



PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Armed Forces Day

officially celebrated on the 3rd Saturday of May

Lord God, you have ordained two institutions for our welfare. The church is to look after our souls. The government is to care for our bodies.

As we celebrate Armed Forces Day we acknowledge that great blessings have come to us through both our Church and our State.

We now thank you especially for the protection that you have provided for us through the Armed Forces of our country.

We regret that protection needs to be provided by force. We recognize that the cause of this is sin. If there were no sin in this world there would be no need for Armed Forces. We confess that we share in the guilt of this sin.

Forgive us for our inclination to put ourselves before others, and to not love as you have loved us.

We thank you for the forgiveness you have granted us in Christ.

We also thank you for the men and women of our Armed Forces. You have warned us about evil, and history has shown the pain and misery, the death and destruction that evil visits upon those who cannot defend themselves.

We thank you for leading people to step forward to serve their country by entering military service.

Lead them to put their trust in you, rather than their weapons. Lead them on the paths of righteousness, not sin. Lead them to victory over all their enemies—those that wage war against their soul as well as those who would attack their body.

Grant faithfulness and honor to those in our Armed Forces. Use them for our good, and to your glory. Grant this for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Psalm 121 (p.112 in CW) might be used in connection with this prayer.

Suggested hymns: 200 or 201; 422; 517; 620