

Armistice Day



Saturday 11 November 2023

Liturgy © 2000 The Archbishops' Council and Revd Dr Paul Monk.

The Bible readings come from the New Revised Standard Version.

The hymns are accompanied by YouTube hyperlinks.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,
<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

Introduction

I heard a great voice from heaven telling me, 'Write this: blessed are the dead who die for the Lord. Yes, for ever henceforth, the Spirit says, "They are to rest from their labours; but the deeds they did in life go before them".'

War Memorial across our country remind us about the horror that is war. They remind us of the failure to regard each other as neighbour. They prompt us to work toward tolerance and against nationalism. They remind us to come here today.

We do many things as we come together in their shadow: we commit ourselves to work for reconciliation between the nations of the world and between its peoples—both together and individually. We meet in the presence of God to remind ourselves of the supremacy of Christ. And we express our shared determination to work toward peace. To that end, we will pray together, asking God to help us live together in freedom, justice, and peace; and we will pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

HYMN 1 O God our help

(please click on this [link](#))

**O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.**

**Under 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.**

**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.**

**God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal home.**

Reading from the Bible

The Gospel according to St Matthew, chapter 5, verses 1 to 12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down his disciples came to him. He began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.’

Matthew 5:1-12

The Act of Remembrance

Our war memorials are dedicated to the glory of God and in memory of the people from local communities, and who laid down their lives for their country in the World Wars. Their fellow citizens built it as a lasting tribute and as an act of gratitude. Every single year since it was built, local people have formally assembled here in order to remember, encircling it with their hope.

While we gather together, we first re-dedicate this site to the continuing glory of God, the God who commands us to live our lives working for peace.

Let us pray: we ask God's blessing on this memorial: we bless it in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Next, we remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives have been taken away in world wars and many other conflicts past and present. We ask God to gather into the peace of his presence those who died in faith.

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.

We will remember them.

All We will remember them.

The bugler will sound 'The last Post'.

(please click on this [link](#))

A two-minute silence

(please click on this [link](#))

The bugler will sound 'Reveille'.

(please click on this [link](#))

Prayer

Ever-living God, as we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence: may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all people in the world today, and establish a lasting harmony among the nations. We offer these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The National Anthem

(please click on this [link](#))

**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!**

Reading from the Bible

The Revelation of St John the Divine,

I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' nor mourning nor crying nor pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'

Revelation 21: 1-4

Prayers for those who suffer

We pray for all who suffer as a result of war:

For the injured and the disabled,
civilians and soldiers,
for the mentally distressed,
and for those whose faith in God and humankind has been
weakened or destroyed ...

For the homeless and refugees,
for those who are hungry,
and for all who have lost their livelihood and security ...

For those who mourn their dead,
those who have lost husband or wife,
children or parents,
friends and partners,
and especially for those who have no hope in Christ
to sustain them in their grief ...

There follows a short silence.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
infinite in wisdom, in love, and in power:
have compassion on those for whom we pray today;
inspire us to alleviate all suffering;
and empower us as we strive to establish here on earth
your kingdom of peace and justice
in which dust and ashes have no dominion.

All **Amen.**

Act of commitment

In response to the suffering caused by war, past and present, we now pledge ourselves anew to peace. It is now our responsibility to continue this work of peace. So we pledge ourselves to the service of God and to helping all members of the human race, regardless of colour, creed or upbringing, age, gender, or race, that we may help, encourage, and comfort others, that we may support those working for the relief of the needy, and for the peace and welfare of all 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**



Hymn two

HYMN 2 [The day thou gavest](#)

(please click on this [link](#))

**The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
The darkness falls at Thy behest;
To Thee our morning hymns ascended,
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.**

**We thank Thee that Thy church, unsleeping,
While earth rolls onward into light,
Through all the world her watch is keeping,
And rests not now by day or night.**

**As o'er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day,
The voice of prayer is never silent,
Nor dies the strain of praise away.**

**The sun that bids us rest is waking
Our brethren 'neath the western sky,
And hour by hour fresh lips are making
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.**

**So be it, Lord; Thy throne shall never,
Like earth's proud empires, pass away:
Thy kingdom stands, and grows forever,
Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.**

Blessing

God, grant to the living grace,
to the departed rest,
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth, United Nations,
and all people, peace and concord, and to us and to all
his servants life everlasting,
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, and the Son and Holy Spirit
be with you all evermore.

All Amen