

VETERANS' DAY WORSHIP RESOURCES

Introduction:

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month of the year 1918, an armistice was signed, ending the “war to end all wars.” November 11 was set aside as Armistice Day in the United States to remember the sacrifices that men and women made during the war in order to ensure a lasting peace. In 1938 Congress voted Armistice Day as a legal holiday, but World War II began the following year. Armistice Day was still observed after the end of the Second World War. In 1953 townspeople in Emporia, Kansas, called the holiday Veterans’ Day in gratitude to the veterans in their town. Soon after, Congress passed a bill renaming the national holiday to Veterans’ Day. Today, in our worship and with our prayers we remember those who have served our country in the armed forces.

Worship Preparation:

God of peace,

We gather today to remember, honor and pray for,

All who have served us, through the service of our country in the military.

In times of peril,

You called forth courageous and selfless individuals

To face the dangers of war in the hope of establishing a lasting peace.

Grant your healing to their injured bodies,

Grant your peace to their wounded spirits,

And through our actions and our prayers assist them.

We ask this confident of your presence in our lives. Amen.

Our Worship

Welcome

(please stand)

Procession

“Star Spangled Banner”

(Presentation of flags...American and Christian; Congregation will be asked to join the flagbearer in offering their pledge of allegiance to each flag)

Congr.: I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag and to the Savior for whose kingdom it stands. One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again with life eternal for all who believe.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Invocation

Hymn: CW, #618 “Before the Lord We Bow”

Confession/Absolution

The Te Deum (*We Praise you, O God*)
(p. 48f in *Christian Worship*)

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: O Lord, our God, govern the nations on earth and direct the affairs of this world so that your Church may worship you in peace and joy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congr.: Amen.

The Word

(Please be seated)

Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.”

Pastor: Blessed are they who hear the Word of the Lord and believe it. Alleluia!

Congr.: (sung) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Epistle Reading: Romans 13:1-7

“Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.”

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

(Please stand for the Reading of the Gospel)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:3-14

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.

“Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

Congr.: Amen.

Hymn: CWS, #727 “There Is a Higher Throne”

Sermon—Text: Matthew 24:3-7

Theme: “Wars and Rumors of War”

Collection of the Offering

(Sunday School Bell Choir: “America the Beautiful”)

(please stand)

Prayer

Pastor: Everlasting Protector and Defender, we come before you with our prayers:

Congr.: We thank you, Lord, for our military veterans. Through them you have provided us with blessings that people around the world envy.

Pastor: But the presence of our veterans also remind us of your warning that wars and rumors of war will continue until the end of time.

Congr.: In your mercy, keep war from our shores, and frustrate the plans of all those who would cause us terror.

Pastor: Lord of the Nations, we ask that you would continue to bless our country with men and women who are willing to go to distant and dangerous places to protect us from those who would do us harm.

Congr.: We pray that you will continue to bless us with veterans who offer faithful and selfless service.

Pastor: Be with our veterans as they return home and continue their march through life—especially those wounded in body or spirit. May they receive the support and care they deserve for their sacrifice. Protect them from the ambush of sin and the firepower of Satan. Give them the health and strength they need to carry out the missions in life that you have laid before them.

Congr.: Lord, be their shield and strength, their guide and their rearguard. Give to them the peace that surpasses all understanding as they place their trust in Jesus.

Pastor: When their tour of duty in this world is over, give them the order to come home. Bring them to where there are no more wars.

Congr.: Grant unto them this blessing: when we are listening to taps being played over their graves, may they be listening to the joyous trumpet call of God and the music of heaven's choirs. Grant this for Jesus' sake. Amen.

(be seated)

Hymn: CW, #419(1-4) "If God Himself Be For Me"

Prayer

Pastor: Dear Lord, remembering all who are in need of your help, we also pray for the families of all our veterans...as they, too, serve us by enduring the absence of a father or mother, husband or wife, brother or sister, son or daughter, may they, too, be encouraged by the embrace of their fellow Americans.

Congr.: Be with them, Lord.

Pastor: We pray also for civilians who deal with the daily terrors of living amidst war...we pray that they will not be targeted and that together with their leaders and our soldiers, peace will soon surround them.

Congr.: Be with them, Lord.

Pastor: We pray for our policymakers and leaders. May they ever reflect on the value of human life as they strive for a lasting peace among nations in our world.

Congr.: Be with them, Lord.

Pastor: *(any special prayers)*

Hear us for Jesus' sake, in whose name we also pray:

Congr.: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Prayer For Peace

Pastor: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congr.: Amen.

(be seated)

Choir: "God Bless America"

America, America, God shed His grace on thee;
and crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea.

While the storm clouds gather far across the sea,
let us swear allegiance to a land that's free.

Let us all be grateful for a land so fair,
as we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.

God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her and guide her
through the night, with a light from above.
From the mountains, to the prairies,
to the oceans, white with foam,
God bless America; my home, sweet home.

(Congregations joins in....)

**God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her and guide her
through the night, with a light from above.
From the mountains to the prairies,
to the oceans, white with foam.
God bless America; my home sweet home.
God bless America; my home sweet home.**

(Choir only....)

God bless America! America! My home!

Benediction

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and forever.

Congr.: *(sung)* **Amen.**

Hymn: CW, #619 “God Bless Our Native Land”

Roll Call

(As the Roll Call is read, veterans who are able are asked to come to the front of the church...Veterans are listed in order from their dates of service; at the end of the Roll Call, any other veterans present are asked to come forward)

x —Private First Class
Army, 1941-1945

x —(Enlisted)
Marines, WWII

x —Corporal
Army, 1950-1953

x —Major
Army Reserves, 1958-1987

- x —Sergeant
Army, 1961-1962
- x —Specialist 4th Class
Army, 1962-1965
- x —Specialist Fifth Class
Army, Army Reserves, 1965-1985
- x —Specialist Fourth Class
Army, 1967-1969
- x —Specialist Fifth Class
Army, 1970-1973
- x —Sergeant First Class
Army Reserves, 1976-1995
- x —Private First Class
Army, 2007-2012

Thank You!

Silent Prayer

(to be used at any time today....)

O God of Victory,

We thank you for the men and women,
who have answered the call to protect our nation.

Bless them, and their families...

And bring them home to us with honor and an awareness
of our gratitude.

We ask you to guide our leaders...

Grant them the wisdom use discernment in every action of war,
so that those who serve will always have full confidence
in their mission.

May a lasting peace be attained...

Both between nations and in the hearts of those touched by war.
May the peace you give us, be the peace we share with all. Amen.

Other ideas: Have veterans be the greeters for the service, flowers in commemoration of service of a veteran who could not be present, veterans register for all veterans in attendance, etc.

For Immediate News Release:

x Ev. Lutheran Church, (address) , will be hosting a special Veteran's Day worship service on (date and time), with refreshments to follow. The intent of the worship service will be to offer thanks and praise to God for allowing us to live in a free country and also to honor the veterans whom God has used to help secure the blessings we enjoy in this country. Beginning with a "Color Guard" procession of flags and ending with a military "Roll Call" of congregation members who are veterans, the worship service will remind us of the many blessings that are ours as Christians...and as Americans. Veterans from World War II and up to the present, and from all branches of our nation's Armed Forces, will be recognized and thanked for their service. While any veterans will be our "special guests" that day, family and friends of any veteran are also invited! For more information, call (phone number).