



THOSE WHO SERVE PRAYER GUIDE

by the Rev. Kenneth R. Klaus

*This prayer guide has been produced in cooperation with Captain Mark J. Schreiber,
Director for the Armed Forces Ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.*

This Prayer Guide is proudly presented to:

(Name)

*who is one of Those Who Serve
God and Country in the*

(Branch of Service)

*It is given by
Those Who Support you:*

(Names and relationship)

*This day, and through your time of service, we commend you into the care of your loving
Lord Jesus and commit ourselves to remembering and joining with you in prayer.*

AFTER ENLISTMENT

Dear Heavenly Father,

I come to You having made a decision to serve my country in a branch of the armed forces. This choice for my life was not made lightly, nor without thought and prayer. Now, with my commitment having been made, I ask that You will continue to be by my side, even as I ask for the strength to see Your will in all that I do. During this time of service as I am separated from what is familiar, let me remember that there is no place I will ever be sent where You will not be present. Lord, You know that I shall be placed in many new situations and circumstances. At those times, grant me the strength to be Your faithful disciple, as well as an honorable member of the military. In all circumstances may my thoughts, words, and actions be pleasing to You. May I serve in such a way that both friend and enemy alike may see Your glory and the power which comes to those who trust You. This I ask in the name of my Savior, Jesus. Amen.

Scripture: “When a man’s ways are pleasing to the Lord, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him” (Proverbs 16:7).

LEAVING LOVED ONES

Lord of Today and Tomorrow,

There are those who begin a new life knowing they will be missed and others who fear they will be forgotten. Lord, I know that You will never forget me, and that is a great comfort as I say “good-bye” to those who have been close to me. Let me do so with the confidence that by Your grace we shall be reunited soon. Reassure my loved ones with the knowledge that even when they cannot be with me, You will be by my side. Keep all who care about me free from any fear of what might be ahead. Let them realize that a future which starts with You can never be lonely or bleak. Let them give thanks for these days and experiences, which are gifts You give to help me grow in wisdom and faith. Let us all find contentment in the knowledge that the Savior’s love will bridge the distances which separate us. So, in Jesus’ name, I say my farewells. Amen.

Scripture: “Finally, brothers, goodbye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you” (2 Corinthians 13:11).

FAREWELL TO LIFE BACK HOME

Lord Jesus,

I have shared my heart with You concerning my good-byes to those who love me. Now I ask that You listen as I speak about everything else I leave behind. The streets I have walked, the restaurants where I have eaten, the places where I have worked that will be replaced by new places and a new job. I do not know what changes will occur to past things while I am gone. For that reason I pray as did my Savior: “Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Further, I ask that You grant me the ability to be grateful for all of the unanticipated gifts which will be coming from Your hand. Let me know that everything that happens is for a purpose and can be used by You to help my Christian life. Dear Lord, keep me from looking over my shoulder and longing for the “good old days.” Instead, use me to make today better than anything I have experienced in the past. May I, like Paul, learn to be content in whatever circumstance I find myself. Amen.

Scripture: “And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

REPORTING FOR DUTY

God of New Beginnings,

Throughout the Bible, You called men and women to a new life and new beginnings. Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus' disciples, all, by Your summons, started their lives anew. I know that I'm not a prophet, patriarch, or king. But, I am one of Your disciples and today as I report for duty, as a new life begins for me, Lord, I know You will be there. Although I won't show or say it, this is a frightening time. I will meet new people; learn new habits and new routines. Help me with that learning. Dear Lord, today, I, who already am Your disciple, will begin to learn military discipline. That is a good thing. It will be a better thing if that discipline can be applied to my discipleship. As I am obedient to You, so may I be dutiful to those above me. So I ask, in this new life, that I be given the ability to embrace every situation which will bring glory to you. In Your name, and service, I ask it. Amen.

Scripture: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Colossians 3:17).

DURING TRAINING

Dear Lord Jesus,

When you were among us, You set an example of obedience to Your Father in heaven. Because You were obedient unto death, I am the recipient of salvation. Now, during my time of military training, I am also learning how to obey, whom to obey, and when to obey. From the time I get up in the morning until the time I fall asleep at night, someone else is in control of my actions. Where I go and what I do is decided by others. Truly, it is not always an easy task for me to override my will and trust someone else. Still, I am beginning to understand that delayed obedience to those in authority amounts to disobedience. That is why I ask that You will give me the capability to respect those leaders whom You have placed in authority above me. May I be faithful and wise in obedience that my comrades might be benefited, my leaders honored, and You glorified. In Your name I ask it. Amen.

Scripture: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving" (Colossians 3:23-24).

ESPRIT DE CORPS

Lord of Life,

In my civilian life You have shown me how, when all the parts of a car engine are in tune, the vehicle will run well. I have learned that when the gears on a watch mesh properly, that watch will give the correct time. I have seen how an individual snowflake, all on its own, can do nothing, but if enough snowflakes come together in one place, they can bring a great city or an entire region of the country to a standstill. I have come to believe that the same is true of a military unit. On the one hand, if I and my comrades think and act as one, we will be able to accomplish great things. On the other hand, if we all decide to keep our separate goals and objectives, everyone will suffer. That is why I pray that You will give me the endurance and encouragement that is necessary to promote a spirit of unity within my unit. May I do so for my comrades and to glorify my Savior. In His name, I pray it. Amen.

Scripture: "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus (Romans 15:5).

BEING DEPLOYED

Dear All-Present Lord,

I have received my orders, and I know, at least for now, where I am to be stationed. Before me is a future that is unknown, a road I have not walked. I give thanks that although this place is new to me, it is not unknown to You. You have gone before me, and because that is so, I am neither worried, nor afraid, nor discouraged. Now as I journey to my new place of deployment, I ask that You will lead me, step-by-step, from one day to the next. Send Your Holy Spirit so that each day I may be sure that I, Your saved child, am directed, supplied, protected, corrected, and cared for by You. Lord Jesus, I may not be able to make sense out of all the unexpected events, all the twists and turns which are in my future. I may not understand why things will happen the way they will. Let it be sufficient for me to know wherever I go, whatever I do, whatever may come, You are my God and my Guide. Amen.

Scripture: “The lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged” (Deuteronomy 31:8).

FOR THE NATION

Lord of our Land and Life,

Over two centuries ago, shortly before the British hanged him, the American hero Nathan Hale said he regretted he had only one life to lose for his country. Today I can see things Hale could not: I see America’s flag, her history, and the democratic truths upon which she has been built. I give thanks that my country remains: “One nation under God.” Knowing that, I proudly echo his words in saying, “I have only one life to invest in my country.” The Bible says doing right exalts a nation and sin disgraces her. For that reason, I pray for America, right or wrong. When America is right, dear Lord, keep her right. Allow the good people, the God-fearing people of America to loyally continue their vigilance and struggle for those things which are pleasing to You. And, if my nation ever wanders or goes wrong, dear Lord, turn her and gently bring her back onto the path You would have her walk. In Your Son’s name, I pray this. Amen.

Scripture: “Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to any people (Proverbs 14:34).

FOR WORLD LEADERS

Lord of the Nations,

One of the great blessings You have given to me is the honor of living in a democratic country. I know the United States is not perfect, but she still stands head and shoulders above so many nations where freedom is neither condoned, allowed, or practiced. For that reason I consider it an honor to defend my country against all who would clip the wings of the American eagle and do her harm. This day, so there might be true peace throughout the world, I ask that You will touch the hearts of those rulers who oppress their people, who rob from and murder them. Let each dictator and tyrant know that You are the one who has placed them in a position where they might serve and not enslave; where they might help, and not hurt those who are in their charge. May they know the day will come when they shall stand before You to answer for all they have done. This I pray in Your holy name. Amen.

Scripture: “There is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God” (Romans 13:1).

FOR A NATION'S RESOLVE

Dear Lord Jesus,

Throughout Your entire life and in Your death and resurrection You showed a great resolve to take my place and save me from my sins. Now I ask that You would give a similar spirit of faithfulness to my country. You know, dear Lord, we live in a world in which many things are made to be disposable. Disposability may be alright for diapers and yesterday's newspapers, but it is sad when it compromises a country's faithfulness to its God, its promises, its friends, and its objectives. I know in every great cause there will always be voices and temptations which will try to turn us, which will try to seduce us so we forget who we are and what You would have us do. That is why I pray, under Your guidance, America may be a country which has the resolve to finish all proper and God-pleasing objectives. In Your name, this is my prayer. Amen.

Scripture: "If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all His commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God" (Deuteronomy 28:1-2).

FOR THOSE IN AUTHORITY

Lord of Power and Might,

You have appointed people to political positions of authority. They hold these places so their citizenry may have quiet days and live peaceable lives. Your will is that these leaders govern so that everyone may be able to love You and live with each other. Hear my prayer, which asks that You preserve those rulers who are good. Bless their work and their decisions. Allow harmony to reign wherever they govern. Let these leaders, who have been enabled to make wise decisions, live God-pleasing lives. May they be examples of integrity, honor, and honesty. I ask that You will give all self-centered leaders a repentant heart. Lead them to that point when they can realize the damage and the pain they are causing to their people, their nation, and the world. This I pray in the name of Jesus, my Savior, my Lord, my gentle and gracious heavenly King. Amen.

Scripture: "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for everyone — for kings and for all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

FOR GOD'S PROTECTION

Jesus, my Maker and Redeemer,

You know the thoughts of my heart before I speak them out loud. Sometimes I hesitate to open myself up, lest my concerns seem too small for You to bother with. Still, Your life led in love for me, Your suffering and Your sacrifice for me, Your death and resurrection have all shown that Your words are true: You are with me and You are ready to listen. Confident in that knowledge, I humbly ask that You take away my fear. As I serve my country and fellow citizens, I ask for Your protection. Strengthen me and help me. Uphold me when I might slip or stumble. Keep me safe from all of the enemies that I know, as well as the many silent and unseen foes that stealthily stalk me. Hinder those who would do harm to me, my comrades, and my country. Dear Lord Jesus, this day and every day I place myself into Your arms, asking that You will keep me safe wherever I go, whatever I do. In Your name. Amen.

Scripture: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

FOR CHURCHES

Lord of the Church,

We live in a world that is continuously changing. Yesterday's map quickly becomes a museum piece, which speaks of nations and borders and rulers, which once were, but now exist only in memory. Names of one generation's national leaders, sports heroes, and movie stars are forgotten by the next. Dear Lord, this sinful world needs someone who doesn't change with the ticking of the clock or the turning of the calendar. Your care for sinful humanity, as seen in Jesus' sacrificial death and resurrection from the dead, meets our need. Lord, please protect Your churches and spiritual leaders as they proclaim Your unchanging love. Give us churches that will move the world and not be moved by it; churches which inspire hearts to worship and hands to service; churches which, in a changing world, will share Your unchanging story of salvation. Because of Jesus, I know You hear me. Amen.

Scripture: "A time ... has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24).

FOR HOMES AND FAMILIES

Lord Jesus,

When You, from the cross, entrusted Your mother into the care of the disciple, John, You showed to me the importance of home and family. Now, while I am away from my home, I completely, and gladly, entrust both household and loved ones into Your care. Let Your limitless tenderness create a bridge to span the distances that now exist between them and me. Lord, I ask that You will be with each individual of my household, bestowing upon each one the courage and compassion to build up and strengthen each other. Blend their separate personalities and use their individual strengths and weaknesses to make a home which provides protection from the many evils now surrounding them. May it be said of my family, as it was said of the Old Testament warrior Joshua's: "As for me, and my household, we will serve the Lord." Knowing You hear me, I give You my family. Amen.

Scripture: "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.' Then the people answered, 'Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods!'" (Joshua 24:15-16).

A SOLDIER'S PRAYER IN CAMP

Jesus, my best and dearest Friend,

For three years, 24/7, You spent almost every day with Your 12 disciples. You shared good times and bad, happy times and sad — just like we do in camp. In camp, we are not family, but we know each other almost as well as we do our own families back home. We come from different backgrounds and circumstances, but here we have been placed in a situation where we have many things in common. In camp, even during those times when we would like to be completely private, we often end up sharing our hopes, dreams, worries, and fears. During this time in camp, I ask that You will surround me with those people who are noble and honorable, trustworthy and inspiring. Even more, I ask that You will allow me to be all of those things to others. And, Lord, lest I forget, let me thank You for being in camp with me. My best and dearest Friend, thank You for staying by my side; for listening to my deepest desires. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Scripture: "He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm" (Proverbs 13:20).

DURING ILLNESS

Lord of Life and Health,

I am sick. This sickness is a double burden, for not only am I ailing, but I am also far from the people who have, in the past, supported me and taken care of me during my illnesses. Dear Lord, I am thankful that You are attending Your sick servant. Although I cannot see You, I am confident that You have the ability to restore me. Indeed, my physical healing is a small thing when compared to the healing of grace You have already granted my sinful soul. Dear Jesus, when You walked among us You healed many. Now I ask, if it is Your will, that You will do the same for me. Bless the military team that ministers to me. Grant them wisdom and skill, doing that which is necessary to allow Your cure to take place. Let me show to all those around me that You are in control. From my sickbed, I pray, “Lord, grant healing according to Your timetable and will.” In Jesus, I ask it. Amen.

Scripture: “My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man’s whole body (Proverbs 4:20-22).

FOR A CLEAN HEART

Dear Savior and Friend,

Centuries ago, some soldiers asked John the Baptist what they should do to be saved. In effect, he told them that they should behave as honorable and honest representatives of the government. That is easier to say than to do. In my military life, I find that temptations don’t just come calling, they try to kick in the door of my heart. Even worse, almost every one of these temptations masquerades as being good or fun or enjoyable — and harmless. Give me, dear Lord, the ability to recognize these enticements for what they are: opportunities sent by Satan to trip me up, cause embarrassment to the country I am defending, and bring shame upon my Savior. I ask, good Lord, that You will give me a clean heart so that I may have the ability to be an honorable soldier for my nation and a powerful witness to my Redeemer. Let Your love be reflected in the way I live my life to glorify You. In Your name, I ask this. Amen.

Scripture: “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me ... Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me” (Psalm 51:10 and 12).

DURING GOOD TIMES

God of Gladness,

It is natural for me to come to You during times of conflict and difficulty. Because I am a sinner, I often forget to thank You when things are going well. Which is why I wish to take the time to thank You for the thousand joys that You daily give me. Lord, I thank You for the physical, mental, and spiritual health that allow me to do what I am doing. I praise You for the loyal friends with whom I can laugh and upon whom I can lean. I am thankful for officers who have earned both their rank and the respect of those who serve under them. I am proud of my country of freedom, which rallies behind its sons and daughters who are in service. I am glad that You watch over family and friends from whom I am separated. Dear Lord, most of all, I thank You for the salvation which comes from my Savior, Jesus. All the good I have, all the blessings I know, come from Him and are deepened by Him. In His name. Amen.

Scripture: “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near” (Philippians 4:4-5).

FOR PATIENCE

Lord of Patience,

It has always been, I imagine, part of the soldier's life to "hurry up and wait." For centuries, people in uniform have done "double time" so they could stand in an unmoving line. That can make for a soldier who is impatient with delays, with leaders, and with the way plans are being carried out (or not). We grow impatient when the things we need to do our job are on back order or have been lost along the way. Often the best we can do is ask, "Lord, give us patience ... ASAP!" Lord, please drill me in the discipline of patience. Teach me that delay is better than disaster; that waiting is harder than working. In Your Word, You have told me that Your followers should be ready to hear and slow to get angry. I need those qualities of patience, Lord. And, if You don't mind me asking, might I be given them as soon as possible. Patiently praying, "In Jesus, Your will be done." Amen.

Scripture: "My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires" (James 1:19-20).

WHEN I FEEL ALONE

Dear Jesus, Lord and Friend,

When You hung upon the cross, dying to save me and all of humanity, You were alone. Your disciples had deserted You; Your government turned its back to You, and Your church condemned You. I give thanks that my government remains concerned about me, my church continues to care, and I have people who keep me in their prayers. For all of these concerned individuals, I give thanks. It doesn't seem possible that anybody in my situation should feel alone. Still, that is the way I sometimes feel. May I, like another soldier, the Old Testament's King David, remember there is no place I can go where You will not be present. You care about my thoughts and feelings, about everything I do. Lord, draw me closer to You in times of sad solitude and lift me up so I may praise You for Your love. In Your name, I pray. Amen.

Scripture: "O Lord, You have searched me and You know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; You perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; You are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord" (Psalm 139:1-4).

FOR WISDOM AND DISCRETION

Lord Jesus,

You taught Your disciples to pray, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." I am glad to pray that prayer, but I have to confess there are times when I'm not exactly sure what "Your will" is. As a soldier, each day I'm being asked to make choices which will affect me, others around me, even people that I don't know and will never meet. When I make those decisions, I'm not always sure I'm doing the right thing. Like Solomon, today I pray for an extra measure of wisdom and discernment. Help me accumulate the information I need, ask Your guidance, make my decision, and place the matter into Your hands. Allow me, as much as I am able, to do that which will glorify You, bring honor to my country, and be of help to those around me. Further, dear Lord, I also make this plea for all in authority. In Your name. Amen.

Scripture: "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ — to the glory and praise of God" (Philippians 1:9-11).

FOR DEEPER FAITH

Heavenly Father,

In the military we have learned to have faith in many things. We have learned to trust our officers and leaders, that they will make right and reasonable decisions. We have learned to trust our materiel and the technology, which make us into an effective force. We have learned to trust each other, because we are more successful when we work together as a cohesive unit rather than as independent individuals. Along with faith in these things, I also ask, dear Father, for a deeper faith in You. When it comes to my soul, my faith will not be based upon my senses or upon logic. The faith I need is founded upon taking You at Your word. Grant me a faith which believes You are present, even when I feel alone; a faith which believes You love me, even when I am unlovable; a faith which comes by Your grace and not by what I have done. This is the faith I need and the faith I know You shall give. In Your Son's name. Amen.

Scripture: "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1).

FOR COMMANDERS

Lord of Order,

You know, better than anyone, how easy it is for those in a subordinate position to criticize those who have been placed in authority. That is certainly true for those of us who serve in the armed forces. On the day we reported for duty, we received our government-issue boots, uniform, and a willing spirit to criticize those who were giving us orders. Today I would like my expressions of criticism to be transformed into words of prayer. Lord, You have, in Your wisdom, placed people in a position above me. Now I ask that You will give all of these people, from the Commander-in-Chief on down to my immediate supervisor, the wisdom that is needed to make informed, God-pleasing choices as they chart the course of the lives of those for whom they are responsible. Give us, who receive their orders, willing hearts and minds so that You may be glorified. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture: "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established" (Romans 13:1).

FOR CHAPLAINS

Jesus, my Good Shepherd,

You have called various people to serve as ministers, designated undershepherds, who are charged to care for the souls of Your people. Some of those individuals have volunteered to serve both You and their country in the office of Chaplain. Theirs is a difficult job. They serve the Prince of Peace, but may end up doing so upon the battlefield. They preach the life that comes from having You as Savior, but they may do so surrounded by death. They take orders from those above them, but must remain loyal to You, the highest authority. Dear Lord, I give thanks for these shepherds who hear my confession, offer forgiveness, share the Word of God, administer Your Sacraments and genuinely care for me. Please, keep them safe. Let them not just say the words You would have them speak, let them also live the office to which they have been called. I ask it in Your name. Amen.

Scripture: "Obey your [spiritual] leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you" (Hebrews 13:17).

FOR DOCTORS AND NURSES

Lord of Healing and Health,

Let me begin this prayer by giving thanks for the spiritual healing that You have already given me. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, my soul has received that medicine of Your grace which alone can give believers eternal life. This day, I also give thanks for the men and women who attend physical and mental maladies. I am most appreciative that You have entrusted into their hands a vast array of medicines which, when properly used, can bring about healing. I praise You for the skills and knowledge that You give to them. Guide doctors and nurses as they try to restore those who are placed into their care. Let all who serve the sick find satisfaction in their work. Grant patience to those who wait for restoration. Finally, let both the healers and those who are helped remember that all cures begin and end with You. In Your Son's name I ask this. Amen.

Scripture: "We are witnesses of this. By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through Him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see" (Acts 3:15-16).

FOR THE WOUNDED

Lord Jesus,

You were once wounded for humankind's transgressions and silently suffered under the pain and hurt that we deserved. This day I bring before You the pains and hurts of those who have been laid low by wound and injury. I ask that they may come to You, the one who can help those whose pains are deep and sufferings profound. Lord, I pray the skill and wisdom You have entrusted to those who attend bodily wounds may be effective. Further, I ask that all healing may take place according to Your will and timetable. May those who are hurting be given patience and an extra measure of faith so that doubt, discouragement, and depression might be kept from their bedside. Allow them to see that this time of suffering is when You wish to bring them closest to You. Let them know the day will come when You will take them past this situation, and they will see Your healing hand. In Your name. Amen.

Scripture: "But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities: the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him; and by His wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

Lord Jesus,

You sacrificed Yourself so that freedom might be won for all who are held captive by sin, death, and the devil. Over the centuries You have watched over Your followers, even during times of imprisonment. At Your ascension, You promised to always be with Your disciples. Today that promise needs to be fulfilled for my comrades who are held as prisoners of war. Be with those whose physical movements are limited, who are surrounded by unfriendly faces and who don't know what the future may hold. During these days of uncertainty, may they remain faithful to their country, which is working for their release and may they trust their Redeemer who has paid the price for their soul's freedom. Lord, be with my captive comrades and let them see that although their bodies may be chained, their souls are free in You. In Your name, I ask this. Amen.

Scripture: "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on Me [Jesus], because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners" (Isaiah 61:1).

FOR THOSE MISSING IN ACTION

All-Knowing Lord,

Terror of the unknown is always high on the list of our greatest fears. The unknown paralyzes us, leaving us helpless, unable to decide in which direction we should go. Today I have heard some of my comrades are “missing in action.” Families and friends are being told that their loved one is missing and his whereabouts unknown. Lord, we come to You because You, who know the location of every small sparrow and has numbered the hairs on every head, know where these people are. There is no place they can be which is unknown to You. Heavenly Father, if these souls are in need, help them; if they are injured, heal them; if they are in danger, shield them. And, dear Lord, if their time on earth has ended, let that news be made known to all so that You might bring comfort to those who mourn in You. This I ask in the name of the Good Shepherd who came to seek and save the lost. Amen.

Scripture: “Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? If I go up to the heavens, You are there; if I make my bed in the depths, You are there” (Psalm 139:7-8).

FOR MOURNING FAMILIES

Lord Jesus, Lord of Life,

Some of my comrades have fallen, and their friends and families now begin a time of mourning. The farewell, which everyone prayed would be temporary, has become at least in this life permanent. Lord, we pray that the good cause for which my comrades have made the supreme sacrifice might be successful. We ask that they be respected for their willingness to fight for that which they felt was honorable. Dear Lord Jesus, during this time of earthly loss, we give thanks that Your resurrection from the dead guarantees eternal life and salvation to all who believe in You. Even as You once raised the young man of Nain, so you shall raise all who have fallen asleep in You. In triumph, You shall give them eternal life. Send Your Holy Spirit in needed measure to those that mourn, that they may be comforted with the knowledge that Your sacrifice has given us eternal life. In Your name. Amen.

Scripture: “[Jesus] went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, get up!’ The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother” (Luke 7:14-15).

ENTERING A COMBAT ZONE

My Lord, my Fortress, my Rock,

All around me there is talk that we shall soon be entering a combat zone. The conversations of my comrades are filled with rumors, conjectures, and speculations. Everyone has a guess, nobody is sure. Within each of us are questions about what enemies we shall encounter, how we shall perform, whether we will be victorious, and which of us will emerge from the conflict unscathed. I give thanks, dear Lord, that there are still some things of which I can be certain. I know that You, who have given Your Son to die for me, will not, at this or any other moment, desert me. I do not enter this or any conflict alone. I know that You, who brought all things into being with a word, have the ability to protect me and keep me from harm. I know that You can help me win the victory – the victory over any earthly or spiritual enemy. In You I can win the victory over my fear. Lord, You are my rock, I place myself into Your loving hands. In Jesus, I pray it. Amen.

Scripture: “The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge” (Psalm 18:2).

FOR EFFECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Lord of Time and Tomorrow,

Technology has advanced greatly since soldiers picked up a shield, put on a helmet, and swung a sword at their enemies. No longer is it always necessary to face an opponent. Microchip technology enables us to see into the darkness and look over the horizon. Scientific advancements protect us, even as they penetrate the protection of our foes. Lord, I thank You for these scientific wonders and pray they may do all their manufacturers claim. May every producer of equipment make a reasonable profit, but not at the expense of cutting corners. Let every worker on the mass-production line know our lives are in their hands. Heavenly Father, let me that see that even as I must physically rely upon the work of others, so I need to spiritually trust the work that Jesus has done for me. Let me give thanks that He never cut corners, but did all that was necessary for my eternal safety. In His name. Amen.

Scripture: “Take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:16-17).

FOR COURAGE

Holy Spirit, Giver of Courage,

Allow me to give thanks to You for my good fears. As one of the heavenly Father’s children, bought back from sin, death, and the devil by the sacrifice of my Savior, I know there is nothing which can separate me from Your love. That is why, in times of crisis, I am able to say “thank You, dear Lord, for the gift of fear.” Truly, fear is one of Your gifts, just as real and needed as bravery. Sensible fear enables me to identify approaching dangers; proper fear allows me to think clearly; God-given fear permits me to distinguish between important or inconsequential. Dear Lord, keep my fear in proper perspective. Do not let it master or control me. Let my God-given fear be coupled with a trusting faith so that I might be an individual who is truly courageous. Blending fear and courage, may I do that which pleases You and brings honor to my country. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Scripture: “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 forsake you” (Deuteronomy 31:6).

IF EVIL SEEMS TO BE WINNING

Lord of Justice,

Scripture records many times when it appeared that evil was succeeding and good was being punished. Abel was killed by his brother Cain, the Children of Israel spent hundreds of years in slavery, and Jesus, the Innocent Son of God, was crucified. It is not much different today. As a result, some of the people around me have wrongly concluded that You don’t care. Others have suggested that evil is successful because that is what You want to have happen. I give thanks that I know better. Having seen how Jesus conquered sin, death, and the devil by His resurrection, I know the depth of Your love and care. Your Holy Spirit has taught me that although evil may seem to triumph for a while, it will never win the final victory. Lord, let the world know that in You there is divine deliverance. Let those whose eyes are clouded with doubt know that You will deliver Your people. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Scripture: “Deliver me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of evil and cruel men. For you have been my hope, O Sovereign Lord” (Psalm 71:4-5).

AGAINST TERRORISM

Lord of Life,

Your Holy Word says that You are a God of love and Your followers should reflect their Savior's love to others. Because my country is composed of sinful human beings, we have not always done that. Still, I am proud to serve a nation which trusts in You; which under Your guidance, strives to guard the freedoms of every man, woman, and child. Because I live in such a special country, I, like all Christians, am horrified to see the handiwork of terrorists. Lord, sometimes I wonder, "What kind of god would ask his followers to maim and murder the innocent, the children, the elderly, and helpless? What kind of god would use terror to force people to believe?" I must conclude: only a false god, a god who is the direct opposite of You, would ask such a thing. Which is why I say, "Lord preserve us, preserve the world from such demonic deities and followers." I ask it in the name of Jesus, who is love. Amen.

Scripture: "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him" (1 John 4:8-10).

HAVING SEEN WAR'S TERRORS

Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace,

I have seen things a man should not see. I have seen terrible things, which I think might stay with me for a very long time. Dear Jesus, although I need You always, especially at this moment, I ask You to send Your Spirit to comfort my mind and still my heart. Through Your suffering, death, and resurrection, You have the ability to take the brokenness of humankind and give all believers a peace which cannot be broken or bent by what we think and do to each other. Jesus, when it seems darkness will last forever, You bring the dawn. When it seems life's storms will never stop, You can still them with Your command, "Peace, be still," and it will be so. Lord, the prophet Isaiah called You "the Prince of Peace" at Your birth and the angels promised peace would come to those who follow You. Please, dear Savior, give me that peace which You alone can supply. In Your name. Amen.

Scripture: "He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end" (Isaiah 9:6-7).

IN A DIFFERENT CULTURE

Lord of the Nations,

I speak to You from a strange land. I am surrounded by a host of individuals who have different customs, speak different languages, wear different clothes, express different ideas, and often have different values than anything I have seen before. It would be easy to think those differences make me superior and them inferior. Lord, keep me from these sinful thoughts. Let me believe that although none of us will walk exactly the same path, we still have much in common. Before You, each of us are beggars and are in need of the forgiveness and salvation which comes only through Jesus' death and resurrection. Each of us, regardless of our background, loves our children and wants what is best for them. Each of us wants to live our lives in peace. Let me, as I represent You and my country, treat everyone with honor and dignity. Let me show love to them as You have shown it to me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture: "This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1 John 4:10-11).

PRAYER WHEN WOUNDED

Jesus, Lord of Health and Healing,

You endured serious and severe wounds, even dying for me upon Calvary's cross. You understand suffering and pain so that I might be free and forgiven. For this gracious gift, I shall always give thanks. Now, from my own bed of pain, I come to You and pray for Your help. Even as Your sacrifice has forgiven and healed my soul, I, with a trusting heart, ask for Your help in restoring my body. If it be Your will, let me be made well. If I cannot be made well, let me find peace in the path You would have me walk. If it is time for me to come home to You, I shall say, "Thy will be done." Let my wounds serve as a witness to the love I have for my country and let my attitude show to all the strength You offer to those who are loved by You. Dear Lord, I ask this cup of suffering be taken from me, but even more I commend myself — body and soul — into Your hands. Let Your will be done. In Your name I pray these things. Amen.

Scripture: "Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall" (Psalm 55:22).

PRAYER AFTER VICTORY

Lord of Power and Might,

Victories are almost always won at a terrible cost. So that I might have a victory over sin, death, and devil, Your Son sacrificed Himself by living a perfect life and dying the death I deserved. So that I might be given ongoing victories over temptation, send your Holy Spirit and grant me a repentant heart. Now, dear Lord, You have decided to award our forces a battlefield victory. This victory has also been won at a great cost. Combatants on both sides have been hurt; some have been permanently maimed; others have died. May their sacrifices lead to a peace which is good, honorable, and, as far as is possible for sinful humankind, lasting. Grant to my country and all who serve in her armed forces, a spirit of grace and gentleness, so that we may do that which will quickly end this conflict and allow You to bring about a healing to the wounds of war. This I ask in the name of Jesus who has won the ultimate victory. Amen.

Scripture: "For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God" (1 John 5:4-5).

FOR A FORGIVING SPIRIT

Most Perfect Savior,

You were born into this sinful world to become God's gracious Sacrifice for damned humankind. Every moment of Your life was dedicated to bridging the gulf which our transgressions had dug between us and heaven. Even when You hung unjustly upon the cross, You found it within Your loving heart to forgive those who had, in hatred, placed You there. From that moment, until You come again, You continue to send Your Holy Spirit to call the world to repentance and faith in the Father's grace which shows us how to forgive. We ask, in this present conflict, that those who do not know You as Savior may be led to bow their knee before the cross in heartfelt repentance and find forgiveness there. May those who already have been given a heart to acknowledge You as Redeemer, learn to forgive others as You have forgiven them. United as forgiven sinners, may we be granted, and maintain, a lasting peace. In Your name. Amen.

Scripture: "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:31-32).

AFTER A TEMPORARY SETBACK

Dear Conquering Savior,

When the Children of Israel were trapped between the Red Sea and Pharaoh's chariots, it seemed all was lost and they would be destroyed. At that moment, when things seemed darkest, You in Your gracious love delivered them. When You hung upon Calvary's cross and willingly died, it appeared to all that You had been defeated by sin, death, and devil. Three days later, in the great victory of resurrection Sunday, You showed that even humanity's great enemy death had been swallowed up by Your victory. Now, in the face of what seems to be a military setback, when spirits are despondent and hearts are heavy, we seek Your help. We confess those times when we wrongly felt victory might come by our own power. Lord, forgive us and help us. Make Your cause our cause. Say to us: "My strength is made perfect in your weakness." In our weakness, dear Lord, bless us. Amen.

Scripture: "But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness'" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

FOR A RIGHTEOUS PEACE

Dear Savior, Prince of Peace,

In this conflict we have seen destruction and death, anger and animosity, hatred and horror. I ask that You will bring these terrible tragedies to an end and replace them with a peace which will bring our nations into harmony with Your Word and will. Beloved Savior, before You ascended into heaven You gave believers a peace of lasting hope and healing which the world, with its sin and sorrow, cannot possess. Having received this divine peace, which comes through Your blood-bought sacrifice, let me now do all I can to share it with others who do not know You. I ask that You, as Lord of the nations, will elevate to positions of authority those individuals who will reflect Your love to all, no matter who they may be or into what station they have been born. Hinder those sinful souls who would merely make peace a time in which they might fuel the flames of hatred and future conflict. Into Your hands, I place my world, my country, myself. Amen.

Scripture: "You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in You" (Isaiah 26:3).

FOR CHILDREN IN WARTIME

Jesus, Lover of Little Children,

Scripture is clear that children often live their lives by what they were taught when they were young. Since that is so, I wonder what this recent conflict has taught the younger generation? What will the future hold for humanity when men of narrow-minded prejudice sow seeds of hatred in the minds and hearts of little children? Will nations learn nothing from this time of discord and destruction? Will the next generation find itself involved in one struggle after another? Dear Lord, may it not be so. You, who said, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me," have shown us a different, better way. You picked up little children, held them in Your arms, and blessed them. In a similar way, may we place Bibles and not guns into the hands of these little ones. May we substitute humankind's hatred with Your divine love, so that these little ones may be part of the kingdom of God and not citizens of a nation of hatred. In Your name I ask it. Amen.

Scripture: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

THE NEW YEAR

Eternal and Unchanging Lord,

In the Christian community, the calendar is turning over. It is one more year since Jesus was born into this world to buy us back from our sins, one year less from the day He will return in judgment. Some of those I know will say this day looks like any other. For some, this is a time of resolve and resolution. Some perceive January 1st as a day of helplessness, while others will see it as a day of hope. For me, I know that in this New Year, You, Lord, will be with me. No matter the good or bad that comes, I hold fast to the faith which says Your death and resurrection have set me free from my enemies. Because of divinely given faith, I know humankind's hope for peace is found in the man we put upon the cross, not the men any nation can place onto a battlefield. Into the Savior's nail-pierced hands I place myself and all those from whom I am separated. Trusting in Him, let us begin and end this year. Amen.

Scripture: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:17-18).

VALENTINE'S DAY

Lord of Love,

Back home, on Valentine's Day children are giving cards to classmates and adults are making sure, with gifts of flowers, candy, and kindnesses, the special people in their lives feel appreciated. Lord, this Valentine's Day, I would like to thank the people You have sent into my life — the ones who have tried, in large ways and small, to share the Savior's love. I am grateful for those who have nourished and nurtured me, for gentle teachers who educated and encouraged me, for the long line of friends who made my hopes and hardships their own. I am awed by the love of that special person who makes my life more complete. Most of all I give thanks for my Savior. It is He who has given the greatest love of all. Scripture says, "Greater love has no man than this, that He lay down His life for His friends." This is the love Jesus has given me as His entire life was sacrificed to save me. May I learn to love from Him who first loved me. Amen.

Scripture: "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us" (Ephesians 5:1-2).

EASTER DAY

Lord of the Empty Tomb,

For some back home, Easter has been reduced to being a day for chocolate, new spring clothes, and hunting for colored eggs. Easter is far more. As a person serving my country, I am prepared to sacrifice myself so that others might be saved. That is, dear Lord, exactly what my Savior did for me. Jesus gave His life upon Calvary's cross so that I, and all of sinful humanity, might be saved from the tyranny of sin and Satan. Jesus willingly suffered and died, offering His life so that all who believe on Him as their Savior would be defended from the dictatorship of death. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, my world is no longer the same. I have been redeemed and given life a life of freedom and forgiveness, hope, heaven, and eternal happiness. May I, on this most special day, proclaim with all Christendom a powerful "Christ is risen!" In the name of my living Lord. Amen.

Scripture: "Christ Jesus, who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" (Romans 8:34-35).

MEMORIAL DAY

Sacrificing Savior,

How quickly people forget important things. At the conclusion of World War I, the “war to end all wars,” people gave thanks for those who had died to ensure their freedom. But people soon forgot. They forgot the sacrifice. They forgot the cost. All too soon, nations found themselves engaged in another war, and then another. Each time peace was purchased at a considerable cost of life. Once again people have forgotten. This day set aside to “remember” is used for cutting grass and sleeping in. Dear Jesus, do not let us forget You. Help us remember the sacrifice and the battle You fought for us. Let us recall this was a battle that You alone could win. As our substitute, You fulfilled the laws we had broken, resisted the temptations that tripped us up, and died the death that we deserved. So that we might be eternally free, You gave Yourself on Calvary’s cross. May we, dear Savior, always remember. Amen.

Scripture: “For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men” (1 Timothy 2:5-6).

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Lord of Our Nation,

Our coins say “IN GOD WE TRUST,” but often we trust only in ourselves. Our nation was founded by souls in search of religious freedom, but frequently that is interpreted as freedom from religion. Our Pledge of Allegiance says “one nation under God,” but too often it means a nation without God. For this ingratitude, dear Lord, forgive us. As our nation celebrates its independence, I pray that the Holy Spirit will help us to once again recognize our reliance upon You. Let each home — from the White House to the poorest tenement — recognize that every blessing America possesses began, and continues on, as a generous gift from Your providential hand. Let our nation’s president, legislators, and law-givers bend their knee in sincere repentance, so they might be raised up and lead our land to show to all the world that we are Your people and You are our God. In Jesus, let this be the prayer of every Christian on this, our “Dependence” Day. Amen.

Scripture: “Obey Me, and I will be your God and you will be My people. Walk in all the ways I command you, that it may go well with you” (Jeremiah 7:23).

THANKSGIVING DAY

Dear Giving and Gracious God,

Is it truly possible for an individual in the service of his country, far removed from friends and that which is familiar, to give thanks today? With gladness in my heart, I proudly proclaim, “It is!” Beyond the turkey and the trappings, I give thanks that the nation I am defending has freedoms which much of the world can only imagine. I am thankful for leaders who have taken their position of power seriously and continue to do their best to serve the common good, even as they try to serve their Lord. I am thankful for the countless, and continuous, physical and technological bounties which You have, in spite of our nation’s ingratitude, continued to graciously bestow upon our land. And most importantly, I am thankful for a Savior who has, through His sacrificial suffering and resurrection, shown me the great, forgiving love of my heavenly Father who is a God worthy of being thanked. In Jesus’ name, I give my gratitude. Amen.

Scripture: “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows” (James 1:17).

CHRISTMAS DAY

My Savior, my Lord,

It is surprising that from this place, far away from home, I have been given a better, albeit incomplete, understanding of the wonderful thing You have done for me by being born in Bethlehem. Even as You left Your home in heaven, I have left that which is familiar. As You were willing to give Your life to save humankind, I am dedicated to the preservation of my country. What I cannot understand is why You were willing to do what You have done. Why did You come to a world that did not want You? Why did You begin a mission which had to end in Your suffering and painful death? Why would You care so much for a world which cared so little for You? These questions can be answered in one word: grace, Your undeserved kindness to fallen humankind. Because You were born, lived, died, and rose to save me from sin, I am saved. Because You gave Your all, this Christmas, my days, and my eternity will be most merry indeed. Thank You. Amen.

Scripture: “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11).

MY BIRTHDAY

Lord of Life, God of my Salvation,

What changes You have allowed me to see since my last birthday. You have taken me to places I never thought I would go, allowed me to see things that I could never imagine, given me friends where once there had been strangers. Looking back, I must admit that every moment of this unique and interesting year has been a time of change and growth. I also, heavenly Father, repent of those times when I did not think Your thoughts, speak Your words, or do that which glorified You. But as one of Your children, I can also rejoice that in my Savior there is forgiveness. So that each day in this coming year I might live forgiven and saved, Jesus entered this world, took my place and punishment. Now, my God, I pray that I might spend the time which is before me doing all that I can to glorify You. Help me not to squander my days. Lord, help me to spend my life in thanksgiving for all that You have done. In Jesus, let this be my birthday prayer. Amen.

Scripture: “Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you” (Isaiah 46:4).

A FAMILY BIRTHDAY

My Loving Lord,

This is a special day for my (spouse/child/parent/friend). Sadly, it is also a day when I am not be able to be with them, celebrating and joining in on all the things which I pray will make this milestone memorable. Although it is not possible, it seems that the distance which separates us is just a little bit larger. Which is why I want to thank You for being there with (name), even when I cannot be. I give thanks that Your love, O Lord, has the ability to span the distances which obligation has placed between us. I rejoice that You, who are able to watch over me, can also look in upon my loved one today. As another year begins for (him/her), I ask that You will keep (him/her) safe from harm. Hinder any and all who would bring temptation or try to separate (him/her) from Your love. Lord, make this birthday and every day be a day filled with Jesus, joy, and gladness. In Your name, I ask it. Amen.

Scripture: “Though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is” (Colossians 2:5).

A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Lord of Love and Life,

It was ____ years ago that my spouse and I pledged our love to each other by making some promises. Today we celebrate the anniversary of that occasion. We do so by confessing that we, who once thought our love was perfect, have been taught a few things. True, we have had times when our love flourished, but we have also had moments when it went aground on the rocks of selfishness, adversity, and misunderstanding. I ask Your forgiveness for my failures and faults and pray You will teach us how to forgive the sins of each other. Lord, military life with its partings and pressures is letting You show us how to live for each other. It is an ongoing lesson taught by our ever-giving Savior, who lived His life for us, showing us that the closer we are to You, the closer we are to each other. So, in Jesus we thank You for Your teachings and pray they may continue for years to come. Amen.

Scripture: “May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other ... May He strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father” (1 Thessalonians 3:12-13).

LEAVING SERVICE FOR HOME

Lord Jesus, Savior and Preserver,

You who gave Your life for me have preserved my life through this period of military service so that I might be able to return to the life of a civilian. Lord, I thank You for carrying me past so many seen and unseen dangers, for keeping me safe through the multitude of things which could have gone wrong, but never did. My fears and misgivings about this change to my old life are echoed by those who have grown close to me. Indeed, the closer they are, the greater are their worries. We all want to know, “How has this time of service changed us?” We wonder, “Will we find things to talk about?” We ask, “Can we pick up where we have left off without major conflict?” Lord, I am sure that things have changed, so I ask that You will be with us in the future as You have been in the past. Send Your Spirit upon us all so that, until we reach our heavenly home, our earthly home might be blessed. In Your name I ask it. Amen.

Scripture: “Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard; He has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping” (Psalm 66:8-9).

SUNDAY

Lord of my Life,

On this day in which my Savior rose from the dead, I offer glad worship. I rejoice in the forgiveness of sins that comes from Christ’s victory over sin, death, and Satan. Now I pray that the same grace, which I enjoy, may come to people throughout the world. By the Holy Spirit’s power, may troubled and torn nations, weary and worrying hearts, be turned to the Redeemer and receive from His nail-pierced hands hope, happiness, and heaven. In the name of my Savior, I pray it. Amen.

MONDAY

Lord of all my Tomorrows,

Will there be harmony or shall there be war? Will nations panic or will people find peace? Lord, the educator and the philosopher cannot with confidence predict what this week shall bring. In the face of such uncertainty, I begin this week by asking You to watch over me. Guide me, lead me, so all I do may glorify You and share my Savior with a lost and confused world. In Jesus’ name I begin. Amen.

TUESDAY

My Helping Savior,

As a Christian, I am aware that I will have to carry a cross. People will not always understand when I live the life of a Christian. But I wonder how many of yesterday's unnecessary burdens have I been carrying with me? Am I holding on to anger because of an exchange of words, resentment because I was singled out, upset over an order that seemed unfair? Lord, let my battles be for You and not over the trivial. In Jesus, I ask You, unburden me of the unnecessary. Amen.

WEDNESDAY

Lord of my Todays,

Many people, even in the military, look upon today as the day on which they can start making plans for the weekend. It seems we are always in a hurry to escape the "now" so that we can reach a future tomorrow. Lord, help me understand that this day, right now, is a precious gift You have entrusted to me. As a servant of the Savior, may I use these hours wisely and well so that at the end, I may pray, "Thy will has been done." Amen.

THURSDAY

All Knowing Lord,

I am remembered. Although the military life can sometimes seem impersonal, *I am remembered*. My church, comrades, countrymen, family, and friends remember me. Today I pray for the millions who aren't remembered: the mothers whose children will die of hunger, the prisoners in the dictators' jails, the persecuted, the sick, the displaced, the lost. Lord, their names are unknown to me, but not to You. As Jesus remembered us and gave Himself to save us, may we do all we can for the forgotten. In Jesus. Amen.

FRIDAY

Lord of Power and Might,

I am part of America's military might. Ours is the most powerful force the world has ever seen. Still, our power pales in comparison to Your limitless strength. Knowing our sins and shortcomings, I ask that every person and every rank be granted the wisdom to use this power wisely. May the world look and say, "What wonderful things their Lord is doing through them." In Jesus, I ask it. Amen.

SATURDAY

Lord of Light and Life,

Another week has come and gone and people ask: "What has changed?" Skeptics and cynics reply: "There are no changes. Everything continues on as it was." They gleefully point out that the world has not found true and lasting peace. With a smirk they say, "The world remains dark and destined for damnation." To them I can only reply, "If the world is dark today, how much darker would it be if Jesus had not come to bring us light? How much greater would be the world's despair and depression if Jesus had not died to win forgiveness? If Jesus had not won heaven for us, how much wider would be the path to hell?" Lord, in a world where technology changes but people don't, we still need You. Thank You for having been with us this past week. Be with us in all the weeks to come. In Jesus our Savior's name, I pray it. Amen.

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray You that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked one may have no power over me. Amen.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked one may have no power over me. Amen.

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