



THOSE WHO SUPPORT PRAYER GUIDE

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*This prayer guide has been produced in cooperation with Captain Mark J. Schreiber,
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AFTER ENLISTMENT

Dear Heavenly Father,

Name has decided to enter the military. He¹ has made a major decision to serve his country. Now I am also making a decision: for as long as he is in the service, I shall regularly and faithfully bring him before You in my prayers. I am making this decision without knowing what the future holds. I cannot say if these prayers will be filled with sadness or joy, gladness or sorrow. I do know that You, who gave Your Son to save us from our sins, will hear me, and always do what is right and best for Name. Even now, I ask that You will watch over Name. Assure him that no matter where he goes, no matter what he does, that You, Lord, will be by his side. Send Your Holy Spirit upon him so that every thought, word, and action will show him to be a good servant of his country and his Savior. This I ask in Jesus' name. 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,

It is a difficult thing to leave the people you know and love. Still, that is exactly what Name is going to do. He will be entering the military to begin a new life far from those who love and support him. We who are left behind will also begin a new life. True, many things will remain the same for us, except he will not be there. That kind of difference can make for lonely days and nights. Thankfully, Lord, You keep us united. You, who conquered sin, death, and devil, can also conquer the distances which separate us. I pray that You, who bridged the great gulf which separated sinners from heaven, will not allow our new lives and different experiences to separate us. Please preserve us from fear of the unknown and allow us to make the most of these days which can be God-given opportunities for all of us to grow in wisdom and faith. In Jesus' name, we say our 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).

¹ This prayer guide has elected to use masculine pronouns when referring to a member in the armed forces. We recognize the military is composed of both men and women and we offer honor and respect to each individual. This decision has been guided by issues of space and readability, thus avoiding unwieldy abbreviations such as s/he or he/she.

FAREWELL TO LIFE BACK HOME

Lord Jesus,

Before the world was created, You knew that the time would come when You would leave heaven and come to earth. So that we might be saved, You left the perfection of paradise to be born in a world that neither wanted nor welcomed You. Since You understand what it means to leave things behind, I know that You also understand what Name is going through as he leaves behind his old home and familiar surroundings. Be with him during this time of transition. Watch over him as the comfortable is replaced by the new, as things ordinary are exchanged for those which are different. Keep him from any regret about the choices he has made and surround him with that which will prove to be beneficial. I ask, dear Lord, that You will make his heart receptive to all of the unanticipated gifts which will come from Your gracious hand. May he, like Paul, learn to be content in whatever circumstance he encounters in the future. In Jesus' name I ask it. 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,

The Scriptures are filled with the stories of prophets, priests, and people whom You directed into a new life. Although Name is neither a prophet nor a priest, he is one of Your children and he is beginning a new life. In this new time of service to his country, with its different rules, experiences, and schedules, he is going to need assistance. I pray that You will be with him, offering Your guidance and protection. Keep him from any harm which might threaten his body, mind, or soul. Lord, I know that Name would never want anybody to think he is frightened by all of this newness. Still, for almost all of us, a fresh start is more than a little unsettling. This is why I ask You to look into Name's heart. Give him peace and let everything he does, whether it be with words or in actions, be done to glorify you. As Name reports for duty, I ask these things in Jesus' name. 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 twelve years old, You said that You had to be about Your Father's business. You had a job to do, and You did it. Because You did Your job, becoming obedient unto death, even death on the cross, I, and all who believe in You as Savior are forgiven and saved. Now, I ask that You will help Name learn to do the job of his Uncle Sam. In civilian life we are pretty much free to do what we want, when we want. That is not the case in the military, where an individual's life is very much under the control of others. Be with Name as he learns how to obey, whom to obey, and when to obey. Be with him as he learns to set aside his will and learns to listen to those who are above him in rank. Be with Name as he realizes he is not only serving his nation, or obeying an officer — He is serving You as well. This I ask in the name of Jesus, who remained obedient to the Father's will. 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,

St. Paul talked about how each Christian with his own God-given gifts and skills is part of the body of Christ. He told us how You fuse our separate skills into a unity which can best accomplish Your purposes. In a similar way, the military is trying to bring together many people, each with their own unique abilities, and make them into a unified whole. Name is now part of that process. Be with him as he and his comrades learn to think and act as one. Be with them as they are united in a cause I pray will please You, and enable them to accomplish great things in their country's service. Keep them from the pride and arrogance which would place their personal goals, needs, and wants over that of the unit. I ask that You will grant to Name the endurance and encouragement which will promote a spirit of camaraderie within his company. May he and the others do this for each other, and for Your glory. In Jesus' name. 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,

Name has been given his orders. He knows the name of the place where he is going to be stationed — at least for a while. His orders have given his future some direction, but the path ahead remains uncertain. Lord, we know that Your people must always depend upon You. Still, when the questions far outnumber the answers, we must faithfully throw ourselves into Your hands of help. Although none of us know what tomorrow may hold, we do know that there is nothing which is beyond Your knowledge or power. Let that be the confidence that Name has in You as he is deployed. Be with him, lead him, guide him each and every day. Send Your Holy Spirit so that he may always be sure that as Your saved child he will be directed, supplied, protected, corrected, and cared for by You. Let Name know that wherever he goes, whatever he does, whatever may come, You are his God and his 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 that patriot could not: I see America's flag, her history, and the democratic truths upon which her freedom has been built. I give thanks that my country remains: "One nation under God." Further, I give thanks for people like Name, who has shown his willingness to serve his nation. Please grant to our country hearts that are always willing to defend the freedoms of this great land. When America is right, dear Lord, keep her right. Allow us who serve at home to be God-fearing citizens who remain loyal to that which is pleasing to You. And, if our country wanders, dear Lord, turn her and gently bring her back onto the path You would have her walk. In Your Son's name I offer up this prayer for all, and especially those serving America's defense. 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 all of us is the honor of living in a democratic country. We are aware that the United States is not perfect, but we give thanks she is far ahead of other nations where freedom is only a dream. I give thanks that Name, and others like him, have considered it an honor to defend our land from all who would harm her. This day I ask that You will in Your love, grant to our world true, lasting, and honorable peace. Change the hearts of rulers who oppress and profit from their people. Let each dictator and tyrant know that they occupy their position because You will it. Give them hearts to serve their people and not enslave them. Let these leaders help, and not hurt, those over whom they rule. Grant them the knowledge and the fear to know that the day will come when they will stand before You to answer for all that 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,

Your life, Your suffering, Your death and resurrection, bear witness to the commitment You made to winning my salvation. Lord, may Name and all who serve our country in the military be assured that we are equally committed to being good Christian citizens. In a world where diapers, newspapers, and even relationships seem to be disposable, let our country be a place set apart to glorify You. Never let us become shaky in our loyalty to You and the promises we make. Keep us devoted to the freedoms upon which our land was founded. Lord, I know in every great cause there will always be voices and temptations which will try to make us forget who we are and what You would have us do. That is why I pray America may always be a country which has the resolve to finish all proper and God-pleasing objectives. In Your name. 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 give everybody opportunity to glorify You with their lives. Name is doing that by serving in the military. Please keep him, and all others who make such a commitment, safe from harm. But also sustain the strength of those whom You have appointed to political positions of authority. Lord, You want these leaders to govern in such a way that all who are under them may be free to love You and live in harmony with each other. Preserve those rulers who are good; bless their work and their decisions. Allow harmony to reign and let them, by their example of integrity, honor, and honesty, show us how to lead God-pleasing lives. Redirect all self-centered rulers to a repentant heart. Help them see the pain their self-centeredness brings and give them a new direction which will be a blessing to others and a glory to You. This I pray in the name of Jesus, my 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,

In the military bravery is an admirable trait. I give thanks for the courage that Name has already shown by leaving that which was familiar to him and entering the service of his country. Still, as brave as he and the other members of our armed forces are, they are surrounded by all manner of wickedness, which is trying to discourage and dishearten them, which would lead them into sin and away from You. I sincerely pray, dear Lord, that You will keep these, our nation's defenders, physically safe and mentally sound. But I also pray that You, who gave Your life upon the cross so that we might be forgiven and saved, will protect them from the spiritual enemies of evil they cannot see. Send Your holy angels to watch over them so that the wicked foe will have no power over them. Hinder those who would do harm to Name, his comrades, and his country. In Your name, I ask it. 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,

During his time in the military, Name is quickly finding out that our world is constantly changing. Yesterday's map soon becomes a museum piece which speaks of nations, borders, and rulers which once existed, but now are only memories. Our nation's enemies are transformed, almost overnight, into being our country's friends. 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, is our unchangeable hope. 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, in a changing world, will continue to share Your unchanging story of salvation. I ask it in the name of Jesus, our constant friend. 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,

From the cross, You showed the importance of family by entrusting Your mother into the care of Your disciple, John. Although Name is separated from his family and loved ones, they need to remain one of the most important things in his life. I ask, dear Lord, that You will watch over Name's family, especially during this time when he cannot. Let Your love build a bridge which spans the distances which now separate them. Lord, be with all the individuals of Name's household. Give them courage and compassion to assist each other. Unify their separate personalities and blend their individual strengths to make a home which will provide protection from the many evils which surround them. May Name and his family be able to say, as the Old Testament warrior Joshua said, "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, and my household, we will serve the Lord." I ask it in the name of Jesus. 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,

During the years of Your ministry on earth, You shared Your life with Your disciples. It was not unlike what Name is experiencing in camp. Although he is surrounded by people who are not his family, in many ways they can become almost like family. They will, as the days pass, be sharing their dreams and disappointments, their heartbreaks and their happiness. That is why it is especially important that You will keep from him those individuals who would try to drive a wedge between him and You, his family, and all that is good. I give thanks that You are already with Name, providing an ear that is ready to hear every petition, direction for every path. But I am also bold to ask that You who are our best and dearest friend, will encircle Name with people who prove themselves to be noble and honorable, trustworthy, and inspiring. Even as I ask that for Name, I also pray that he be a Christian friend to others. Jesus, I give thanks You are there. 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,

Sickness is always a hard burden to carry. It is made doubly difficult when the individual who is ill is far removed from his normal support group and caretakers. I have just been told that Name is in poor health, and I come to You on his behalf. I offer a prayer of thanksgiving that, even though family and friends may not be able to be with him, You are still there. You are the giver of every good and perfect gift. I ask that You, who have already healed Name's soul by Jesus' sacrifice, may now, according to Your will and timetable, restore his body. Using the wisdom, skill, and medicine that You have entrusted to doctors and nurses, grant a complete healing. Lord, I also ask this one thing more: during this time when Name has been laid low, please allow him to be Your witness. Let him show to all who visit how a Christian can carry the cross of infirmity with a peaceful heart. In Jesus' name. 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,

We live in a world where temptations seem to come up just as regularly as the sun. Even when I am in my relatively secure home, the lure to do that which displeases You comes calling. I can only imagine what it must be like for Name. In his military life temptations will show up at the door of his heart and try to kick it down. That is why I ask that Name will be able to see these evil attractions for what they really are. Grant him the wisdom to recognize that things which might superficially seem to be fun, exciting, or flattering can lead him to a point where he may bring shame upon You, embarrassment to his country, and worst of all, endanger his life and soul. I ask, good Lord, that You will give Name a clean heart which is filled with the desire to be an honorable representative for his nation and a powerful witness to his Redeemer. Let Your love be reflected in all he does. 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,

During the dark days of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln said he had often been forced to his knees, because he felt he had nowhere else to go. Like Lincoln, most of us come to You when things are going badly. It is sad that we often forget to offer thanks when our lives are filled with Your blessings. For this, Lord, forgive me. Today I pray that You will give Name a good day. Even more, I ask that he will give thanks for that good day. May his heart be filled with gladness for the physical, mental, and spiritual health that he enjoys. May he praise You for good friends, a free nation, accidents that never happened, and for the dangers that You kept from his doorstep. Most of all, may he give thanks that You sent Your Son into the world to take away his sins and sorrows. As one of Your saved and redeemed children, allow him to rejoice in the Lord who is always near. In Jesus' name I ask this prayer. 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,

All of us hate to wait. It doesn't matter if we are waiting for a bank teller or for fast food which seems to be served slowly. We are all impatient. That is especially true for people in the military who spend a good part of their lives waiting. It is a common thing for them to do "double time" so they can then spend hours in an unmoving line. That can make an individual annoyed with delays, leaders, and the way plans are being carried out. They can grow impatient when the things they need to do their job are "lost" or have been reported as being "lost." Which is why I ask that Name be given an extra measure of patience. Keep him from discouragement and anger when things don't go smoothly, or don't go at all. Let him learn that delay is better than disaster. Lord, in Your Word, You said we who are redeemed should be ready to hear and slow to anger. That's what I pray for Name today. In Jesus' name. 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,

There is nothing which can bring us down faster than to feel we are alone. I know You understand loneliness. When You hung upon the cross, dying to save us, You were alone. Forsaken by disciples, government, and Your Father, You experienced a loneliness that is beyond our comprehension. I pray that Name will never feel alone. May he realize that You are always there, by his side. You are ready to hear the thoughts of his heart and the questions of his mind. But may Name also know that there are others who have not turned away from him. His government remains concerned about him; his church is filled with members who care, and even now, this prayer is directed to You on his behalf. For all of these concerned individuals, may he give thanks. Lord, lift Name up in his moments of sad solitude so he may praise You. In Your name. 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,

As one of Your disciples, You taught me to pray, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Those are easy words for any person to say, but there are times when we cannot be sure what the will of God truly is. As a soldier, each day Name is being asked to make choices which will affect himself and others around him. There will be moments when he will be unsure his choices are wise or right. For that reason, I ask that You will give him an extra portion of wisdom and discretion. Help him make his decisions under Your guiding hand and entrust the result into Your care. In every opportunity, allow Name, and all those who make difficult decisions, to do that which will bring glory to You, benefit those around them, and honor to their country. In this and everything, may Your will be done. 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,

An enlisted man must learn to have faith in people. He must trust others: from the Commander-in-Chief right on down to the person who is his immediate superior. If he is to invest his life, which is what he is doing, he must trust that decisions are being made which are right and reasonable. Moreover, an individual in the military must learn to have trust in the people who are by his side. When these objects of trust are worthy of respect, everyone is safer and more confident. Dear Lord, You are worthy of our greatest respect. Jesus’ sacrifice to save us has shown Your commitment to our salvation. As a Christian, I pray that Name may place his deepest faith in You. Although You cannot be seen, may he find strength in Your presence. When he is confused may he trust Your direction by using Your inspired, inerrant Word as a guide which can be trusted as he serves his country and lives his life. This is the faith Name needs. In Jesus, please grant it. 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,

From Adam and Eve until today, people seem to delight in questioning Your decisions. No doubt, from Your perspective the world’s disrespect for You and Your will is one of our greatest sins. Of this, dear Lord, I repent and ask forgiveness. Lord, You are aware that a disrespectful spirit for those in authority can also be found in the military. There, subordinates have made second-guessing their superiors into an art form. That is why I pray for those who have been placed into a position of authority. I ask that these individuals be worthy of their placement. I also ask that they may have the wisdom to make decisions which are beneficial to those who must carry them out. May the choices they make glorify You and help bring hope and harmony to humanity. Lastly, I pray for Name. May he always be respectful of his commanders, and thereby show respect to You. In Jesus, I ask it. 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,

I know that the Bible says no man can serve two masters. Still, that is the difficult office that is held by the chaplains of our armed forces. They must serve You and at the same time be obedient to civil and military authorities. They serve the Prince of Peace, but may end up doing so upon the battlefield. They preach eternal life, but may do so on a battlefield filled with death. Dear Lord, along with Name, and all members of the military, I wanted to take this time to give You thanks for these undershepherds. Let us all rejoice in these officers who have words of comfort for combatants, who preach Your Word in its truth and purity, who share the Sacraments according to Your will and represent You under the most difficult of circumstances. Keep them safe, and give them the words and the wisdom which will show to all that You are the Savior who is with Your followers wherever they go. 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,

I am thankful that You have through Jesus’ death and resurrection granted spiritual healing to me and many others, including Name. By Jesus’ blood and sacrificial death we receive the cure for our souls’ sicknesses. By Christ’s resurrection we know that the terrible clutch of death has been broken. This day I also thank You for the many excellent men and women who attend to the physical and mental infirmities of those who serve in our armed forces. In Your wisdom, You have imparted wisdom and medicines which can, under Your supervision, bring healing to those who suffer and are in pain. May doctors and nurses find joy in their work as they try to restore those who are placed into their care. Lord, I pray that You will give both healers and those who are helped the knowledge which says all cures begin and end in You. In Jesus’ name I ask it. 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,

Sitting in the security of my home, it is impossible for me to understand all the injuries and pains of those who have been struck down in this situation. Nor, as hard as I try, can I comprehend the heartache of the families who are waiting for further news about their loved ones. Thankfully, dear Lord, You have none of my limitations. In love, You were wounded for humankind’s sins and silently suffered the pain and hurt that we deserved. This is why I bring before You the pains and hurts of those in our military who have been wounded or injured. I ask that they may rely on You who alone can heal pain and suffering. Lord, I ask that restoration may take place according to Your will, and these injured may always know You will do what is right for them. Let the day quickly come when You will take them past the pain so they might see Your healing hand. In Jesus’ name I pray it. 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 were made a prisoner so that all who believe in You as Savior might be eternally free. Your promise to be with us always remains a comfort to Christians who have been imprisoned by the enemies of God and freedom. Allow me this day to thank You that Name, and so many others, have managed to escape the clutches of the enemy. Please keep them free to do the work that is before them. With this prayer, I especially bring before You those military and civilian men and women who have been captured and are surrounded by angry faces. Their future seems uncertain. During this time of anxiety may they remain faithful to their country, their comrades, and the Christ, who is with them. May they confidently believe that their nation is working for their release and although their bodies may be chained, their souls are free in You. In Jesus' name this is my prayer. 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,

There is nothing which frightens us more than the *unknown*. Like a deer caught in a car's headlights, we don't know which direction we should go — or if we should go at all. “Unknown” is the best way I can describe the situation of some of our servicemen who have been listed as *missing in action*. Are they injured; are they well; are they captured; are they free; are they dead? No one knows. But You, heavenly Father, know the situation of Your missing children. 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, Lord, if their time on earth has ended, let that news be known to all so that You might bring the comfort of Jesus to those who will be in mourning. I ask it in the name of Jesus who is with us always, no matter where we are. 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 Name's comrades have fallen, and their friends and families have entered a time of mourning. The temporary farewells have become, at least in this life, permanent. For these mourners we pray for comfort which comes from having Jesus as Savior. Let them know that because of what You have done, death's victory is temporary and that You will lead a great victory procession in heaven for all who die in You. Lord, we also think of other mourners: people like Name, who must continue on, even while he is missing a comrade. Save all of our military who are pained by these losses from out-of-control anger which can lead to an all-consuming spirit of revenge. Keep them focused on the good cause for which their comrades have made the highest sacrifice. Dear Lord Jesus, let us, even now, give thanks that Your rising from the dead grants eternal life to all who believe in You. 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,

When someone like Name enters a combat zone, things change. He must see everything in a different way. A person walking along the road cannot always be trusted — he might be an enemy. The roar of a vehicle's engine puts everyone on alert. Rumor and conjecture run rampant through the ranks. Everyone is busy making guesses about what could happen, and nerves fray because no one can be certain of what lies ahead. Especially in times of danger and uncertainty, may Name turn to You. When Jesus came into this world to live and die for our sins, He entered a combat zone. He, who was hated and hunted, knows what it is like for a person to enter the theater of conflict. Although Name might not know what lies behind the next corner or what tomorrow may bring, may he always draw comfort from the Savior who is by his side. With such confidence, may Name find himself at peace and better be able to do the job he will be given. In Jesus' name. 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,

Name and the other members of our military have been equipped with technological wonders. What seemed like science fiction only a few years ago has become reality. Still, the more complicated equipment becomes, the more prone it is to failure and breakdown. I pray that the equipment Name uses may prove itself to be reliable and trustworthy. Let no corners be cut by manufacturers, no inferior products be handed out which might endanger those who are in our armed forces. Heavenly Father, let Name see that You are to be trusted even more than the most reliable of equipment. Because Jesus never tried to cut corners, or compromised, we can be confident that forgiveness and salvation is ours. Just as importantly for Name is the fact that because of Jesus we know that You will never let down any person who trusts in You. Lord may all our military have that trust. In Jesus I ask it. 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,

Be with Name always, but especially during moments of fear. Let him understand that fear is a gift which comes from You. Rightly understood, fear enables us to identify danger and prepare for action. But fear, when it gets out of hand, has the ability to paralyze and control. That is why I pray that You will grant to Name the ability to see situations from a God-given perspective. Do not let the devil use his fears to master or take control of him. May Name know that because he is one of Your redeemed children, purchased through the blood-bought sacrifice of his Savior, nothing, not even the worst of enemies or most hopeless of situations, can separate Him from Your love. Jesus' promise to be with him, no matter what the circumstance or situation, is Your gift which can give true courage. Surrounded by Your courage, may Name do that which glorifies You and brings honor to his 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,

I feel sorry for Name and all who have given so much of themselves in serving their country and her cause. They are angry and upset because it appears that good is suffering while evil is succeeding. May they never think that You don't care or have lost control of this world's events. Instead, let them turn to Holy Scripture which speaks of many similar situations. There, in Your Word they will read of how Abel was killed by his brother Cain, of how the Children of Israel spent hundreds of years in slavery, and how even Jesus, Your innocent Son, was unfairly tried and crucified. Let them also see that, even in dark days, You continued to love Your people. Let them see how, because of Jesus' sacrifice, His followers are given the ultimate victory over sin, death, and Satan. Let all who are discouraged and doubting know that You can 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,

The Bible tells us that You are a God of love and that Jesus' followers should reflect His love to others. Because our land is made up of sinners, our reflection has sometimes been clouded. Still, I and Name are proud to be part of a nation which, under the Holy Spirit, still strives to guard the freedoms of all. Because we live in such a special country, like all Christians we are horrified to see the work of those who specialize in terror. We wonder what kind of god would ask his supporters to maim and murder the innocent, to kill and cripple children, the elderly, and those who are helpless. What kind of god would use terror to force people to believe? We must conclude: only a false god who is the direct opposite of You would ask such a thing. Which is why I say, "Lord preserve us, the world, and all of our military from such demonic deities and their followers." I ask it in the name of my loving Savior. 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,

When people return from a place of conflict, they often do not talk about the things they have seen. They remain silent because of the trauma of what they have witnessed and their desire to protect the people they love from the stark horrors of the battlefield. I pray that even if Name is unable to share with those of us who are closest to him, he will still open up his heart to You. You, who by Your suffering and death, experienced the worst that men can do, are more than ready to hear and understand the hurt of mind and heart. I pray that You, the Prince of Peace, will send Your Holy Spirit to Name. Comfort his mind and bring healing to his internal wounds. Jesus, You can take away our pain. You can give to all Your people a peace which cannot be set aside by what they do to each other. Jesus, to Name's darkness bring the light of Your love. To the tempest he feels within, bring calm. In Your name I ask it. 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,

In his country's service, Name has been sent into a different land. There he is encircled by people who champion unique customs, clothing, and languages. In all probability they also have different ideas and values than those to which he is accustomed. In such a situation it is human to think of those who are different as being inferior. It is also very wrong. Even though there are many things which separate us, there is also much we have in common. We are all sinners and need the forgiveness which is given to us only through Jesus' death and resurrection. If we are to be saved it will only be through faith in our risen Lord. With these things in mind, and as he represents You and his country, let Name accord honor and dignity to everyone he meets. As Name has received God's love, so may He share it freely with all he meets. In the name of the Savior who loved us. 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,

Name has been wounded. We know that Satan will use this time of bodily weakness to assail his heart and mind with thoughts of discouragement and doubt. We who love Name feel helpless and frustrated at our inability to offer the physical, mental, and spiritual assistance that he needs. Thankfully, You do not share our limitations. That is why we ask that You, who suffered serious and severe wounds, even dying on the cross to save us, will stay by his side. Continue to protect him from the devil's onslaught. Even as Your sacrifice has healed Name's soul, restore his body. If it be Your will, let him be made whole. If he cannot be made well, let him find peace. And if it is time for Name to come home, may he pray, "Thy will be done." Even in his injured state, may Name continue to witness to all who see him the help You give to Your people. In the name of Jesus who gives healing of both soul and body, may Your will be done. 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,

I give thanks to You for an earthly victory for Name and all of our nation's armed forces. Accept my praise for having brought so many through the conflict. Victories are always won at a terrible cost and this one is no exception. Fighters on both sides have been hurt; some are injured and others have died. May what they have done end in a peace which is honorable and, as much as is possible for sinful humankind, lasting. Give to Name, and all of us, a spirit of fairness which will allow You to bring healing to the open wounds of war. Lord, even as I give thanks for this earthly victory, so I rejoice in the victory Jesus has won over sin, death, and devil. So repentant humanity might be saved, Jesus sacrificed His life and died our death. Because He has won the victory, all who believe are given forgiveness and heaven. May we always acknowledge Your great victory of grace. In Jesus' name. 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,

According to the Father's eternal plan, You came into this sinful world to bridge the gulf which our transgressions had put between us and heaven. As You hung upon the cross, You found it within Your loving heart to forgive those who had, in hatred, placed You there. In resurrection victory, You have continued to share Your Holy Spirit so that we might be forgiven and know how to forgive others. I ask, in this present conflict, that those who do not know You as Savior may be led to heartfelt repentance and, at the foot of Your cross, find forgiveness. May Name, and all those who already have been given a heart to acknowledge You as their Redeemer, be given the grace to forgive others as You have forgiven them. Then, when we are united as forgiven sinners, may we be granted the ability to begin, and maintain, a lasting peace. In the name of our forgiving Savior. 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,

Even a quick overview of Scripture will show that Your people do not always move from one victory to another. When the Children of Israel were trapped between the Red Sea and Pharaoh's chariots, it seemed all was lost and destruction was at hand. When the Savior hung upon Calvary's cross and willingly died to save us, it appeared to all but You that sin, death, and devil were victorious. But appearances can be deceiving. In Your power You delivered the Children of Israel, and with Jesus' resurrection, You have saved us. Now as we look at what appears to be a military setback, when Name and those around him are downcast, we seek your help. We confess those times when we proudly felt victory would come by our own effort. Lord, forgive us and change us. Make Your cause, our cause. Say to us: "My strength is made perfect in your weakness." And then, in our weakness, 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,

This conflict has split apart homes, destroyed families, and filled many hearts with hatred. I ask that You, the Prince of Peace, will bring these terrible tragedies to an end. Put Your love into the hearts of those who are filled with loathing for their enemy. Bring nations to repentance and create a peace which is fair to all. Lord Jesus, before You left us, You promised believers a peace which the world, laden with its sin and sorrow, cannot offer. We who have been washed in Your blood have been given that precious gift of hope and forgiveness. Now may we who have been saved share that hope with others who do not know Your Name, or what You have done. Bring to positions of power leaders who will point sinful souls to Your care. Hinder any leader who would use this time of peace as a preparation time for future conflicts. Prince of Peace, I place my country, my community, my church into Your hands. In Jesus' name. 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,

Your Holy Word tells us that adults have the obligation to teach children the right way to live their lives. You knew, long before child psychology became fashionable, that adults are often shaped by what they learn early in life. Even as I give thanks for honorable young men like Name, I still wonder what this recent conflict has taught the children of our world. What will the future hold for humanity when leaders who lust for worldly power 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. By picking up little children in Your arms and blessing them, You have shown us a better way. Substitute Your divine love for our anger. Let these little ones be part of the kingdom of heaven and not citizens of a country 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,

The clock continues to tick, the pages of the calendar keep turning over. Today marks the passing of another year. Around the world people wonder what the New Year will bring. Will it be a time of anticipation or anxiety, hope or hopelessness? I only know this: dear Lord, throughout this New Year You will be by our side. I pray You will watch over Name and all the members of our military. No matter the good or bad that each day brings, may they hold fast to the faith which says Your death and resurrection have conquered sin, death, and devil. Because of the Spirit’s implanted faith, may they know humankind’s hope for peace can only be found in the one man who was put upon the cross, not the men a nation places onto a battlefield. Into the Savior’s nail-pierced hands I place myself, my nation, and all the members of our armed forces. Trusting in the Savior, we begin this New 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,

Today is the day when adults share their love with candy, kisses, and kindnesses. It is the day when children share handmade cards with their classmates and parents. Valentine’s Day is the day when many of us remember love. Lord, I imagine it’s difficult for those in the military, who are far away from home and stationed in a place where they and their country are unappreciated, to feel loved. Today I pray Name will be thankful that he is loved. Even though he may be separated from his family and friends by time and distance, he is neither banished from their memory nor forgotten in their hearts. He is precious to them, even as he is dear to his Savior. May Name remember just how much he is loved by his Savior. Jesus has, by living the life Name could not and dying the death he deserved, shown what true love is. May we all learn to love from Him who first loved us. 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,

I give thanks to You for this special day in which the Christian world remembers Your sacrifice and resurrection victory. As the sun rises, may Name and all who are in our nation's armed forces, wherever they might be, greet this dawn with the joyful assurance of the angels: Christ is risen. On this resurrection Sunday, may they recall Your sacrifice on Calvary's cross which has won freedom for all of sinful humanity. May they, looking into the empty tomb, see Jesus raised from the dead so that their lives might be eternally changed for the better. May those who have been redeemed, rejoice in Jesus' gift which has given them a life of forgiveness and freedom, happiness, hope, and heaven. May those who do not know the risen Christ be given a faith which allows them to proudly proclaim, "Christ is risen, indeed!" This I pray in Your name, my living Lord Jesus. 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,

At the end of the first World War, people gave thanks for the peace which had been won in the "war to end all wars." They knew that humanity had learned its lesson; they thought we would remember the terrible cost. They were wrong. People forget. We forgot the sacrifice. We forgot the cost. Since then, nations have engaged in global conflicts and regional feuds. Memorial Day, set aside to remember is being used to grab an extra hour of sleep and cut the grass. Dear Lord, help us gratefully remember the ongoing sacrifices being made by our military. Let us remember Name and all the others for what they are doing. Most of all, let us remember Your sacrifice and the battle You won to secure our salvation. You fulfilled the laws we had broken, resisted the temptations that tripped us up, and died the death we deserved. Lord, for the only true victory over death may we always be grateful. 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,

America was founded by souls who had a thirst for religious freedom. We do them a disservice when we rewrite history to read: "they wanted freedom FROM religion." For our foolish desire to be independent of You, I humbly ask Your forgiveness. As our nation celebrates its independence, I pray that You will allow us to give thanks for Name and so many others who are working to keep us free. I also ask that the Holy Spirit will help all of America's citizens to recognize just how much we are dependent upon You. May each home — from the White House to the poorest tenement — recognize that every blessing we have begins and continues as a generous gift from Your providential hand. Let our country's leaders bow before You so that You might raise them up and show to the world that we are Your people, and You are our God. In Jesus, let this be the prayer of our nation under God. 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,

The arrival of this Thanksgiving Day will be a difficult celebration for Name and many of our troops scattered around the world. I give thanks that we have a government which will try to provide them with all the trappings of a traditional Thanksgiving Day meal. Still, since most folks in the military know that Thanksgiving Day is more than Turkey Day, they will be conscious that things like family and friends are missing. May a thankful heart not be among those missing items. Even as we are thankful for what our military is doing around the world, may our military be thankful for the nation they are defending. As they say their Thanksgiving Day prayers, may they list our nation's blessings and bounties which are gifts from Your omnipotent hand. Most importantly, may they be thankful for a Savior who has, through His suffering, death, and resurrection won our eternal freedom. This I pray to the Lord who is worthy of being thanked. 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,

People in the armed forces understand what it means to leave home. As they are moved from one base to another, they know what it means not to have roots in any one place. As they are prepared to give their lives to save others, they can be brought to a deeper understanding of sacrifice. May Name, and all of the people in our nation's military, be brought to a better appreciation of what You have done to save us. You left Your heavenly home so that You might be born in a Bethlehem stable. Throughout Your ministry, You had no permanent residence, traveling from one place to another, always sharing the love of Your Father. You were not just prepared to die for others, Your entire life led to Calvary's cross where Your life would be given to ransom sinful souls from death and damnation. This Christmas Day may we look past the glitter and the presents to see how You graciously gave Your all, so I might have all. In Your name, our thanks. Amen.

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

A MILITARY BIRTHDAY

Lord of Life, God of my Salvation,

Allow me, on Name's birthday, to give thanks. I offer my praise that You have watched over him during all of the changes he has seen during this last year. I give thanks that You have watched over and been with him during this last year. I give thanks for the places You have taken him, the friends You have given him, the experiences of another year. As Name looks back, may he realize that You have been with him throughout his journey. Looking inwardly, may he repent of those times when he didn't think Your thoughts, speak Your words, or do that which glorified You. Looking to You, may he find comfort and forgiveness in his Savior who has cleansed him of his sins. Lord, be with Name in this coming year. Grant him the ability to live each day doing all that he can to glorify You. Help him not to squander his days but rather spend them in thanksgiving for all that You have done. In Jesus, let this be his 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 prayer for Name. One of his family members is celebrating a birthday, and he will not be there. I'm sure that one of the downsides of the military life has always been the missing of some family milestones. The family must continue on with its celebration and festivities, and they must do so without one of their most important members. That is sometimes difficult for family to understand. It is just as difficult for the person who is in the military. On those days the distances which separate them seem a little larger, the ache of the heart seems a little deeper. That is why I come to You, dear Lord. Let Your love which is able to embrace an entire world, build a bridge to unite these people. Hinder any who would drive a wedge between the members of the household and let everyone rejoice that You are the unseen guest at every family festivity. May Your love, Lord, make this birthday a time filled with joy and Jesus. In His name. 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,

We have two expressions which contradict each other. One expression says, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder," the other says, "Out of sight, out of mind." Which is right? It is difficult to say. Today, Name is celebrating his wedding anniversary. The question they are both asking is, "are we coming closer together or are we drifting apart?" Lord, I know what You would have for this husband and wife team. You wish that their love grow deeper. But this is more than a wish on Your part; You have promised to be involved in the lives of Your people. That doesn't exclude their marriage. Be with these two. Prevent selfishness, adversity, and misunderstanding from causing dissension and distrust. Let them forgive each other as Jesus has forgiven them. Show them that the closer they are to You, the closer they will be to each other. This I ask in the name of the Savior whose life and legacy is love. 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 Name's life through his period of military service. Now he will return to the life of a civilian. Even as You have heard so many of our prayers in the past, so we ask that You will hear this one. Lord, accept our praise for taking Name past so many seen and unseen dangers. Thank You for keeping him from the many things which might have gone wrong, but never did. Thank You for good experiences, good friends, and good days. Along with this prayer of praise, also listen as I ask You to be with Name and all those who love him. He is going to be returning to a home, a family, a life that has changed. Relationships will need to be rediscovered as the everyday things of life are reinvented. Give everyone patience and a willingness to be flexible. Bless this earthly home and keep all the members safe until they reach their heavenly home. In Jesus, I give thanks that You are there. 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 Jesus rose from the dead, we offer our worship. We rejoice in the forgiveness of sins that comes from Christ's victory over sin, death, and Satan. Now we pray that the same grace which we 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 hope, happiness, and heaven from His nail-pierced hands. In the name of my Savior, we 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 daily uncertainty, we begin this week by asking You to watch over us. Guide us, lead us, so all we do may glorify You and share my Savior with a lost and confused world. In Jesus' name, we begin. Amen.

TUESDAY

My Helping Savior,

As a Christian I am aware that I will carry a cross. Today I pray that my cross may not be of my own making. Have I picked up some unnecessary burdens? 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 that You will unburden me of the unnecessary. Amen.

WEDNESDAY

Lord of my Today's,

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 we can reach a future tomorrow. Lord, help me understand that this day, right now, is a precious gift that 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. My church, comrades, family, and friends all remember me. Today I pray for the many who have no one to remember them. I pray for the mothers whose children will die of hunger, the prisoners in the dictators' jails, the persecuted, the sick, the lost. Lord, their names are unknown to me, but You have counted the hairs on their heads. As You have remembered us, and gave Yourself to save us, may we do all we can for the forgotten. Amen.

FRIDAY

Lord of Power and Might,

America has assembled the most powerful military 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 citizen 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done on earth as it is in
heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses as we
forgive those who trespass
against us;
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power
and the glory
forever and ever. 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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