A FORM OF SERVICE

for

ST. GEORGE’S DAY

and in

COMMEMORATION OF

ROBERT BADEN-POWELL

FOUNDER OF THE BOY SCOUTS
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NOTE:
It may be desirable in order to meet local conditions to make changes in the order or organisation of the Service. There is no objection to this as it is realised that no single Form of Service can possibly be devised which suits all circumstances.

The Bidding

Minister:

Brothers, we have come together here in the presence of God and in the faith of Jesus Christ, to honour Saint George, Patron Saint of Scouts everywhere; to give thanks for the life and service of Robert Baden-Powell, our Founder; and to rededicate ourselves to God, asking Him to complete his purpose in us: and to this end we make our prayers.

Hymn

1. Soldiers of Christ, arise,
   And put your armour on;
   Strong in the strength which God supplies,
   Through his eternal Son;

2. Strong in the Lord of Hosts,
   And in his mighty power;
   Who in the strength of Jesus trusts
   Is more than conqueror.

3. Stand then in his great might,
   With all his strength endued;
   And take, to arm you for the fight,
   The panoply of God.
4. To keep your armour bright
   Attend with constant care,
   Still walking in your Captain's sight,
   And watching unto prayer.

5. From strength to strength go on;
   Wrestle, and fight, and pray;
   Tread all the powers of darkness down,
   And win the well-fought day:

6. That having all things done,
   And all your conflicts past,
   Ye may o'ercome, through Christ alone,
   And stand entire at last.

   Charles Wesley.

   Tune: St. Ethelwald.
   S. of P. 641 (H). A. & M. 270.

Confession

Minister:
   Let us kneel and humbly confess our sins to God, and pray
   for his forgiveness.

All will say:
   O God, our Father, we have sinned against thee, in thought,
   word, and deed: we have not loved thee with all our heart: we
   have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. Have mercy upon us,
   we beseech thee; cleanse us from our sins; and help us to over­
   come our faults: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Minister:
   The Almighty God have mercy upon us and forgive us all our
   sins, deliver us from all evil, confirm and strengthen us in all
   goodness, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

First Reading

A Scout:
   And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him,
saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?
   He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest
thou?
   And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God
with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength,
and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.
   And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do,
and thou shalt live.


Hymn

1. Bluest are the pure in heart,
   For they shall see our God;
   The secret of the Lord is theirs,
   Their soul is Christ's abode.

2. The Lord, who left the heavens
   Our life and peace to bring,
   To dwell in lowliness with men,
   Their pattern and their King;
3. Still to the lowly soul
   He doth himself impart,
   And for his dwelling and his throne
   Chooseth the pure in heart.

4. Lord, we thy presence seek;
   May ours this blessing be:
   Give us a pure and lowly heart,
   A temple meet for thee.

   J. Keble.


Minister:

Let us now pray together in honour of St. George, our Patron Saint, and of Robert Baden-Powell, our Founder.

All will say:

O Lord God of Hosts, who didst give grace to Thy servant George to lay aside the fear of man, and to confess Thee even unto death, grant that we and all our countrymen who bear office in the world, may think lightly of earthly place and honour, and seek rather to please the Captain of our Salvation who has chosen us to be His soldiers, to whom with Thee and the Holy Ghost be thanks and praise for all the armies of Thy saints now and for evermore. Amen.

We give Thee thanks, O Lord, for our Founder’s life of service and for his gift of Scouting to the world. Strengthen us, we beseech Thee, to be worthy of his trust. Help us to hold firmly to the Law which he gave us for our guidance, and so to understand more fully Thy will. Inspire us to find a way of life in which the Youth of all nations may find unity and true brotherhood.

Amen.

Here may prayers be offered for the Brotherhood of Scouts throughout the world, that the ties uniting Scouts may be strengthened, and that Scouts, in keeping their Law and Promise, may draw near to Christ, and so nearer to one another.

A Scout:

This is the last message our Founder wrote for us:

“Dear Scouts,—If you have ever seen the play Peter Pan you will remember how the pirate chief was always making his dying speech because he was afraid that possibly when the time came for him to die he might not have time to get it off his chest. It is much the same with me, and so, although I am not at this moment dying, I shall be doing so one of these days and I want to send you a parting word of good-bye.

Remember, it is the last you will ever hear from me, so think it over.

I have had a most happy life and I want each one of you to have as happy a life too.

I believe that God put us in this jolly world to be happy and enjoy life. Happiness doesn’t come from being rich, nor merely from being successful in your career, nor by self-indulgence. One step towards happiness is to make yourself healthy and strong while you are a boy, so that you can be useful and so can enjoy life when you are a man.

Nature study will show you how full of beautiful and wonderful things God has made the world for you to enjoy. Be contented with what you have got and make the best of it. Look on the bright side of things instead of the gloomy one.

But the real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people. Try and leave this world a little better than you found it, and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best. ‘Be prepared’ in this way, to live happy and to die happy—stick to your Scout Promise always—even after you have ceased to be a boy—and God help you to do it.

Your friend,

BADEN-POWELL.”
1. Lord God of Hosts, within whose hand
Dominion rests on sea and land,
Before whose word of life or death
The strength of nations is but breath;
O King, enthroned all thrones above,
Give strength unto the land we love.

2. Thou, breath of life since time began,
Breathing upon the lips of man,
Has taught each kindred race to raise
United word to sound thy praise:
So, in this land, join, we beseech,
All hearts and lips in single speech.

3. To George our saint thou gavest grace
Without one fear all foes to face,
And to confess by faithful death
That Word of Life which was his breath.
O help us, Helper of Saint George,
To fear no bonds that man can forge.

4. Arm us like him, who in thy trust
Beat down the dragon to the dust;
So that we too may tread down sin
And with thy saints a crown may win.
Help us, O God, that we may be
A land acceptable to thee.

Laurence Housman.

(From "The English Hymnal," by permission of the
Oxford University Press)

Melita. A. & M. 370.

Second Reading

A Scout:
Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power
of his might.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to
stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against prin­
cipalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of
this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Therefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye
may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all,
to stand.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and
having on the breastplate of righteousness;

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be
able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God:

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,
and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication
for all saints.

Ephesians vi. 10-18.

The Address

The Cub Law

A Scout:
This is the Law of the Wolf Cub Pack—
1. The Cub gives in to the Old Wolf;
2. The Cub does not give in to himself.

A Cub:

1. The Cub gives in to the Old Wolf;
2. The Cub does not give in to himself.
The Scout Law

A Scout:
This is the Scout Law—
a Scout's honour is to be trusted.
a Scout is loyal to the King, his country, his Scouters, his parents, his employers, and to those under him.
a Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others.
a Scout is a friend to all, and a brother to every other Scout, no matter to what country, class, or creed, the other may belong.
a Scout is courteous.
a Scout is a friend to animals.
a Scout obeys orders of his parents, Patrol Leader or Scoutmaster, without question.
a Scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties.
a Scout is thrifty.
a Scout is clean in thought, word, and deed.

The Promise

A Commissioner:
Let us renew our Promises.
First the Cubs will repeat with me:
"I have promised to do my best—
To do my duty to God, and the King;
To keep the Law of the Wolf Cub Pack; and
To do a good turn to somebody every day."

Now the Scouts will repeat with me:
"On my honour I have promised that I will do my best—
To do my duty to God, and the King,
To help other people at all times,
To obey the Scout Law."

Minister:
Let each from his own heart, ask for God's help in keeping our Promise.

(A pause for silence)

Now let us pray together:

All will say:
Teach us, Good Lord, to serve Thee as Thou dostest;
To give and not to count the cost;
To fight and not to heed the wounds;
To toil and not to seek for rest;
To labour and not to ask for any reward
Save that of knowing that we do Thy will:
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

1. For all the saints who from their labours rest,
   Who thee by faith before the world confess,
   Thy name, O Jesus, be for ever blest:

   Alleluia!

2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
   Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
   Thou in the darkness drear their one true light:

3. O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
   Fight as the Saints who nobly fought of old,
   And win, with them, the victor's crown of gold:

4. And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
   Steals on the ear the distant triumph-song,
   And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong:

5. The golden evening brightens in the west;
   Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest,
   Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest:

6. But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
   The saints triumphant rise in bright array:
   The King of Glory passes on his way:
From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:

Bishop W. W. How.

A. & M. 437 (3rd Tune).

The Blessing

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!

Of many a race and birth
From utmost ends of earth,
    God save us all!
Bid strife and hatred cease,
Bid hope and joy increase,
Spread universal peace,
    God save us all!