

A Form of Prayer  
& of Thanksgiving  
to Almighty God  
on the Occasion of  
The Silver Jubilee  
of the Accession of  
Our Sovereign Lady  
Queen Elizabeth  
The Second

This service is published  
with the approval of  
The Archbishops of Canterbury & York  
The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster  
and the Moderator of the  
Free Church Federal Council

Eyre & Spottiswoode Ltd,  
Her Majesty's Printers  
London, 1977

# Order of Service

## 1 Minister

We are met together to praise God  
and to acknowledge with gratitude  
the twenty-five years of faithful  
service to this nation  
of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth.

With respect and affection,  
we give thanks for the example she has set her people;  
and we pray that,  
supported by the love and loyalty of her subjects,  
she may be given health and strength  
to continue her service  
and long to reign over us.

## 2 Hymn

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.

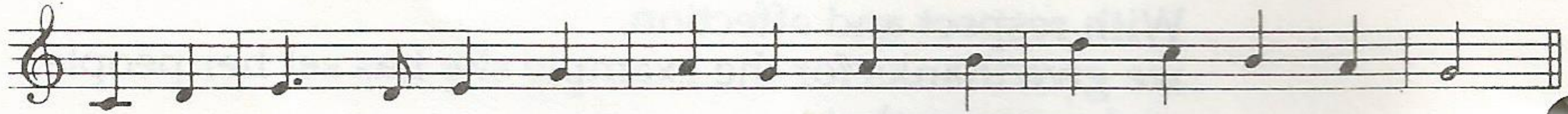
or

## A Hymn for the Nation

Vision: Walford Davies (1869–1941)



It is God who holds the na - tions in the hol - low of his hand;

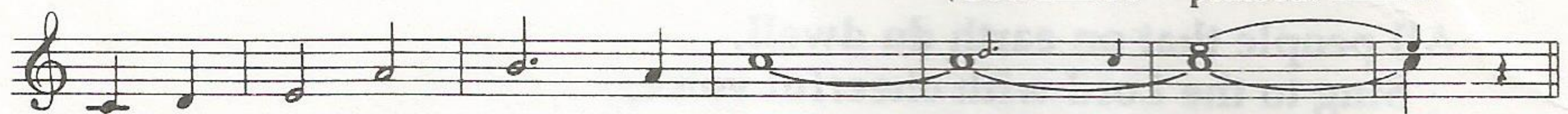


It is God whose light is shi - ning in the dark - ness of the land;



It is God who builds his Ci - ty on the Rock and not on sand;

\*(God — be praised! — )



May the liv - ing God — be praised! \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Optional ending (small notes) for upper voices.*

It is God who holds the nations in the hollow of his hand;  
It is God whose light is shining in the darkness of the land;  
It is God who builds his City on the Rock and not on sand:  
May the living God be praised!

It is God whose purpose summons us to use the present hour;  
Who recalls us to our senses when a nation's life turns sour;  
In the discipline of freedom we shall know his saving power:  
May the living God be praised!

When a thankful nation, looking back, unites to celebrate  
Those who reign in our affection by their service to the state;  
When self-giving is a measure of the greatness of the great:  
May the living God be praised!

He reminds us every sunrise that the earth is ours on lease—  
For the sake of life tomorrow may our love for it increase;  
May all races live together, share its riches, be at peace:  
May the living God be praised!

F. Pratt Green, 1976

3 *Minister*

Let us pray

Almighty God, who rulest over the kingdoms of the world, and dost order them according to thy good pleasure: we yield thee unfeigned thanks for that thou wast pleased in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and fifty-two, to set thy servant our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth, upon the throne of this realm. Let thy wisdom be her guide and let thine arm strengthen her; let truth and justice, holiness and righteousness, peace and charity, abound in her days. Direct all her counsels and endeavours to thy glory and the welfare of her subjects; give us grace to obey her cheerfully for conscience sake, and let her always possess the hearts of her people; let her reign be long and prosperous, and crown her with everlasting life in the world to come; through Jesus Christ Our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*or*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
bless Elizabeth our Queen,  
whose jubilee we now celebrate.  
Help her to fulfil her responsibilities;  
that by her influence  
she may maintain unity, goodwill and peace  
among her peoples  
and finally attain to the eternal kingdom of Christ;  
who is alive and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

4

Lesson 1 St. Matthew 20. 20-28 (NEB)

The mother of Zebedee's sons then came before him, with her sons. She bowed low and begged a favour. 'What is it you wish?' asked Jesus. 'I want you,' she said, 'to give orders that in your kingdom my two sons here may sit next to you, one at your right, and the other at your left.' Jesus turned to the brothers and said, 'You do not understand what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am to drink?' 'We can,' they replied. Then he said to them, 'You shall indeed share my cup; but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant; it is for those to whom it has already been assigned by my Father.'

When the other ten heard this, they were indignant with the two brothers. So Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that in the world, rulers lord it over their subjects, and their great men make them feel the weight of authority; but it shall not be so with you. Among you, whoever wants to be great must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be the willing slave of all – like the Son of Man; he did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give up his life as a ransom for many.'

5 Psalm 121 (BCP)

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills:  
From whence cometh my help.  
My help cometh even from the Lord:  
Who hath made heaven and earth.  
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:  
And he that keepeth thee will not sleep.  
Behold, he that keepeth Israel:  
Shall neither slumber nor sleep.  
The Lord himself is thy keeper:  
The Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;  
So that the sun shall not burn thee by day:  
Neither the moon by night.  
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil:  
Yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.  
The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in:  
From this time forth for evermore.

*or the Metrical Version*

I to the hills will lift mine eyes;  
From whence doth come mine aid?  
My safety cometh from the Lord  
Who heaven and earth hath made.  
Thy foot He'll not let slide, nor will  
He slumber that thee keeps.  
Behold, He that keeps Israel,  
He slumbers not, nor sleeps.  
The Lord thee keeps; the Lord thy shade  
On thy right hand doth stay.  
The moon by night thee shall not smite,  
Nor yet the sun by day.

**The Lord shall keep thy soul: He shall  
Preserve thee from all ill;  
Henceforth thy going out and in  
God keep for ever will.**

*Scottish Psalter; Francis Rous, 1579–1659 and William Barton, 1598–1678*

*As an alternative, one of the hymns listed on p. 14*

6 Lesson 2 1 Timothy 2. 1–7 (NEB)

First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be offered for all men; for sovereigns and all in high office, that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in full observance of religion and high standards of morality. Such prayer is right, and approved by God our Saviour, whose will it is that all men should find salvation and come to know the truth. For there is one God, and also one mediator between God and men, Christ Jesus, himself man, who sacrificed himself to win freedom for all mankind, so providing, at the fitting time, proof of the divine purpose; of this I was appointed herald and apostle (this is no lie, but the truth), to instruct the nations in the true faith.

Alternative lessons: Proverbs 8. 6–16,  
Revelation 21. 22–22. 4

7 Hymn

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the  
King of creation;  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
health and salvation:  
All ye who hear,  
Now to his temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things  
so wondrously reigneth,  
Shieldeth thee gently from harm, or  
when fainting sustaineth:  
Hast thou not seen  
How thy heart's wishes have been  
Granted in what he ordaineth?**

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper  
thy work and defend thee;  
Surely his goodness and mercy shall  
daily attend thee:

Ponder anew

What the Almighty can do,  
If to the end he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is  
in me adore him!

All that hath life and breath, come  
now with praises before him!

Let the Amen

Sound from his people again:  
Gladly for ay we adore him.

*J. Neander, tr. Catherine Winkworth*

*or one of the alternatives to be found on p. 14*

8 Sermon

9 Hymn

Christ is made the sure Foundation,  
Christ the Head and Corner-stone,  
Chosen of the Lord, and precious,  
Binding all the Church in one,  
Holy Sion's help for ever,  
And her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city,  
Dearly loved of God on high,  
In exultant jubilation  
Pours perpetual melody,  
God the One in Three adoring  
In glad hymns eternally.

To this temple, where we call thee,  
Come, O Lord of Hosts, today;  
With thy wonted loving-kindness  
Hear thy servants as they pray,  
And thy fullest benediction  
Shed within its walls always.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants  
What they ask of thee to gain,  
What they gain from thee for ever  
With the blessed to retain,  
And hereafter in thy glory  
Evermore with thee to reign.

Laud and honour to the Father,  
Laud and honour to the Son,  
Laud and honour to the Spirit,  
Ever Three, and ever One,  
Consubstantial, co-eternal,  
While unending ages run.

*Tr. J. M. Neale & Compilers of hymns A & M*

*or one of the alternatives to be found on p. 14*

## 10 Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

*Minister* Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for the  
wonder of creation,  
for the gift of human life and for the blessing  
of human fellowship;  
for Christ, your living Word,  
through whom we are taught  
the perfect way of life and the royalty of service;  
and for your Spirit, who offers his gifts to us  
for the common good.

*All* **We thank you, Lord.**

*Minister* For the blessing of community in our Nation and  
Commonwealth,  
and for those who have used your gifts  
to strengthen and enrich its life.

*All* **We thank you, Lord.**

*Minister* Today especially we give you thanks for our  
Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth,  
and for her family;  
for her long and tireless service to our world-wide  
family of nations;  
for her profession of faith in you by word and deed;  
for her example of unselfish devotion and duty;



for her care for her people, and her concern for them  
at all times and in all places.

*All* **We thank you, Lord.**

*Minister* Continue in her and her family, we pray, your royal  
gifts of service;  
the vision of your will for her people;  
wisdom to fulfil her vocation of leadership in a  
Commonwealth of many races;  
strength and courage to carry out the duties of  
her calling;  
and grant her always the assurance of your presence,  
your power, and your love.

*All* Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Minister* We pray for the people of the Commonwealth  
and their governments;  
for those called to lead them through the crises  
of our times, through racial and social tensions.

*All* Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Minister* In the Church's ministry of the Gospel,  
for a clear message of your love and power.

*All* Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Minister* In national and local government,  
for insight, integrity and courage.

*All* Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Minister* In the administration of law and in the defence  
of our people,  
for justice and humility, fairness and compassion.

*All* Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Minister* In industry and commerce, in trade and business,  
for mutual care and co-operation and a concern  
for all men's good.

*All* Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Minister* In art and music, theatre and entertainment,  
sport and leisure,  
for a recognition that all gifts come from you  
to give to one another.

*All* Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Minister* In every mode of communication, in literature  
and press, radio and television,  
for a vision of social good  
and for service to the truth.

*All* Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Minister* In education, in family and school, in college  
and training schemes,  
for a concern not only with information  
but also with maturity and fulfilment of life.

*All* Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Minister* In the service of those in need and sickness,  
anxiety and suffering,  
for a community that cares.

*All* Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Minister* We sum up our thanksgivings and prayers in  
the words our Saviour Christ has taught us, saying

*All* **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.**

11 Hymn

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 blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

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 perplexed,  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next.

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 heaven adore,  
For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.

*M. Rinkart, tr. Catherine Winkworth*

*or one of the alternatives to be found on p. 14*

12 The Act of Dedication

*all kneeling*

*Minister* That this time of Jubilee Thanksgiving  
may also be a time of dedication let  
us say together:

*All* Lord of our lives and Father of all,  
grant that our thanksgiving  
may prove itself in service  
to you and to our Queen,  
our country and one another,  
for your Name's sake. Amen.

13 The National Anthem

God save our gracious Queen,  
Long live our noble Queen,  
God save the Queen.

Send her victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us:  
God save the Queen.

Thy choicest gifts in store  
On her be pleased to pour,  
Long may she reign.  
May she defend our laws,  
And ever give us cause  
To sing with heart and voice  
God save the Queen!

14 The Blessing

## Alternative Hymns

	English Hymnal	A & M (R)	Church Hymnary 3rd edn.	BBC Hymn Book
<i>Lead us, heavenly Father</i>	426	311	90	—
<i>Thy hand, O God, has guided</i>	545	256	424	187
<i>Lord while for all mankind we pray</i>	561	—	518	—
<i>Judge eternal, throned in splendour</i>	423	—	519	393
<i>O God of earth and altar</i>	562	—	520	394
<i>And did those feet</i>	—	578	487	387
<i>All my hope on God is founded</i> (Hundred Hymns 3)	—	—	405	299
<i>God of love and truth and beauty</i> (Hundred Hymns 35)	—	—	—	273

## Note

### *In services of Holy Communion*

- 1 The prayer (section 3) adapted from the Accession Service may be read after the Collect for Trinity Sunday.
- 2 The Epistle and Gospel appointed for the Accession Service may be read in place of those set for Trinity Sunday, namely 1 Peter 2 vv 11–17 and Matthew 22 vv 16–22; and, if an Old Testament lesson be required, Joshua 1 vv 1–9.
- 3 The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession in Section 10 may be inserted at the appropriate place in Services of Holy Communion.

---

The 'Hymn for the Nation' by F. Pratt Green, reprinted by permission of The Oxford University Press, is sung to the tune 'Vision' composed by Walford Davies 1869–1941 and may be found in 'Congregational Praise', 'The Methodist Hymn Book', 'Hymns for Church and School', and the Baptist supplement 'Praise for Today'. The full musical accompaniment and harmony is published by The RSCM in a cheap leaflet listed as 'Walford Davies – A Hymn for the Nation'.

A Form of Prayer  
& of Thanksgiving  
to Almighty God  
on the Occasion of  
The Silver Jubilee  
of the Accession of  
Our Sovereign Lady  
Queen Elizabeth  
The Second

This service is published  
with the approval of  
The Archbishop of Canterbury & York  
The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster  
and the Members of the  
Free Church of Scotland