

# ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



**Celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War**

## 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 anniversary of Victory in Europe. 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 those who continue to strive for peace on this continent. 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;  
To his feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who like me his praise should sing?  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise him still the same for ever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.

Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Glorious in his faithfulness.

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!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Widely as his mercy flows.

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 him! Praise him!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

*[H F Lyte]*

## **Old Testament Reading**

**Micah 4.1–4**      God's promised time of peace

In the last days  
the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established  
as the highest of the mountains;  
it will be exalted above the hills,  
and peoples will stream to it.

<sup>2</sup> Many nations will come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,  
so that we may walk in his paths."

The law will go out from Zion,  
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> He will judge between many peoples  
and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.

They will beat their swords into ploughshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.  
Nation will not take up sword against nation,  
nor will they train for war anymore.  
<sup>4</sup> Everyone will sit under their own vine  
and under their own fig tree,  
and no one will make them afraid,  
for the LORD Almighty has spoken.

## New Testament Reading

**2 Corinthians 5.16–21**      The call to be reconciled

<sup>16</sup> So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:<sup>[a]</sup> The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## Reponsory

Welcoming joy of God 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.**

## **Prayers**

*For those who served and died in the Second World War*

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.**

## Hymn

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 mothers' arms  
Hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

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.

All praise and thanks to God  
The Father now be given,  
The Son, and him who reigns  
With them in highest heaven;  
The One eternal God,  
Whom earth and heaven adore;  
For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.

*[Martin Rinkart tr. Catherine Winkworth]*

## Address

### 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. 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. **Amen.**

### **A prayer for the Sovereign**

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles and all who are in authority under him; 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. **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!

*[Anon]*

## **The Blessing**

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the King, 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,  
Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty,  
Hold me with thy powerful hand:  
Bread of heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey though:  
Strong deliverer,  
Be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When 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 of praises  
I will ever give to thee.**

*[William Williams tr. Peter Williams]*

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