



Farewell and Godspeed Entering the Military

THIS RITE MAY PRECEDE THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The one who is leaving comes forward.

M: People of God, _____, our (*brother/sister*) in Christ, is entering the service of our country in the _____ (*branch of service*). We recognize that this may place him in harm's way in distant and dangerous places.

As we bid *him* farewell and Godspeed, let us hear the Word of our Lord.

THE FOLLOWING OR OTHER PORTIONS OF SCRIPTURE ARE READ

Additional selections include Psalm 46:1-3, Isaiah 41:10, Matthew 28:20b.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor for-sake you (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands (Isaiah 49:15-16).

If you make the Most High your dwelling—even the LORD, who is my refuge—then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways (Psalm 91:9-11).

M: As _____ prepares for his difficult task, let us call on the Lord for encouragement, strength, and protection.

PRAYER

M: Merciful and protecting Father, Lord of all nations, we thank you for raising up people willing to serve our country so that we might live in peace and proclaim your promises in safety. Bless and protect _____ with your almighty hand. Send your holy angels to guard him in his mission.

While he is away, bless the lives of those who are left behind. Cover them, Lord, with your hand of peace and fill them with the confidence that your grace rests on them, just as it rests on _____ as he is away. Use members of (this parish) to support and encourage his family.

Lord, we ask you to keep him safe in body and soul. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: _____, go in peace, confident that your Lord will be with you. The Almighty and merciful God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—go with you to protect you as you faithfully serve him and the people of our nation.

C: Amen.

The one who is leaving returns to his/her place.