

Litany for Veterans

Merciful LORD our God: we confess that it is Your will for the world that we live together in peace. You have promised through Isaiah that one day 'swords will be beaten into ploughshares', yet brokenness continues in our world and there are times that war is inevitable.

LORD, we recognize with humility and sadness the tragic loss of life that comes with war and, as we gather here free from persecution, we give Thee thanks for those who have enlisted with courage and honor to serve for the sake of our safety and security.

LORD, we lift up those among us who are in active duty or reserve duty and those who are fathers, mothers, siblings, spouses, and grandparents of those who are currently serving.

LORD, we praise You for those who are willingly serving. May all our Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen and Coast Guards labor with honor, pride, and compassion. May their hearts not be hardened by the actions that they must take. Please, LORD, strengthen their families and keep them surrounded by Your love and peace that surpasses all understanding during the absence of their loved ones.

LORD, we lift up those among us who have served in the military.

We praise You for those who have served in the military. We thank You for those who have put

the welfare of others ahead of their own safety. LORD, may we all be inspired by their self-sacrifice in service for those who have needed protection.

LORD, we lift up those among us who have lost loved ones in war.

We praise You for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Precious LORD, we ask that You comfort those who still mourn and feel the pain of their losses with Your Resurrection-Presence that keeps every family-circle unbroken.

Finally, LORD, we lift up those who have gathered safely in Your name because of the sacrifices of others.

Gracious LORD, we praise You for the freedoms that we enjoy. May we never take them for granted or forget those who have served Thy cause of righteousness, but honor them and Thee by working for justice and peace. In the name of the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

Adapted from "A Litany for Veterans" by Robb McCoy.