

**A FORM OF PRAYER**  
**AND**  
**THANKSGIVING**  
**TO**  
**ALMIGHTY GOD**

commended by

ARCHBISHOPS OF  
CANTERBURY AND YORK

*for general use on*

WEDNESDAY, the 12<sup>th</sup> DAY of MAY, 1937

*being the day of the Coronation of their Majesties*

KING GEORGE VI

AND

QUEEN ELIZABETH

IN THE

ABBEY CHURCH OF ST. PETER, WESTMINSTER

## NOTE

*This Form is intended to be used on the morning of the day of the Coronation and to prepare the congregation to listen, if they so desire, to the Coronation Service broadcast from Westminster Abbey. But it can easily be adapted to any later hour.*

*With it are included recommendations for the Order of Holy Communion and of Morning and Evening Prayer on the Coronation day.*

# A FORM OF PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING TO ALMIGHTY GOD

## I. INTRODUCTION

ALL people that on earth do dwell,  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
Him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,  
Come ye before him, and rejoice.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed,  
Without our aid he did us make;  
We are his folk, he doth us feed,  
And for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,  
Approach with joy his courts unto;  
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,  
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good:  
His mercy is for ever sure;  
His truth at all times firmly stood,  
And shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
The God whom heaven and earth adore,  
From men and from the Angel-host  
Be praise and glory evermore.

¶ *The Hymn ended, the Minister shall say and the people standing shall answer as follows*

The Lord is King. The earth may be glad thereof :  
*Yea, the multitude of the isles may be glad thereof.*

The earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is :  
*The compass of the world, and they that dwell therein.*

The Lord shall give strength unto his people :  
*The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.*

As for me, in the multitude of thy loving-kindness will I go into thy house :  
*In thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.*

¶ *Then, the people still standing, the Minister shall say*

BRETHREN, we are met together to add our prayers to the thoughts of countless multitudes whose minds are turning at this time to one of the most sacred places in the history of our race – the Abbey Church of St. Peter at Westminster. Thither our King and Queen are coming to receive from God the anointing which seals their life's service and bestows God's grace for its fulfilment, and the Crowns which are the emblems of their royal state. They will come as other Kings and Queens before them have come for a thousand years. Each prayer, each act in the Solemn Rite, is rich in memories of the long history through which by God's providence the Monarchy of this Realm has been preserved.

Yet it is no mere relic of the past. It speaks still of the kingship as a trust received from God. It speaks now of the hallowing of the King for the service of God and of the people not in this land only but in many lands across the seas. To-day, in a manner hitherto unknown in history the King will come to his Consecration and his Crowning accompanied by his people. For by a marvel of Science millions of them throughout the world will be able to listen to the noble words which lay his great charge upon him as if they themselves were present in the Abbey Church of Westminster.

In another and far deeper sense he bears his people with him. For he is their representative. With him and through him they too are called to consecrate the life of Nation and Empire to the service of the King of Kings.

Wherefore let us now prepare our hearts and minds that we may worthily associate ourselves with our King and Queen on this great day.

## II. PENITENCE

AND first as is most meet let us make humble acknowledgment before God of the manifold ways wherein as a people we have come short of his Will and Purpose.

Let us pray

¶ *Then, the people kneeling, the Minister shall say*

SEEK ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near : let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God for he will abundantly pardon.

Hide thy face from our sins.  
*And blot out all our iniquities.*

GRANT, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve; pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy; forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. *Amen.*

### III. PRAYER

O GOD of Jacob, by Whose hand  
Thy people still are fed,  
Who through this weary pilgrimage  
Hast all our fathers led;

Our vows, our prayers, we now present  
Before Thy Throne of grace;  
GOD of our fathers, be the GOD  
Of their succeeding race.

Through each perplexing path of life  
Our wandering footsteps guide;  
Give us each day our daily bread,  
And raiment fit provide.

O spread Thy covering wings around,  
Till all our wanderings cease,  
And at our FATHER'S loved abode  
Our souls arrive in peace.

¶ *Then, the people still standing, the Minister shall say*

LET us now offer our prayers to Almighty God for our Sovereign Lord, King *GEORGE*, remembering his need of God's favour and continual help; for our gracious Queen *ELIZABETH*; and for this Realm and Empire that it may stand among the nations of the world in loyalty to God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, and peace.

Let us pray

¶ *Here shall the people kneel*

HONOUR all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the King.

The King shall rejoice in thy strength, O Lord :

*Exceeding glad shall he be of thy salvation.*

O LORD our God, Who upholdest and governest all things by the word of thy power; receive our humble prayers for our Sovereign Lord, King *GEORGE*; and as thou dost this day set a crown of pure gold upon his head, so let wisdom be his guide and let thine arm strengthen him; let truth and justice, holiness and righteousness, peace and charity, abound in his days; direct all his counsels and endeavours to thy glory and the welfare of his subjects; give us grace to obey him cheerfully for conscience sake, and let him always possess the hearts of his people. Let his reign be long and prosperous and crown him with everlasting life in the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY God, the Fountain of all goodness, give ear, we beseech thee to our prayers, and multiply thy blessings upon thy Servant *ELIZABETH* consecrated in thy Name this day to be our Queen; defend her evermore from all dangers, ghostly and bodily; make her a great example of virtue and piety, and a blessing to this kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, O Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, world without end. *Amen.*

This God is our God for ever and ever :

*He shall be our Guide unto death.*

ALMIGHTY God, who rulest in the kingdom of men, and has 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 forward 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 good gifts of order and freedom to thy glory and the welfare of mankind; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all glory and dominion, world without end. *Amen.*

O GOD, the Protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy : Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal : Grant this, O Heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake our Lord.  
*Amen.*

LET us now in silence offer our loyalty to Christ the King, and dedicate ourselves with our King and Queen to the service of God and of our fellow men.

¶ *Here shall since be kept for a space; and then the Minister shall say*

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, of whose only gift it cometh that thy faithful people do unto thee true and laudable service; grant, we beseech thee, that we may so faithfully serve thee in this life, that we fail not finally to attain thy heavenly promises; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Here shall be sung the Hymn following*

LORD, while for all mankind we pray  
Of every clime and coast,  
O hear us for our native land,  
The land we love the most.

O guard our shores from every foe;  
With peace our borders bless;  
With prosperous times our cities crown,  
Our fields with plenteousness.

Unite us in the sacred love  
Of knowledge, truth, and thee;  
And let our hills and valleys shout  
The songs of liberty.

Lord of the nations, thus to thee  
Our country we commend;  
Be thou her refuge and her trust,  
Her everlasting friend.

## IV. THANKSGIVING

¶ *Then, the people still standing, the Minister shall say*

AND now let us offer praise and thanksgiving to God for his mercy vouchsafed to us in bringing the King and Queen in security and peace to this great day, and in all the way by which he has led this nation from the days of old.

Let us pray

¶ *Here shall the people kneel*

THINE, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty : for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine. Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee and praise thy glorious Name.

I will offer unto thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving :  
*And will call upon the Name of the Lord.*

¶ *Then shall follow the General Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer to be said by the Minister and people*

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, We thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks For all thy goodness and lovingkindness To us and to all men; We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; But above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; For the means of grace, And for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, That our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, And that we shew forth thy praise, Not only with our lips, but in our lives; By giving up ourselves to thy service, And by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

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.



¶ *Here, if time permit, may be sung the Hymn following*

REJOICE to-day with one accord,  
Sing out with exultation :  
Rejoice and praise our mighty LORD,  
Whose arm hath brought salvation;  
His works of love proclaim  
The greatness of His name;  
For he is GOD alone  
Who hath His mercy shown;  
Let all His saints adore Him!

When in distress to Him we cried,  
He heard our sad complaining;  
O trust in Him, whate'er betide,  
His love is all-sustaining;  
Triumphant songs of praise  
To him our hearts shall raise;  
Now every voice shall say,  
"O praise our GOD alway;"  
Let all His saints adore Him!

REJOICE to-day with one accord,  
Sing out with exultation :  
Rejoice and praise our mighty LORD,  
Whose arm hath brought salvation;  
His works of love proclaim  
The greatness of His name;  
For he is GOD alone  
Who hath His mercy shown;  
Let all His saints adore Him!

¶ *Then, all kneeling, the Blessing shall be given, after which, all standing, shall be sung the first and third verses of 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!

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¶ *In the Order of Holy Communion upon the day of the Coronation the following Collect, Epistle, Gospel, and Proper Preface, being those appointed in the Form and Order of Their Majesties' Coronation, may be used – namely,*

#### THE COLLECT

O GOD, who providest for thy people by thy power, and rulest over them in love: Grant unto thy servant *GEORGE*, our King, the Spirit of wisdom and government, that being devoted unto thee with all his heart, he may so wisely govern this kingdom, that in his time thy Church and people may continue in safety and prosperity; and that, persevering in good works unto the end, he may through thy mercy come to thine everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

#### THE EPISTLE

1 St. Peter 2. 13-17 (inclusive)

#### THE GOSPEL

St. Matthew 22. 15-22 (inclusive)

#### THE PROPER PREFACE

IT is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God : who by thy providence dost govern all things both in heaven and in earth, and hast shewn mercy this day to these thine anointed servants, our King and our Queen, and hast given them to us thy people that under them we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

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¶ *In the Order for Morning and Evening Prayer upon the day of the Coronation, the Psalms, Lessons, Suffrages, and Collects appointed for the anniversary of the Day of the Accession may fitly be used.*