# Remembrance Sunday 2025 Sermon Starter

## Notes for Leaders

Here are some starting points for a sermon based around the 2025 Scripture for Remembrance Sunday used in some of the UK and Ireland’s main liturgical churches.

These passages of Scripture would be suitable if the Remembrance Sunday meeting is also an ecumenical or outreach event, or one where uniformed or voluntary groups are taking part.

## Contextual Note

Remembrance Sunday is a sensitive event for many people, and current world events make this year’s Remembrance meetings more difficult than they have been for many years. Our corps and ecumenical gatherings will contain a broad range of views on these matters. These suggestions have been prayerfully written considering the need to speak truth to power whilst upholding the Christian intent of our Remembrance season.

## First Reading

‘I will exalt you, my God the King;

I will praise your name for ever and ever.

Every day I will praise you

and extol your name for ever and ever.

‘Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;

his greatness no one can fathom.

One generation commends your works to another;

they tell of your mighty acts.

They speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty –

and I will meditate on your wonderful works.…

‘The Lord is righteous in all his ways

and faithful in all he does.

The Lord is near to all who call on him,

to all who call on him in truth.

‘He fulfils the desires of those who fear him;

he hears their cry and saves them.

The Lord watches over all who love him,

but all the wicked he will destroy.

My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord.

Let every creature praise his holy name

for ever and ever.’ (Psalm 145:1-5,17-21 *NIV*)

## Second Reading

‘Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us – whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter – asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

‘Don’t you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?…

‘But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

‘So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

‘May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.’ (2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,13-17 *NIV*)

## Introduction

* Acknowledging the difficulties of the times and especially for those in communities who are divided or locally affected by war, violence, conflict and injustice. Recalling Christ’s calls to peace, reconciliation and hope.
* Giving thanks to God for those who gave their all in times of conflict; and reflecting on the promise of salvation for all who follow Jesus.
* Focusing on the need for heartfelt praise and hope in God’s faithfulness during times of suffering and reminding us of the future hope in Jesus’ return.

## Key Scriptural Themes

* That God is worthy of our praise, and we are called to pass this message to the next generation (Psalm 145:4).
* That God hears the suffering of the world and answers our cries to him for help (Psalm 145:19).
* That God sees and acts on injustice, and that in no part of the world can cruelty or wickedness go unseen by him (Psalm 145:20).
* That Christians should not be surprised by the rise of false information, false teachers and leaders who seek to distract people away from God. These people will not prevail (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

## Calls to Action from Scripture

* That God is worthy of our active praise no matter what else is happening in the world (Psalm 100:1; Psalm 145:3).
* That we are called on to create times of quiet meditation and reflection, no matter what worldly distraction presents itself (Psalm 145:5).
* That we are to cry out to God when we need him (Psalm 145:18).
* That we should be steadfast in our faith, holding fast to the promise of salvation (2 Thessalonians 2:15).

## Conclusion

* Acknowledging our need to praise God, and for his justice and kindness (Psalm 145:3,20).
* That we should be encouraged in our faith as we stand firm in it (2 Thessalonians 2:15-17).

## Benediction

And now, we go out into the world, not as those who carry the weight of past conflicts, but as beacons of hope in a world still grappling with turmoil.

May we be instruments of compassion and justice, building bridges of understanding and seeking God’s perfect peace for all people, in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.