

## A Memorial Day Prayer

Gracious God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day we remember and thank You from whom all blessings flow.

Today we remember the thousands upon thousands of men and women who were slain to ensure our freedoms. For those whose names are memorialized in history books and chiseled onto marble markers and for the countless whose names have long since been forgotten, we give you thanks. We pray for grieving hearts who mourn their beloved's sacrificed. Grant your comfort.

Today we remember our friends and family whose sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers serve bravely to preserve the freedoms we now enjoy. Gracious Father, we thank you for their faithful commitment. We intercede with those who pray longingly for their loved one's safety. Grant your loving protection.

Today we remember the rich liberties we enjoy because of their sacrifice. Be exalted, oh God, for the freedoms of speech and religion, the right to assemble and the liberty to disagree with and petition the government which you have placed in authority. Even under the burdens of COVID 19 restrictions, our liberties are the envy of our brothers and sisters around the world. Despite prohibitions on corporate worship, we can yet proclaim, hear and sing of the greater Servant whose sacrifice has guaranteed an eternal freedom and ensured an everlasting peace! Strengthen your Church where ever they obey You under threat of persecution.

Today we remember Your broken body and spilled blood which has brought peace where once there was enmity, life where there was once death. Even as we thank you for hard won national freedoms, keep us from trusting in "horses and chariots" but rather teach us daily to trust in the Name of the Lord our God.

Today we remember your promise of a future kingdom when your people "shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; when nation shall not lift up sword against nation and neither shall they learn war any more." Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly! Until then, make us instruments of Your Peace.

In you we praise and to you we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Amen