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'Thine is the Kingdom'

A SERVICE FOR USE ON
EMPIRE YOUTH
SUNDAY

29th MAY, 1949

Before the Service begins, read and study quietly these words about Prayer.

The truly effective prayer, the prayer that makes a difference in practice in the world, is the prayer that is offered by the man who does not primarily care about the difference that he makes, but primarily cares about the glory of God . . . God's will for us may be that we should try even though we fail . . . trying to bring to carry out His purpose precisely through my failure, the way I bear it, and the lessons men learn from it.—WILLIAM TEMPLE.

ORDER OF SERVICE

The Congregation are asked to take their full share in the appropriate said and sung parts of the Service. All hymns will be introduced by the opening bars being played.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM (*announced by a single chord*)

THE BIDDING (*Read by the Minister, all standing*)

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST SAID, 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.' With these words before us, we are come together to make our prayers, to sing our hymns, to hear the message of God. We are to realise more fully in this service our oneness with people throughout the world who long for the Kingdom of God to come among men. Wherefore let us praise God and rejoice, for He is the King of kings, the Lord of lords, unto whom we give honour and glory as we sing . . .

1.
Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven,
To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransom'd, heal'd, restored, forgiven,
Evermore His praises sing;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

2.
Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
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;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely yet His mercy flows.

4.
Angels in the height, adore Him:
Ye behold Him face to face;
Saints triumphant, bow before Him,
Gather'd in from every race;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

(*Tune: 'Praise my Soul.'*)

Then all standing, the following hymn shall be sung :—

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 bless'd us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours to-day.

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 perplex'd,
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 Him Who reigns
With Them in highest Heaven,
The One Eternal God,
Whom earth and Heav'n adore,
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

(Tune : Nun danket)

THE FIRST READING (Luke 4, verses 16-22).

THE PRAYERS

Minister : Let us kneel in silence and remember God's presence with us.

(Silence)

We beseech thee to hear us, O God, that thy Spirit may lead us into all truth, revealing and interpreting to us the things of Christ ; That thy Spirit may enable us to walk in the way of Christ, and to offer Him faithful and acceptable service ; That thou wilt touch us with the gracious Spirit of Christ, with love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. That we may be led into that freedom which Christ gives to those who try to follow Him ; and that we may be enabled to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace :

People : Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Minister : Let us pray for peace and goodwill amongst men.
O God, the King of Righteousness, lead us, we pray Thee, in the ways of justice and peace : inspire us to break down tyranny and oppression : to gain for every man his due reward, and from every man his due service ; that each may live for all and all may care for each :

People : Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Minister : Let us pray for our King, the Commonwealth and Empire, and for those who bear authority at this time.
Almighty God, who rulest in the kingdom of men, and hast given to our Sovereign Lord, King George, a great dominion in all parts of the earth : draw together, we pray thee, in true fellowship the men of divers races, languages, and customs, who dwell therein ; that, bearing one another's burdens and working together in brotherly concord, they may fulfil the purpose of thy providence, and set forth thy everlasting kingdom. Pardon, we beseech thee, our sins, and shortcomings ; keep far from us all selfishness and pride ; and give us grace to employ thy gifts of order and freedom to thy glory and the welfare of mankind :

People : Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All together : O God, keep our hearts sound ; our lives pure ; our thinking straight ; and our spirits humble ; that we may be true messengers of thy life to our fellow men : through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then all standing, the following hymn shall be sung :—

1.
Father, hear the prayer we offer :
Not for ease that prayer shall be,
But for strength that we may ever
Live our lives courageously.

2.
Not for ever in green pastures
Do we ask our way to be ;
But the steep and rugged pathway
May we tread rejoicingly.

3.
Not for ever by still waters
Would we idly rest and stay,
But would smite the living fountains
From the rocks along our way.

4.
Be our strength in hours of weakness
In our wanderings be our guide ;
Through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.

(Tune : Sussex).

THE SECOND READING (Revelation 21, verses 1-7).

Then all standing, the following hymn shall be sung :—

1.
Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us
O'er the world's tempestuous sea ;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
For we have no help but Thee ;
Yet possessing every blessing,
If our God our Father be.

2.
Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,
All our weakness Thou dost know
Thou didst tread this earth before us,
Thou didst feel its keenest woe ;
Lone and dreary, faint and weary,
Through the desert Thou didst go.

3.
Spirit of our God, descending,
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
Love with every passion blending,
Pleasure that can never cloy ;
Thus provided, pardon'd, guided,
Nothing can our peace destroy.

(Tune : Mannheim)

ACT OF FAITH (*all standing*)

All together : I believe in God the Father, who hath made me and all the world ;
I believe in God the Son, who hath redeemed me, and all mankind ;
I believe in God the Holy Spirit, who sanctifieth me, and all the elect
people of God.

Minister : Let us give praise and thanks to our Lord God : God who made all
things by the word of His power, King and ruler of the world, glorious
in beauty and truth and love . . .

HYMN (*The collection may be taken during the singing of this hymn*)

1.
O praise ye the Lord !
Praise Him in the height ;
Rejoice in His Word,
Ye Angels of light ;
Ye heavens, adore Him
By Whom ye were made,
And worship before Him,
In brightness array'd.

2.
O praise ye the Lord !
Praise Him upon earth,
In tuneful accord,
Ye sons of new birth ;
Praise Him Who hath brought you
His grace from above,
Praise Him Who hath taught you
To sing of His love.

3.
O praise ye the Lord,
All things that give sound ;
Each jubilant chord,
Re-echo around ;
Loud organs, His glory
Forth tell in deep tone,
And sweet harp, the story
Of what He hath done.

4.
O praise ye the Lord !
Thanksgiving and song
To Him be outpour'd
All ages along ;
For love in creation,
For heaven restored,
For grace of salvation
O praise ye the Lord !

(Tune : Laudate Dominum).

THE DISMISSAL AND BLESSING (*All kneeling*)

Minister : Let us pray.

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only-begotten
Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in heart
and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth
with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

Go forth into the world in peace ; be of good courage ; hold fast that which is good ;
render to no man evil for evil ; strengthen the faint-hearted ; support the weak ;
help the afflicted ; honour all men ; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power
of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon
you, and remain with you for ever. Amen.