**Veterans’ Day Prayer and recognition**

Lord Jesus, you are the Captain of my soul, you endured the pain of battle with the old evil foe in order to secure my redemption. Grant me a grateful heart for the freedoms I enjoy through your grace and mercy – the freedom of sins forgiven, victory over the grave, and eternal life in heaven.

Help me to treasure my spiritual freedom from sin, death and the devil. Open my lips continually to praise you for my liberty in you.

Teach me to be thankful for my liberties in this blessed country. It is you who provided America with the necessary arms and Armed Forces. It is you who gave us the victories (those battles could have so easily been lost). It is you who blessed the efforts of the defenders of freedom.

Grant comfort to families who today remember with sorrow the death of one who gave his or her life for our country. Sustain those veterans who are confined to hospitals throughout our land. Heal the minds and hearts of those who bear in their souls the scars of war.

Grant the gift of peace to our nation and to the world, so that your gospel may have free course and more people everywhere may march under your lordship beneath the banner of the cross.

This morning we thank you for the men and women in this congregation whom you have enabled to rise to the call of duty and service to our nation.

We remember the saints triumphant, those brothers and sisters among us who have already won the crown of victory: John Wright Sr., Jan Christensen, Rick Hunter, Bob Henley, Mike Bellonis, and Ray Durall.

Dear Lord we call upon your loving protection for all the veterans who serve our country today - active duty, reserve and national guard – Anthony Hans, Michael Hefti, Jeremy Hicks, Paul Kassebaum, Malcolm Matzdorff, Jeff Maurer, Samantha and Tyler McGuire, Scott Milward, Chris Nichols, Dawn Orta, Rita Rowlette, Jake Stover, Rob Strickland.

Any additional active duty members present please stand. (Jamey Haukap, Marty Smith, Joe Knight, Ken Rutter)

Lord we ask that you protect these men and women as they carry out their duties. Grant them an extra measure of your Holy Spirit that they may remain spiritually strong in their trust in you.

And now, Lord we recognize those veterans who have served our nation in the past. (read list)

May today not be the only day that we honor and celebrate our veterans. May today be a reminder of the lifelong thanks we are to give those who have served to keep us safe. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.