

Veterans and Memorial Day Resources

Although Veterans' Day is not on the liturgical calendar, we offer the following resources so that if your parish wants to recognize veterans and you may use some of the resources in congregational worship.

Links to resources: *From ECF Vital Practices*

<https://www.ecfvp.org/tools/107/memorial-and-veterans-day-resources>

Thank you to all who served this country!

Governor of Nations, our Strength and Shield:
we give you thanks for the devotion and courage
of all those who have offered military service for this
country:

For those who have fought for freedom;
for those who laid down their lives for others;
for those who have borne suffering of mind or of body;
for those who have brought their best gifts to times of need.

On our behalf they have entered into danger,
endured separation from those they love,
labored long hours, and borne hardship in war and in peacetime.

Lift up by your mighty Presence those who are now at war;
encourage and heal those in hospitals or mending their wounds at home;
guard those in any need or trouble;
hold safely in your hands all military families;
and bring the returning troops to joyful reunion and tranquil life at home;

Give to us, your people, grateful hearts
and a united will to honor these men and women
and hold them always in our love and our prayers;
until your world is perfected in peace through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.



Compiled by the Rev. Jennifer Phillips Veteran's Day Prayer

Heavenly Father, in every age, you call certain persons to defend the human family from oppression, tyranny, and evil. Since our founding as a nation "conceived in liberty," countless American men and women have stepped forward to defend from aggressors, our country and many others, and to liberate those held captive.

Today we revere and thank all our veterans: those who rest in honored glory, those who still suffer from the wounds of war, and those who, with us, enjoy the blessing of living in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

God, thank you for the selfless sacrifice of these veterans and of their families. Help us to remember them, to pray for them, and to care for them. Please bring all our departed veterans into Your Kingdom, and console their families with your unfailing love.

Please heal our wounded veterans through the power of Your Holy Spirit, and give to all our veterans the satisfaction of having served you even as they have served us.

Thank You for Your gifts of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

May we continue to keep these rights available to all.

In God's most holy name we pray. Amen.

God of peace,

we pray for those who have served our nation and who laid down their lives to protect and defend our freedom.

We pray for those who have fought, whose spirits and bodies are scarred by war, whose nights are haunted by memories too painful for the light of day.

We pray for those who serve us now, especially for those in harm's way.
Shield them from danger and bring them home.

Turn the hearts and minds of our leaders and our enemies to the work of justice and a harvest of peace. Let the peace you left us, the peace you gave us, be the peace that sustains, the peace that saves us.

Christ Jesus, hear us!

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer!

We ask for blessings on all those who have served their country in the armed forces. We ask for healing for the veterans who have been wounded, in body and soul, in conflicts around the globe. We pray especially for the young men and women, in the thousands, who are coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan with injured bodies and traumatized spirits.

Bring solace to them, O Lord; may we pray for them when they cannot pray. We ask for, an end to wars and the dawning of a new era of peace as a way to honor all the veterans of past wars.

Have mercy on all our veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Bring peace to their hearts and peace to the regions they fought in. Bless all the soldiers who served in non-combatative posts. May their calling to service continue in their lives in many positive ways.

Give us all the creative vision to see a world which, grown weary with fighting, Moves to affirming the life of every human being and so moves beyond war.

Hear our prayer, O Prince of Peace, hear our prayer. Amen.

O judge of the nations, we remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN. (BCP)

They Did Their Share

On Veteran's Day we honor
Soldiers who protect our nation.
For their service as our warriors,
They deserve our admiration.
Some of them were drafted;
Some were volunteers;
For some it was just yesterday;
For some it's been many years;
In the jungle or the desert,
On land or on the sea,
They did whatever was assigned
To produce a victory.
Some came back; some didn't.
They defended us everywhere.
Some saw combat; some rode a desk;
All of them did their share.
No matter what the duty,
For low pay and little glory,
These soldiers gave up normal lives,
For duties mundane and gory.
Let every veteran be honored;
Don't let politics get in the way.
Without them, freedom would have died;
What they did, we can't repay.
We owe so much to them,
Who kept us safe from terror,
So when we see a uniform,
Let's say "thank you" to every wearer.

By Joanna Fuchs

Suggested Prayers from Bishop George Packard from the Book of Common Prayer

Bishop George Packard suggests the following prayers from the Book of Common Prayer that are especially appropriate in the aftermath of the events of September 11, 2001.

6, p. 816 For our Enemies

25, p. 823 For those in the Armed Services

28, p. 824 In Times of Conflict

46, p. 829 For the Care of Children

47, p. 829 For Young Persons

53, p. 831 For Travelers

55, p. 831 For a Person in Trouble or Bereavement

6. For our Enemies

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

25. For those in the Armed Services of our Country

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

28. In Times of Conflict

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

46. For the Care of Children

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

47. For Young Persons

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

53. For Travelers

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel [in particular _____]; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

55. For a Person in Trouble or Bereavement

O merciful Father, who hast taught us in thy holy Word that thou dost not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men: Look with pity upon the sorrows of thy servant for whom our prayers are offered. Remember him, O Lord, in mercy, nourish his soul with patience, comfort him with a sense of thy goodness, lift up thy countenance upon him, and give him peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS IN TIME OF CRISIS

Compiled by Chaplain Francis C. Zanger

PRAYER IN THE FACE OF THE ENEMY

You, O Lord, are just and powerful: Defend our cause against the face of the enemy.

O God, you are a strong tower of defense to all who fly to you:

Save us from the violence of the enemy.

O Lord of hosts, fight for us, that we may glorify you.

O Lord suffer us not to sink under the weight of our sins, nor the violence of the enemy.

O Lord, arise, help us, and deliver us for your Name's sake. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES OF OUR COUNTRY

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of the armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them, and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER IN TIME OF WAR

O God, our help in ages past, our hope today and tomorrow, we approach you in deep humility at this hour of tragic crisis. Forgive us, if we have contributed to the cause of this war in which your children are engaged. Protect the children and the innocent. So fill our hearts with trust in you, that in peace and war we may commit our loved ones and ourselves to your unfailing care. Let not the powers of darkness and of terror keep us from doing our duty as free men. Help us to fight on until all strife and oppression cease and the peoples of this world are delivered from bondage and fear. Give us victory, O God, if it be your will, but above all give us the knowledge that we are fighting for values that are right and everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER FOR COURAGE

Teach me, O Master, the courage with which you faced every duty and trial, the spirit with which you made every sacrifice, that heartened by your blessed example, I may never waver in duty, danger or sacrifice, but as a good soldier of the Cross be enabled to better to serve the Country that I love; in the Name of God, who lives and reigns for evermore. Amen.

PRAYER FOR OUR NATIONAL LEADERS

O Lord God Almighty, guide, we pray you, all those to whom has been committed the government of this nation, and grant to them special gifts of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and strength; that upholding what is right, and following what is true, they may obey your holy will and fulfill your divine purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR OUR LOVED ONES

O God, the helper and protector of all your children, the comfort and stay of the solitary, and of those who are separated from those whom they love, we ask you to grant unto them every good gift for the body and the soul, and to unite us all, present and absent, in true faith and love. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ABSENT FAMILY MEMBERS

O God, whose fatherly care reaches to the uttermost parts of the earth: We humbly beseech you graciously to behold and bless those whom we love, now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body, and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to you, may be bound together by your love in the communion of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR A WILL TO PEACE

Almighty God, by whose grace we look for the day when nation shall not any more lift us sword against nation, nor people against people, and when mankind shall live without fear in security and peace, grant to us in this time of strife the will to labor for peace even while our sword is drawn to resist the oppressor. Let not the evil we oppose turn us from our purpose to achieve unity and concord among the nations of the earth, to your honor and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR A NATION UNDER ATTACK

Almighty God, we ask that you look with loving-kindness on the people of our nation, as we struggle to live our lives in time of great uncertainty and fear. Grant that the goals of those who would terrorize and intimidate the people of our country may be thwarted, and that in these times of trouble all Americans, of every faith, race and ethnicity may be drawn yet more closely in bonds of shared amity, respect, and purpose. Amen.

PRAYER FOR STRENGTH AND PROTECTION

O God, who knows us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of our human weakness we cannot always stand upright; Grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Inclusive Prayers and Collects

Let us pray,

Dear God, we are just ordinary people who serve this country with honor. We are ordinary people who may have unglamorous assignments and still they we serve; whose lives are sometimes disrupted and still we serve; whose health may be compromised and still we serve.

Lord, today as we remember those ordinary people who made the ultimate sacrifice from the Belleau wood to the beaches at Normandy, to Pearl Harbor, to Iwo Jima, to Inchon and the 38th parallel, to Vietnam, to Desert Storm to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and still they served. Just ordinary people doing their duty so that this Nation can thrive and stand by its declaration of "liberty and justice for all."

We ask for blessings on all these ordinary people who serve and have served their country in the armed forces. We ask for healing for the young men and women who have been wounded, in body and soul, in conflicts around the globe.

Bring solace to them, O Lord; may we pray for them when they cannot pray.

Bring peace to their hearts and peace to the regions they fought in.

And finally we pray for peace as a way to honor all veterans of past wars.

In your name we pray.

Amen

A prayer on Veteran's Day:

Father, we thank you for the courage and sacrifice of the men and women of America's Armed Forces. The freedom we have in our nation to worship you openly and without fear was bought by generations of patriots who considered the rights and well-being of others more precious than their own comfort or convenience. Many thousands of them gave their lives, some are still missing and unaccounted for.

We recognize that there are many at _____ Church who have previously served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard. Some others of our congregation are on active or reserve duty today. Many of our family, friends, neighbors and co-workers are veterans also.

Lord, we pray for peace, but since evil does exist in our world, someone must be brave enough to stand up and defend those who are not able to defend themselves. Please strengthen those who are serving now with your love and your grace; help them serve America and you honorably; keep them safe; watch over the families of those who are deployed far away, and comfort those families who grieve the loss of their loved ones.

We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

VETERANS DAY PRAYERS (from *Veterans of Foreign Wars*)

Let us remember before our God today, those who sacrificed during times of war in order that we might have liberty and freedom and security.

- Veterans both living and dead who fought on land, in the air, and on the water;
- The men and women in labor and industry who provided the machinery and weapons of war.

Eternal God, who alone rules the destinies of nations, and who has deemed that men and women should live together in peace. We pray for those who fought a good fight and finished the course. On this day we call to remembrance those who served in far off places and have laid down their arms to march into that land of eternal peace. We also call to remembrance all veterans who served in the Armed Forces of our Nation and contributed to the greatness of our national defense. We are indeed grateful for their service and sacrifice. And, if it were not for the men and women in our factories, their victories would not have been sustained. Keep sacred all their sacrifices in our hearts. Keep holy our course in your sight. Enkindle within us a flame of selfless, unwavering devotion to duty that we may never be found wanting in those qualities of spirit and mind which alone are able to preserve our homes, the peace of our nation, and the tranquility of the world. In Your Holy Name we pray. Amen.

(Benediction) Our Heavenly Father, we ask for your benediction to rest on us this day. As you have graciously preserved our Nation through the years, and have led us in wondrous ways, grant that we may be worthy of our high calling as a Nation. Amen.

Gracious God, thank You for disclosing Yourself to humanity through the ages and even now through Your love shared by Your children everywhere. Today, Lord, we remember and honor the memory of those who sacrificed their lives in war that we might live in peace. Let our acts become living memorials to their service. In a special way call to our remembrance the many who die today in wars of liberation. We know that all is not well in the world and that it needs to be better. May we find a way of being concerned enough to understand and begin to help. Be with our President and all the men and women who make national policy, that the spirit of peace may guide them. Strengthen our efforts as a leader of nations to work with other nations in deeds, which will enhance the common good. Forgive us as individuals who fail in our own citizenship and increase our resolve to make tomorrow meaningful to today's children. May we find that rededicating our lives to our Country, to the world, which we are citizens and to our God, we will be strengthened and uplifted by Your Spirit. In Your Holy Name we pray. Amen.

O Lord Almighty, remember those who died fighting to protect the dignity and the freedom of humanity. Let our hearts be compassionate and our minds clear and determined in giving them honor and respect. And let us be dependent on the loving kindness of the Lord our God. As we remember the departed, let us be courageous protectors and true guardians of freedom. Let us be the true masters of brotherly love. O Lord, guide us in the way of moral responsibility; enlighten us and make us true believers in morality and justice. Let this day be a day of commemoration and honor to all those who sacrificed in order to give us liberty, and our nation security. Remember them, O Lord, in your mercy, and have compassion on us. Make us a generation of wisdom, discipline, and good faith. Amen.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we ask that your blessing be bestowed on our friends and loved ones. We thank you for this opportunity to share with them this special occasion to honor our veterans. Let us always honor the memory of those brave men and women who sacrificed so that we may experience freedom in a country that is free. Heavenly father, keep their families in your kind care. Bless them and comfort them in their time of sorrow. Let us be reminded of Life, Liberty, Justice, Freedom, and Democracy, that we may be ever grateful to you for those veterans who gave so much for their Country. We ask your blessing upon this program and when we depart, grant us your continued fellowship that makes abiding peace. We ask this in Your Holy Name. Amen.

O God Eternal, before whom each generation rise and fall and pass away, we bow before You in gratitude as we remember our heritage in this, our land. We thank You for men and women whose blood is the measure of our debt in times of war, and for men and women of peace whose lives of service keep the fabric of our nation together. Save us from assuming that homage is a substitute for service. Teach us to be afraid of none but you, to speak unafraid the words of justice. Inspire us by the example of those who loved this land which we love, and who labored for a friendly world, free from hatred and bitterness. In our foreign policy and in our relationships within the Nation, help us to further only those purposes that will promote unity and justice and further the coming of your kingdom on earth. Especially help us overcome the hatred, the cruelty, and the rejection of others who may be different than we are. We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

Almighty God, Father of us all! We, Your servants, turn to you for continuance of your blessings upon us. You, who have spared we veterans from the grasp of our enemies, grant us the full understandings of your precious comfort. We thank you for the privileges of life and the blessings we enjoy through Your graciousness to our Nation, the land in which we are given the freedom of speech, religion and the pursuit of happiness. Assist us to know you better and that you are the God of the universe and our ideal. In Your mercy, may we the living find our peace. Grant us from above, this day, the challenge of high endeavor, the beauty of a humble spirit, the strong courage and will, without exertion, to continue to glorify You; praise You and love You to the end of time. Amen.

Almighty God, we stand here today to pay tribute to brave men and women, living and dead, who have served their country in the Armed Forces. Accept our thanksgiving for their sacrifices and the sacrifices of their families, which have purchased for us a free land. Cause us never to take for granted their devotion to liberty. Let our spirits be proud of them, let their hearts be compassionate, and our minds clear and determined in giving them the honor and respect they deserve. Rekindle within us a flame of selfless, unwavering devotion to duty, that we may never be found wanting in those qualities of spirit and mind which are able to preserve our homes, our communities, and the peace of our Nation. Keep our memories alive with GRATITUDE and our gratitude alive with our FAITHFULNESS to the principles, which made our Nation great. Grant, we pray, joy and fulfillment to those still living; and for those who are at rest, grant your peace. Amen.

Veteran's Day *(from the US Air Force Chaplain Service Institute Resource Division)*

Almighty God, the cause of liberty is yours. It is likewise the cause of those who have defended it against tyranny and oppression. Remembering the veterans who have served in America's Armed Forces, we give you thanks. We are grateful that you inspired their sense of patriotism and strengthened them in unselfish service. Their courage and vigilance insured the freedom and peace we enjoy today. Grant, we pray, O Lord, to each of them a generous portion of your grace and to America, our native land, your blessing. Amen.

Eternal God, on this Veteran's Day, we are reminded of a tiny cemetery far across the sea where snow-capped Himalayas pierce the sky. In those mountains is a small grave marker on which are written these words: "When you go home, tell them of us and say, we gave all our tomorrows that you might have today." And so we pause to remember those brave warriors and others like them who gave their tomorrows for the ideals we value today--the ideals of freedom, justice and peace. How many pilots have been lost? How many foxholes were soldiers' graves? How many sailors died at sea that we might have today? Perhaps we will never fully know the number, but they are known to you, O God, and we ask your mercy that they might be held tightly in your hand and covered with your grace. Renew our spirits and grant us strength to serve you and our country with pride and courage. Comfort those who have lost loved ones in the cause of peace. Equip each of us to persevere and make right the wrong. Prepare us for that time when the last trumpet will sound, when the last flag will be folded, when the last salute has been given, when all the tomorrows have given way to today. Amen.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, we want honestly to thank you for the blessings you have entrusted to our use. So many of them came so repetitiously that we live as if they were just part of the normal scheme of life. When we stop and think, we know that isn't so. We do thank you for the life we have today. We thank you for friends, family and the freedoms, which have been given to us. On this occasion we offer up special prayers of thanksgiving for those who sacrificed much for us. Many actually gave their lives so that we might live in freedom; and we pray that our appreciation might lead us to live thankful lives distinguished by responsibility. We do not pretend to appreciate fully the pain, loneliness and suffering they and their families endured. But we thank you for your love, which defies all attempts of description. We entrust to your loving care all those who have preceded us into your presence. And we pray that we, the living, might also entrust ourselves to you, daily seeking your wisdom and direction, in our lives everyday. In the spirit of these prayers, we commit this day and our lives to you. Amen.

Heavenly Father, in all things you call us to remember. We remember your promise to Abraham, your action in the lives of the prophets and Israel, and your grace and promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Now we gather to remember those who once were our comrades-in-arms and now rest in you. May we always hold dear the striving for peace, the will of duty and the faith in you for which they lived. By your grace, continue to be with us in order that one day we may never again face war. Be with us that your children will all live in peace and in faith toward you. Amen.

O Gracious God, on this Veteran's Day we give thanks to those who've shown the way of freedom and justice by giving their all in heeding your eternally triumphant call. Now, as we honor our courageous and brave may we follow your way that for us you pave. Though our trials be different, our adventures quite varied, we honor our veterans, who before us you've carried. Though many may see no more of tomorrow they've lived not in vain, nor in tragic sorrow but rather in peace. They've won the real prize to new dawns with you their souls do arise. They've defended this land with dignity and pride on the wings of eagles and angels. They ride to be near to you, creator and friend, as examples of life without end. Amen.

O Almighty God and most wonderful Father, today we remember all service members who have served their country with distinction. We recall their courage and strength and dedication. We ask your protection for those who actively serve you today. Grant eternal life to those who have passed from this world and grant perseverance to those still serving. This we ask in your holy name. Amen.

Dear Father you who were known by the ancients as the Lord of Hosts, we bring you thanks for the host whom we honor today. We thank you, Father, for your power and for the lives of those, which you have empowered in the service of our nation. For all of the men and women who have given of their time, their honor, and even of their lives for the sake of freedom, we offer praise and thanksgiving. It was through their efforts and your grace that we persist in our freedom. We pray today, Father, that we might live to see a time when there will be no need for others to be known as "veterans." We pray for the peace of our nation and of the world. We ask that you be gracious to all of those serving now, wherever they are in this world. We pray your blessings in their lives as we now honor them and those who went before. May all who have served and who do serve find peace and strength through your power and their faith. Amen.

Gracious Father, we come into your presence asking that you bless this worship service in which we seek to pay tribute to our veterans - past and present - for their many contributions to the freedom we enjoy today. But Lord, most of all we want to pay tribute to you, our Almighty Father, for we know that it is by your decree that nations rise and fall. Open our eyes, O Lord, so that no matter how alone we may feel, that like Elisha's servant in the long ago, we may look around us and see that we are surrounded by chariots of fire and an army more powerful than any on the face of the earth. To your great and holy name we give thanks for the freedom we enjoy - a freedom that allows us to worship you even now.

For it is in the name of our Lord that we pray. Amen.

Our God, and God of our ancestors, as we look backward on this Veterans Day, let us recognize the dedication of those men and women who served our Armed Forces before us. Help us to make their sacrifices for freedom our guide in our daily duties. Uphold high the standard of service they set so that we will do our best each day. Amen.

Father, we give thanks to you for the courage and sacrifice of the men and women of the Armed Forces. It has been through their dedication to duty and your bounty that our country has continued to remain free. As we celebrate this particular day of emphasis in our country we come to realize that you are the one who has given to us courageous individuals to lead and to serve in our military forces, and for that we are thankful and grateful. Amen.

Prayers of the People

A Litany From *The Book Of Worship For United States Forces* (1974), No. 625

Leader: Let us give thanks to God for the land of our birth with all its chartered liberties. For all the wonder of our country's story:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For leaders in nation and state, and for those who in days past and in these present times have labored for the commonwealth:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For those who in all times and places have been true and brave, and in the worlds common ways have lived upright lives and ministered to their fellows:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For those who served their country in its hour of need, and especially for those who gave even their lives in that service:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: O almighty God and most merciful Father, as we remember these your servants, remembering with gratitude their courage and strength, we hold before you those who mourn them. Look upon your bereaved servants with your mercy. As this day brings them memories of those they have lost awhile, may it also bring your consolation and the assurance that their loved ones are alive now and forever in your living presence.