AN OUTLINE SERVICE FOR VE DAY

The Greeting and Introduction

Heaviness may endure for a night:

All **But joy comes in the morning**.

God has been our refuge and our strength:

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

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 come together conscious of our need for God's forgiveness for the sin and the desire to dominate others that leads to conflict between people, and war between nations.

And as we remember the many soldiers, sailors, and airmen who gave their lives restraining evil and opposing tyranny, so we also come in thanksgiving for the years of peace that the nations of Europe have enjoyed since the Second World War. We gather joyfully today, as those who gathered on that first Victory day, glad of each other's company, and grateful for the laughter and love that follows times of sadness and loss.

But above all things, let us pray that God's will may be done on earth as it is in heaven, as we join our voices together and say:

All **Our Father…**

Hymn

'Praise, my soul, the King of heaven' *or some other song or hymn of praise.*

Old Testament Reading

One of the following

Micah 4.1–4	*God's promised time of peace*
Zechariah 8.3–8	*Living safely and at peace*

Hymn

'Lord, for the years'

New Testament Reading

One of the following

2 Corinthians 5.16–21	*The call to be reconciled*
Luke 15.18–24	*The welcoming joy of God*

Responsory

Your salvation is near to those who fear you,

All **that glory may dwell in our land.**

Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

All **that glory may dwell in our land.**

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

All **Your salvation is near to those who fear you,**
that glory may dwell in our land.

Cf Psalms 84, 89

Hymn

'Now thank we all our God.'

Address

Prayers

Prayers may include the following:

- *an expression of sorrow for the atrocities of war;*
- *that former enemies may be forgiven,*
- *that we may be freed from feelings of fear, revenge, and xenophobia,*
- *and finally, that we may be thankful for times of peace and find joy in the company of one another.*

Forms of prayer may be found in Common Worship: Times and Seasons*, pp.579-80 and p.583 and in the Appendix.*

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.

All **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.

All **Amen.**

Collect for Peace

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.

All **Amen.**

A prayer for the Sovereign

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,
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 Church and people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**.

The National Anthem

The 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,
come down upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

'Guide me, O thou great Redeemer/Jehovah' *or* 'King of glory, King of peace'

This service can be adapted for use online. Suggested hymns are included here, but may be changed or omitted as desired.

APPENDIX

For those who served and died in World War II

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,
may we put our faith in your future;
for you are the source of life and hope,
now and for ever.
Amen.

For those who serve today

O Lord God of Hosts,
stretch forth, we pray, your almighty arm
to strengthen and protect our service men and women.
Support them in times of conflict,
and in their rest and training keep them safe from all evil;
endue them with courage and loyalty;
and grant that in all things they may serve without reproach;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For the peace of the world

O God, who would fold both heaven and earth
in a single peace;
that the design of your great love lighten
upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows
and give peace to your church, peace among nations,
peace in our dwellings and peace in our hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sir Francis Drake's prayer

O Lord,
when thou givest to thy servants to endeavour in any great matter,
Grant us also to know that it is not the beginning
but the continuing of the same until it be thoroughly finished
that yieldeth the true glory,
through him for the finishing of thy work laid down his life,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer of Saint Ignatius

Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest,
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;
except that of knowing that we do thy will.
Amen.

The Naval Prayer

O Eternal Lord God,
who alone spreadest out the heavens and rulest the raging of the sea;
who has compassed the waters with bounds
until day and night come to an end;
be pleased to receive into Thy almighty and most gracious protection
the persons of us Thy servants,
and the Fleet in which we serve.
Preserve us from the dangers of the sea and of the air,
and from the violence of the enemy;
that we may be a safeguard
unto our most gracious Sovereign *Lady, Queen Elizabeth,*
and *her* Dominions,
and a security for such as pass upon the seas upon their lawful occasions;
that the inhabitants of our islands and Commonwealth
may in peace and quietness
serve Thee our God;
and that we may return in safety
to enjoy the blessings of the land,
with the fruits of our labours,
and with a thankful remembrance of Thy mercies
to praise and glorify Thy Holy Name;
Amen.

An Army Collect

Almighty God, whose command is overall and whose love never fails,
let us be aware of your presence and obedient to your will.
Help us to accept our share of responsibility with strong heart and cheerful mind.
Make us considerate of those with whom we live and serve,
and faithful to the duties our country has entrusted to us.
Let our uniform remind us daily of the traditions of the Army in which we serve.
When we are tempted to sin, let us resist.
When we fail, give us courage to try again.
Guide us with the light of your truth,
and keep before us the example of Jesus
in whose name we pray and in whom we trust.
Amen.

Royal Air Force Collect

Almighty God, who has promised that they who wait upon thee shall renew their strength and mount up with wings, as eagles, we commend to thy fatherly protection all who serve in the Royal Air Force. Uplift and support us in our endeavour, that we may be a safeguard unto our most gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth and a sure defence to our homeland. Help us to fulfil our several duties with honour, goodwill and integrity, and grant that we may prove to be worthy successors of those who by their valour and sacrifice did nobly save their day and generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.