

We pray for the young people of our own day and for all who will shape the future of this nation, that they may be inspired by those who have gone before them to serve as they have been served; Lord, hear us.

**All - Lord, graciously hear us.**

Let us give thanks for the freedom we now enjoy as a result of the reconciliation between countries. For the benefits we enjoy as a result of the sacrifices of others; let us bless the Lord.

**All - Thanks be to God**

### **Act of Rededication**

We fought for peace, that the world might never again know such violence and destruction. Will you work for peace and reconciliation in your homes and communities, and promote peace throughout the world?

**All - With the help of God, we will.**

We fought for justice, that the scourge of prejudice and oppression might never again take root in our societies. Will you work for a world in which hatred and injustice never have the final word, and where all people can flourish with dignity and hope?

**All - With the help of God, we will.**

We struggled so that the whole human family might know good will, security, and freedom. Will you always acknowledge how precious are the gifts which God has entrusted to us, and exercise the freedoms and responsibilities you have with gratitude and humility?

**All - With the help of God, we will.**

May almighty God, who has given us the will to undertake these things, bless us with the strength to perform them. Amen.

**75th Anniversary**

**of Victory in Europe Day**

**8<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

## The laying of the wreath

### The reading of Ashdon names

#### World War II

#### **Romans 8: 31–39**

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all. How will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Prayers

Trusting the promises of God, and with faith in his mercy, let us pray to the Lord. Let us give thanks for the selfless and courageous service and sacrifice of those who brought peace to Europe, and for the good example they have given us; let us bless the Lord.

**All - Thanks be to God.**

We pray for nations still devastated by war, for their people and their leaders, and for those who suffer the effects or memories of past wars; for veterans, for those who mourn, and for all innocent victims whose lives have been shattered by the cruelty of others; Lord, hear us.

**All - Lord, graciously hear us.**

Let us give thanks for those who work for peace and liberty throughout the world, for the Armed Forces of the Crown, and for all who strive to bring an end to injustice and oppression; let us bless the Lord.

**All - Thanks be to God.**

We pray for those in our own day who have grown weary or lost hope as a result of violence or terror; for all refugees and displaced people, and for those who seek to address the causes of discord and distrust; Lord, hear us.

**All - Lord, graciously hear us.**

Let us give thanks for the reconciliation of former enemies, for the flourishing of goodwill between them, and for the many blessings we enjoy as a result of the sacrifices which have made for peace; let us bless the Lord.

**All - Thanks be to God.**