

## **Prayers of the People for Memorial Day Weekend**

O God, the Father in heaven,  
**have mercy on us.**

O God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
**have mercy on us.**

O God, the Holy Spirit,  
**have mercy upon us.**

O Christ, merciful Savior, hear us in this hour:  
**O Christ, visit us with your compassion....**

That our nation may remember you  
as the God of mercy and truth;  
that the fulfillment of your will may be our desire;  
that we may be healed from the motives of greed and revenge;  
that we may discover through you a deeper experience of prayer;  
that we may offer unselfish devotion  
to the well-being of our nation;  
that you would uphold and guide our President,  
members of Congress,  
medical researchers working toward a vaccine for the virus  
and treatments  
and all in authority;  
that you would defend and preserve  
our soldiers, sailors, and air force;  
that you would be a shield of protection  
for all who work on the front lines in this time of Covid;  
and that all our people may seek courage,  
well-being for others in the community  
and a spirit of endurance: **we ask this, O Lord.**

To comfort those under the constant strain of apprehension;  
to remember those in captivity;  
to bind up the wounded, sheltering them under your care;  
to stretch out your arm  
to all who are lonely, tempted, or discouraged;  
to have mercy upon all who trust in you:  
**we ask this, O Lord.**

To hasten the day of peace, health and a return to prosperity;  
to cast away the threads of hate;  
to forgive our enemies;  
to scatter any who delight in war;  
and to renew steadfast faith within us:  
**hear us, good Lord, and receive our prayer.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for those who have shown the greatest love by laying down their lives for others. On this weekend, we pause to remember those who served in our military throughout history who have given their lives for those who came after them.

**We are humbled by their sacrifice.**

As we remember their service, keep us mindful of all those for whom this day is a burden.

**Uphold them.**

Be present with all the men and women who serve in the military today. We name those dear to us: Robert, Jessica, Kyle, Matthew, Nathaniel, and those we name before you in our hearts

*pause for a brief silence.*

We pray: **Grant them wisdom, courage and strength.**

Heal those who suffer as a result of their service, some with hidden scars, that they may find the care they need:

**Send your healing: we ask this, O Lord.**

**Amen.**

Adapted from "Litany for the Nation in Time of War" from the (Lutheran) *Prayer Book for the Armed Services* by Interim Pastor Janet S. Peterman