

An Order of Service

*Which may be used at the time of the cessation of hostilities
in Europe or at the end of the war*



1. Opening Hymn

(1)

"All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice,
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth
tell:
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

(2)

"Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.

(3)

"O enter then His gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His Name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

(4)

"For why the Lord our God is good:
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure."

2. Call to Worship

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever."

3. A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Then shall be said in unison:

"Almighty and everlasting God who makest wars to cease unto the ends of the earth, we praise and magnify Thy great mercy, which has brought us to this hour. We bless Thy Holy Name that earth, sea, and sky are safe again (in Europe); that the guns are silent; and that Thou hast brought us to this day of peace. May we dedicate all victory to Thy glory. Through Jesus Christ our Lord." Amen.

4. A Psalm shall be said or sung

Psalm 46.

5. Then shall be read one or more of the following passages from Holy Scripture:

Micah, Chapter 4, verses 1 to 4;
St. Matthew, Chapter 5, verses 1 to 12;
Isaiah, Chapter 40, verses 1 to 11;
Revelation, Chapter 21, verses 1 to 7.

6. Hymn

(1)

"Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To His feet Thy tribute bring;
Ransom'd, heal'd, restor'd, forgiven,
Who like me His praise should sing?
Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him,
praise Him,
Praise the everlasting King.

(2)

"Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him, still the same forever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless:
Praise Him, praise Him . . .
Glorious in His faithfulness.

(3)

"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:
Praise Him, praise Him . . .
Widely as His mercy flows.

(4)

"Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
Blows the wind and it is gone;
But while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on:
Praise Him, praise Him . . .
Praise the high eternal One.

(5)

"Angels, help us to adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon bow down before Him
Dwellers all in time and space:
Praise Him, praise Him . . .
Praise with us the God of grace."

7. Here may be said the Apostles' Creed

8. Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

"It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, who art King over all, and who in the multitude of Thy Mercies hast brought us to this day. We thank Thee for all Thy goodness and lovingkindness. For the gracious Providence that guided and sustained us in the dark days of the War, and for the defence Thou didst raise up for us in our necessity; we give Thee thanks and praise. For the grace that upheld us through the years of peril and sorrow, and for the deliverance Thou didst vouchsafe to us; we bless and praise Thy Holy Name. We cried unto Thee in trouble, and Thou didst hear us: we put our trust in Thee, and were not confounded. Grant, O Lord, we humbly beseech Thee, that we, being mindful of Thy great goodness, may yield ourselves in new obedience to Thy holy will, and live as those who are not their own, but are bought with a price; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth and is worshipped and glorified with Thee; O Father, and the Holy Spirit, one God for evermore." Amen.

A Litany of Intercession which if preferred may be used as an Intercessory Prayer

Leader: "Almighty God, who hast taught us to make supplications, prayers, and intercessions for all men, we pray this day for all those who are hungry and without bread; for those made homeless by war's desolation; for separated families; for all the bereaved; for orphaned children and for all who have suffered in any way under the scourge of war;"

Congregation: "We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord."

Leader: "For the men and women of our armed forces at home and throughout the world; for the sick and wounded in the hospitals; for doctors, nurses and all who minister to the sick and suffering; and for those who are prisoners of war;"

Congregation: "We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord."

Leader: "For our beloved nation and those whom we have placed in authority; for our homes that they may be Christian; for our schools and the teachers of our children; and for all institutions and organizations that serve our country's welfare;"

Congregation: "We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord."

Leader: "For the church of Jesus Christ our Lord throughout the world; for ministers who serve in His name; for missionaries at home and abroad; for chaplains in the armed forces; for those who have suffered for their Christian faith;"

Congregation: "We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord."

Leader: "For the uprooting of all causes of war; for the ending of prejudices of race and nation; for the confounding of those who delight in war and the strengthening of all peace makers;"

Congregation: "Hear us and use us, good Lord."

Leader: "For the triumph of justice in every human relationship; for the liberation of the oppressed and for the lasting freedom of all Thy children;"

Congregation: "Hear us and use us, good Lord."

Leader: "For the coming of that day when all men shall know the Lord and the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of Jesus Christ; for the coming of the time when nation shall not lift up sword against nation nor learn way any more."

Congregation: "Hear us and use us, good Lord."

Leader: "O merciful Father, we beseech Thee so to send forth Thy Spirit into Thy world that all leaders of men everywhere, the rulers and spokesmen of the nations, may be instructed in the ways of peace, kept free from pride and evil ambitions, and so guided in all their doings that they may make Thy ways known upon the earth, Thy saving health among all nations; through Jesus Christ our Lord." Amen.

Let us pray for the bereaved.

"Lord Jesus, we beseech Thee, by the loneliness of Thy suffering on the Cross, be near unto all them that are desolate and bereaved. For the widow and the fatherless we pray, for all parents who have lost their children, for all whose loved ones have been taken from them. Reveal Thyself to each and all, and gather them into fellowship with Thyself, that they may find in Thee comfort in their sorrow, and the sure hope of the life that is to come." Amen.

Let us pray for the King and his advisers.

"O God, who providest for Thy people by Thy power and rulest over them in love: We beseech Thee to regard with Thy favour Thy servant our King; strengthen and protect him with Thy heavenly grace, and grant him the assurance of his people's loyalty and love. Guide all on whom is laid the burden of the government of this Dominion and Empire; and direct the leaders and commanders of his hosts, and those of his allies, on sea and land and in the air; grant unto them at this time special gifts of wisdom, right judgment, and high resolve, that under Thy guiding hand we may be led to a righteous and abiding peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord." Amen.

Let us pray for the rulers and peoples of all lands.

"O God, the Lord of kings and kingdoms, let Thy strong hand control the nations and order their doings unto the fulfilment of Thy purposes upon the earth. Strengthen, we pray Thee, those who are striving after true brotherhood and are working for righteousness and peace. Guide the hearts and minds of rulers and statesmen, that they may seek first Thy Kingdom, and the establishment of justice and freedom for all peoples, both great and small; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord." Amen.

9. The National Anthem

10. Here may follow a brief Address or Sermon

11. A short period of Silence may then be observed in memory of those who have fallen.

After this the Minister shall offer a Prayer of Remembrance.

"God of all worlds, who by the Resurrection of our Saviour Christ hast caused the light of life eternal to shine upon the world, we remember, in our prayer before Thee, all those who laid down their lives for our sakes, by whose fidelity we have been preserved in peace and safety and by whose sacrifice we live with quiet and grateful hearts; we commend them evermore to Thee, upheld at all times by the blessed assurance that Thou, O Lord, redeemest the souls of Thy servants and that none who trust in Thee shall be desolate. Keep our love for our heroic dead unwasted in the midst of the years, and so fill our hearts with the memory of their devotion, that we also, being faithful unto death, may receive with them the crown of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord." Amen.

12. Hymn

(1)
"O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home!"

(2)
"Beneath the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

(3)
"Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

(4)
"A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

(5)
"O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope in years to come;
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home!"

13. Prayers of Confession and Dedication

Let us confess our Sins to Almighty God:

"Almighty and most merciful God, our heavenly Father, we confess that we have grievously sinned against Thee in thought, and word, and deed. We have come short of Thy Glory. We have turned every one of us from Thy way of life. Yet do Thou, O most merciful Father, hear us when we call upon Thee with penitent hearts. Pardon our sins and grant us Thy peace. Confirm us in all goodness, that we may serve Thee with a quiet mind, and bring us to the life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord." Amen.

The following Litany of Dedication may be used:

Leader: "To the patient acceptance of all the burdens which this war has brought upon us; to the sharing of all the sacrifices borne in our common cause; to the healing of all losses and devastations;"

Congregation: "We dedicate ourselves, O Lord."

Leader: "To the preservation of our cherished freedoms for which such sacrifices have been made;"

Congregation: "We dedicate ourselves, O Lord."

Leader: "To the seeking of ways and plans for the co-operation of nations now estranged; and to the effort to establish a world order of justice and peace;"

Congregation: "We dedicate ourselves, O Lord."

Leader: "To every struggle for justice both at home and abroad; to every effort to ensure to all men fullness of life;"

Congregation: "We dedicate ourselves, O Lord."

Leader: "To the creation and continuance of godly homes;"

Congregation: "We dedicate ourselves, O Lord."

Leader: "To discipline of our minds through thought and study; to preparation of our hearts through confession and prayer;"

Congregation: "We dedicate ourselves, O Lord."

In unison: "O Lord, hear these our high resolves; and by the guidance of Thy Spirit and the continuance of Thy watchful care, help us to be true to these commitments which we have now made on this solemn occasion through Jesus Christ our Lord." Amen.

or

This Prayer of Dedication:

"Lord of all might, who art the only giver of victory, in whom alone men are made strong: Give us faith and courage to walk according to Thy law, turning neither to the right hand nor to the left, confident that Thou art for ever with us; to the glory of Thy holy name." Amen.

14. Benediction

"The blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and abide with you forever." Amen.

15. Closing Hymn

(1)
"Now thank we all our God,
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

(2)
"O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

(3)
"All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Holy Ghost,
Supreme in highest heaven,
The One eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore,
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore." Amen.



Published with the approval of Most Rev. Derwyn T. Owen, D.D., Primate of Church of England in Canada; Rev. H. H. Bingham, D.D., General Secretary of Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec; Rt. Rev. A. C. Stewart, M.A., Moderator of Presbyterian Church in Canada; Rt. Rev. J. H. Arnup, D.D., Moderator of The United Church of Canada.

For optional use in community or congregational services.

The Canadian Council of Churches

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