



PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

## Veterans Day 2023 (with optional recognition of veterans)

Lord Jesus, King of kings and Lord of the nations,

Millions of people, both citizens and war fighters, watched and waited for the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 for war to cease.

**We know now that it was not the war to end all wars.**

The series of wars that have followed moved our leaders to change Armistice Day to Veterans Day, to honor everyone who has served in our nation's Armed Forces.

**We thank you, Lord, for our military veterans. Through those who have "kept the watch" on our behalf, you have prevented war from advancing to our shores, frustrated the plans of wicked people, and protected us from harm.**

Because of their time of service to our country, there are many veterans who do not live in peace. There are many who do not wish to be thanked for their service, because they are ashamed by what they have done or failed to do.

**Move us to offer our patient, listening hearts to those veterans who suffer, including those who suffer in silence. Help us to point them to the perfect peace that is now theirs in Christ.**

Although none of us fully enjoys the perfect peace we have in you, Lord Jesus, may we wait and watch for that day when you will restore all things for us.

**You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.**

Although the devil and his allies do not know the meaning of "ceasefire" and continue their assault to rob people of peace in Jesus, remind us of the armor you provide to protect minds and hearts.

**Move all who fight the good fight of faith, especially those who serve our nation on our behalf, to "put on faith and love as a breastplate and the hope of salvation as a helmet."**

*What follows is an optional addition to the Prayer of the Church, a way to recognize both actively serving troops and veterans.*

To you, the commander of the armies of the LORD, we call upon you to protect all the men and women who are actively serving our country today:

*[Read list of actively serving men and women, including national guard and reserves who are members and prospects/ friends of the congregation.]*

We especially recognize today those who have served our country in the armed forces:

*[Read list of veterans, both members and prospects/friends of the congregation.]*

*Prayer of the Church continues here:*

Give to all who have served and all who are actively serving, the identity and purpose that comes only from you, that through baptism, they are forgiven, loved children of their heavenly Father, bought and purchased with the blood of his Son, called and kept in the true faith by the Holy Spirit.

**Have compassion on your servants. Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. Amen.**