining the parish giving scheme. You can also visit www.parishgiving.org.uk or phone 0333 021271 quoting parish code **060606001**.



By cash or cheques payable to 'Canterbury Cathedral' in Gift Aid envelopes - UK taxpayers please fill in the details on the envelope.



Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off. No form of visual or sound recording, or any form of photography, is permitted during Services. Thank you for your co-operation.



An induction loop system for the hard of hearing is installed in the Cathedral. Hearing aid users should adjust their aid to T.



Large print orders of service are available from the stewards and virgers. Please ask.

The Lord Lieutenant and other civic dignitaries are received at the Great West Door and escorted to their places round the Compass Rose

Please STAND at this point and sit when they are in place

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

A Welcome is offered

Please stand as the choir and clergy procession enters the Nave

Remain standing to sing

Hymn



Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.

²Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.

³When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs and praises,
I will ever give to thee.

*Words: Welsh, William Williams (1717-1791)
Tr Peter Williams (1727-1796)*

Tune: CWM RHONDDA

AM 652

Remain standing

The Bidding

In solidarity with all who gather across our nation today, we come together in thanksgiving and commemoration for the sacrifice, bravery and determination which made possible Victory in Europe 80 years ago.

We seek to commemorate all they did to ensure freedom and liberty. We pray that the heroism of those who fought may not have been in vain, and that our freedom and values may be maintained the world over.

We remember too in God's presence all who serve today in places of conflict, giving thanks for the sacrifices, successes and devotion to duty of servicemen and women in our world today; may they continue to safeguard justice and security.

We come in penitence for all that humanity continues to do to scar the world: to pray for peace and liberty for all. As we learn lessons from the past, we look in hope to the future, and pray that we may be united in peace and friendship, and together promote peace in our divided world.

So, let us pray in the words of Jesus for the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace:

**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.**

A Collect for the 80th Anniversary of VE Day

God our refuge and strength, as we remember those who faced danger and death in Europe, eighty years ago, grant us courage to pursue what is right, the will to work with others, and strength to overcome tyranny and oppression, through Jesus Christ, to whom belong dominion and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Ecclesiasticus 44.1-14

Read by the Lord Lieutenant of Kent

Let us now sing the praises of famous men, our ancestors in their generations. The Lord apportioned to them great glory, his majesty from the beginning.

There were those who ruled in their kingdoms, and made a name for themselves by their valour; those who gave counsel because they were intelligent; those who spoke in prophetic oracles; those who led the people by their counsels and by their knowledge of the people's lore; they were wise in their words of instruction; those who composed musical tunes, or put verses in writing; rich men endowed with resources, living peacefully in their homes—all these were honoured in their generations, and were the pride of their times. Some of them have left behind a name, so that others declare their praise. But of others there is no memory; they have perished as though they had never existed; they have become as though they had never been born, they and their children after them. But these also were godly men, whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten; their wealth will remain with their descendants, and their inheritance with their children's children. Their descendants stand by the covenants; their children also, for their sake. Their offspring will continue for ever, and their glory will never be blotted out. Their bodies are buried in peace, but their name lives on generation after generation.

Remain seated as the choir sings

Psalm 90

Lord, thou hast been our refuge :
from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever the earth and the world were made :
thou art God from everlasting, and world without end.

Thou turnest man to destruction :
again thou sayest, Come again, ye children of men.

For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yester-day :
seeing that is past as a watch in the night.

As soon as thou scatterest them they are even as a sleep :
and fade away suddenly like the grass.

In the morning it is green, and groweth up :
but in the evening it is cut down, dried up, and withered.

For we consume away in thy displeasure :
and are afraid at thy wrathful indignation.

Thou hast set our misdeeds before thee :
and our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

For when thou art angry all our days are gone :
we bring our years to an end, as it were a tale that is told.

The days of our age are threescore years and ten;
and though men be so strong that they come to fourscore years :
yet is their strength then but labour and sorrow;
so soon passeth it away, and we are gone.

But who regardeth the power of thy wrath :
for even thereafter as a man feareth, so is thy displeasure.

So teach us to number our days :
that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Turn thee again, O Lord, at the last :
and be gracious unto thy servants.

O satisfy us with thy mercy, and that soon :
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

Comfort us again now after the time that thou hast plagued us :
and for the years wherein we have suffered adversity.

Shew thy servants thy work :
and their children thy glory.

And the glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us :
prosper thou the work of our hands upon us, O prosper thou our handywork.

Stand

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Sit

Second Reading

Romans 8.31b-39

Read by the Lord Mayor

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Stand as the choir sings

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Grayston Ives (b.1948), Edington service

VE Day 80 Tribute

Remain standing as the Sheriff of Canterbury leads

The International Tribute

This Tribute is being used around the country and beyond tonight at the lighting of beacons.

As each section of the Tribute is read, a candle is lit from the Peace Lamp which is on the Nave Altar.

After the last section, the Peace Lamp is given by a veteran to a cadet and brought to the Altar for the Bishop to place there.

Let us remember those who gave their lives at home and abroad, whose sacrifice enables us to all enjoy the peace we have today.

Let us remember those who came home, wounded, physically and mentally, and the friends and family who cared for them.

Let us remember those who returned to restore their relationships and rebuild their working and family lives after years of conflict and turmoil.

Let us remember the families that lost husbands, wives, sons, daughters and sweethearts.

Let us remember the servicemen and women of other nationalities and faiths from Commonwealth and allied countries who fought, suffered and died during six years of war.

Let us remember those in reserved occupations and the brave people who kept us safe on the home front - the doctors, nurses who cared for the wounded, the men and women who toiled in the fields, the fisherman who fished the seas, those who worked in the factories and the air-raid wardens, the police officers, firemen, ambulance drivers and the young people of the Scouts and Guides who played such a vital role in the war effort at home too.

Remain standing as the choir sings

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation;
Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Grayston Ives (b.1948), Edington service

Sit

Gospel Reading

John 15.12-17

Read by the Canon in Residence

Jesus said, 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Remain seated as the choir sings

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Words: Lawrence Binyon (1869-1943)

Music: Douglas Guest (1916-96)

Silence is kept

When you go home, tell them of us, and say
For your tomorrow we gave our today.

(Words taken from the Kohima Epitaph)

Stand to sing



I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:
the love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
the love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
the love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

²And there's another country I've heard of long ago,
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
and her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

Words: Cecil Arthur Spring-Rice (1859-1918)

Tune: THAXTED

AM 579

Prayers

Led by representatives of organisations at the service

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

Almighty God, stretch forth your mighty arm to strengthen and protect His Majesty's Armed Forces: grant that meeting danger with courage and all occasions with discipline and loyalty, they may truly serve the cause of justice and peace and so help to bring an end to injustice and oppression; to the honour of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord God, we pray for nations still devastated by the effects of war, for civilians caught up in conflicts around the world, and for those who suffer the consequences 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. We entrust to your care all nations currently distressed with tensions either at home or with their neighbours. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of peace proceed: kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, 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 your love. **Amen.**

Remember, O Lord, those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence, especially those who died in the battles that we commemorate this day, and grant them rest eternal with the life that knows no age; sustain with your loving power all those who mourn the loss of those dear to them and those who bear the scars of physical and mental suffering; and enable us all to appreciate the sacrifices made by so many on our behalf; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Teach us good Lord to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Remember, O Lord, all those who have died the death of honour and are departed in the hope of resurrection to Eternal Life, especially the Officers, Men and Women of our Sea, Land and Air Forces, to whom it was given to lay down their lives for the cause of Freedom and Justice. In that place of light, whence sorrow and mourning are far vanished, give them rest, O Lord, the Lover of all. Grant this for thine only Son, Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

(Collect of the Royal British Legion)

Stand to sing, as the standards are returned

Hymn

During the singing of the hymn a collection will be taken for the work of this cathedral church, which has stood throughout many ages and provided a place of welcome and support during the Second World War.



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.

²Lord, 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.

³Lord, 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.

⁴Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

⁵Lord 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.

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)

Tune: LORD OF THE YEARS

AM 715

Remain standing for the Bishop of Dover to pronounce

The Blessing

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest,
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth and all people,
unity, peace and concord,
and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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!

Thy choicest gifts in store
on him be pleased to pour,
long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
and ever give us cause
to sing with heart and voice
God save The King!

*Remain standing as the processions leave the Nave, and the
Lord Lieutenant and other civic dignitaries are escorted to the Great
West Door.*

Organ Voluntary

*As you leave the cathedral, you will hear the bells ringing a peel for
peace, in common with many cathedral and church towers across the
country on this day of commemoration.*



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this Order of Service is printed on unbleached 100% recycled paper.

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Produced by the Music & Liturgy Department:
precentor@canterbury-cathedral.org
01227 865281

www.canterbury-cathedral