'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 serve our Lord, purposes prevail through our failure, the way we 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)

'Oour 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 triune Name a sacrifice.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Everymore His praises sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

2. Father-like, He tends and spares us,
Well our foes from us He knows.
In His hands He gently leads us,
Rescues us from all our foes:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Wisely yet His mercy flows.

3. Praise Him for His grace and favour,
To our fathers in times past;
Praise Him still as we, ever,
Slow to climb and swift to climb:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious in His faithfulness.

4. Angels in the beams, adore Him;
Ye behind Him face to face;
Sung triumphantly, bow before Him.
Gather'd from every race:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

'Then: Praise my Soul.'
THE ADDRESS

After the Address, the Minister shall lead the Congregation in
Acts of Penitence and Thanksgiving, saying:

ACT OF PENITENCE

Minister: Let us kneel in silence and remember our sins before God:
    Our neglect of God and His Church;
    Our indifference to the needs of our neighbours;
    Our breaking of promises made and our word given;
    Our gossiping, slandering, backbiting and making trouble;
    Our quickness to resent, our slowness to forgive;
    Our failure to make sacrifices.

    (Silence)

Minister: Lord, have mercy upon us.
All together: Christ, have mercy upon us.
    Lord, have mercy upon us.

Minister: Almighty and everlasting God, who hast nothing that thou hast
    made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create
    and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthy lamenting
    our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee,
    the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through
    Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ACT OF THANKSGIVING

Minister: Let us praise and thank God in gladness and humility for the love
    that He has shown towards us:

People: We thank thee, O God.

Minister: For the gift of wonder and the joy of discovery, and for the constant
    newness of life:

People: We thank thee, O God.

Minister: For parents and the joys of family life, and for all that our friendships
    bring to us:

People: We thank thee, O God.

Minister: For the gift of humour and gaiety of heart; and for the joy of work
    attempted and well done:

People: We thank thee, O God.

Minister: For the gifts of science and invention; for singers and all musicians;
    for poets and craftsmen; for those who work in form and colour to
    increase the beauty of life; for the consecration of art in the service
    of God; and for all things that help us to see the beauty of holiness:

People: We thank thee, O God.

All together: Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name: Thy
    Kingdom come: Thy will be done; In earth as it is in heaven.
    Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As
    we forgive them that 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.
Then all standing, the following hymn shall be sung:—

1. Now think we all our God,
   With hearts and hands and voices,
   Who wondrous things hath done,
   In Whom His world rejoices;
   Whose mercy on His people
   Hath blessed us on our way,
   With countless gifts of love,
   And still is ours to-day.

2. O may this beauteous God
   Through all our life be near us,
   With ever joyous hearts
   And blessed grace to cheer us;
   And keep us in His grace,
   And guide us when perplexed,
   And free us from all ill
   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 Heavens adore,
   For this it was, is now,
   And shall be evermore.

(Tune: Nun ducet)


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 teach us with the gracious Spirit of Christ, with love,
joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness,
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: 2. Not for ever by still waters, But for strength that we may sing, ever Live our lives contingently, From the River along our way.

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

3. Be our strength in hours of weakness In our wanderings be our guide: Through endeavor, failure, danger, Father, be thou in our side. (Time: Stimulus).

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

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

1. Lord, in Heavenly Father, lead us Saviour, brace us to live.

Over the world's tempestuous sea; All our weakness Thou dost know.

Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us, Those despairs that flesh can know.

For six days he had no help from Thee; Thou didst fill this earth before us, Yea, possessing every blessing. Then didst feel its brevity.

If our God our Father be. Lone and dreary, faint and weary. Through the desert Thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending, Filled our hearts with heavenly joy, Through the desert Thou didst go.

Love with every passion bounding, Pleased that can never dry; Never can our peace decay.

Pleasure that can never dry; Thus provided, pardon'd, guided, Through the desert Thou didst go.

Nothing can our peace destroy. (Time: Membra). 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, and ruled of the world, gloriously 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; O praise ye the Lord, All things that give sound;

Ye Angels of light; Re-echo around;

Ye earths, adore Him Lord regain, His glory;

Up Whence we were mad, Pervade each deep tone, And worship before Him, And sweet harp, the story,

In brightness array'd. Of what it hath done.

O praise ye the Lord! Praise Him upon earth, O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song

In thankful accord. To Him be coryphæd All ages along:

Ye songs of new birth; For love in creation;

Praise Him Who hath brought you For beauty restored;

His grace from above, For grace of salvation;

Praise Him Who hath taught you O praise ye the Lord!

To sing of His love. (Choir: Laudate Dominum).

THE DISMISSAL AND BLESSING (All kneeling)

Minister: Let us pray.

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that live 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; 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.

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