

Reflections on Faith and Life for November 8, 2020

Veterans Day is this week, and it's "our duty and our delight" (part of the communion service) to give thanks for their service and sacrifices. From my file of Veterans Day prayers I've chosen the following:

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Prayer Book for the Armed Services

A Prayer for Veterans: Almighty and ever-living God, we give you thanks for the men and women who have served and defended our country and the values of freedom and justice we hold so dear. Help us be mindful of the sacrifices they made and the hardship endured by their families and friends, so that we never take for granted the privileges they have secured for us. Hear us, we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes, *Unfolding Light*, November 11, 2014

Today we pray for veterans, for those who've fought our wars, whose blood has been spent. They bear our wounds and the weight of our fear. They are the lambs sacrificed for our protection. Lord, have mercy.

For those who have been in hell, I pray that their bodies be mended, their memories healed, their souls restored. I pray for veterans of all nations who served their country, risked their lives, and did their best. I pray for mothers of soldiers, for children of war, for all who suffer from the violence of nations. I pray for those who work for peace, who risk and suffer in the work of justice, for reconciliation and life. In the name of the Prince of Peace I pray for peace, for Armistice among all. Amen.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes, *Unfolding Light*, November 11, 2013

For those whom we have asked to bear the horror of our violence, we offer our prayers of thanks that they were willing to stand between us and our fears. We offer our prayers for forgiveness for having asked them; and prayers for healing for the damage to their souls by what they have done and see. We offer prayers for mercy for those who don't know how to carry the horror back to us, how to shed the darkness we have asked them to drink, how to live among us.

May we, too, have the courage to serve, to risk, to give our lives in love for the sake of our homeland, which is the Kingdom of God, the whole human family. In the spirit of peace. Amen.

Autom: serving the Catholic Community since 1945

Today we honor those who have defended our country and other people of good will for over four centuries. We also honor those soldiers who are continuing to defend our freedom. Thank you, Lord, for the selfless sacrifices our veterans have made to serve the cause of
freedom, truth, and peace.

Dear Father,
united as one nation

we ask that you impart your heavenly strength and courage into the hearts of each one of our brave men and women who serve in the Armed Forces. We lift up their spouses, their homes, and their families before you and ask that you fill them with your unending and
everlasting love.

Watch over them while they are defending the freedom that we as Americans are able to enjoy each and every day. We all know that freedom isn't free, and these men and women make such selfless sacrifices to cover that cost.

Please bring all our departed veterans into your Kingdom, and console their families with your undying love. We can never thank you enough for the privilege of living in America, where we are able to enjoy the gifts of
life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Have mercy on us, help us to return to you, and please continue to be with us wherever we go. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

I invite you to close this page by singing one of our beloved songs:

God bless America, land that I love. Stand beside her, and guide her, through the night with the light from above. From the mountain to the prairie to the ocean white with foam, God bless America, my home sweet home! God bless America, my home sweet home!