

*Morning Prayers At Sea*

*Proverbs 13:4 "No matter how much a lazy man may want something, he will never get it. A hard worker will get everything he wants. "*

*O Lord, in whose hands are the sands of time, we awake to the fresh demands of a new day. May we not be empty-handed at the close of day but have our nets filled with cheerful faces, grateful memories, and a knowledge of things well done in your sight. Amen.*

*Proverbs 13:18 "A man who will not learn will be poor and disgraced. One who listens to correction is respected."*

*Dear Father, as life moves on and we move on with it, may we have wisdom to accept advice. Let us not stumble over the mistakes of yesterday, nor rest on the laurels of past good works, but strive to perform our duty better. Make us strong in self-control, and may our words and thoughts be acceptable to you. Amen.*

*Psalms 4:1 "Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness; You have enlarged me in my distress."*

*We begin this week realizing that there are many unknowns coming our way. There will be thrills, joy, happiness mixed with sadness, sorrow, and mistakes. Dear Father, grant us to receive whatever lot comes our way. We know that when you are for us nothing can destroy us. We begin this week with the confidence of your presence in our midst. Amen.*

*Habakkuk 3:17-18 "Though the fig tree does not bloom... the olive fails... the fields yield no meat, the flock be cut off and no herd in the stalls: I will rejoice in the Lord..."*

*Increase our faith dear Father, save us from weak, simpering instability. May we grow in maturity, in our relationship with you, ourselves, and our neighbor. Amen.*

*Morning Prayers At Sea*

*Romans 12:21*

*"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."  
Dear Father, often it is difficult to return good for evil, right for wrong, love for hatred, kindness for meanness. However, we know that true love works no ill. May we demonstrate today your love in all our actions and attitudes. Amen.*

*Genesis 1:31*

*"And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good."  
Thank you Father for the creations of your hand - May we comprehend that it is all very good. May we use your creation to your honor, our fulfillment, and to bless our fellowman. Amen.*

*Matthew 7:7*

*"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find knock, and it shall be opened unto you."  
Dear Father, teach us to set worthy goals, help us to keep them in focus, strengthen us not to be turned aside by meaningless and mundane chores. Fill us with patience, persistence, and performance. Amen.*

*Mark 4:24*

*"The measure you give shall be measured again unto you."  
Dear Father, we thank you for the full measure this day offers. Let us give in greater measure than we receive. When this day closes may we have the contented satisfaction of a job well done, a life well lived, and a faithfully demonstrated. Amen.*

*Matthew 23:11*

*"He that is greatest among you shall be your servant."  
Dear Father, teach us the value of serving our fellowman. May we be more interested in giving than receiving, in performing than talking, doing for others than in having them do for us; thus, we share who we really are and become our greatest. Amen.*

*Morning Prayers At Sea*

*Psalm 116:12*

*"What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me?"*

*Dear Father, such as we have, and all that we are we offer to you today. Assist us to mold the events of our life so that we remain pliable, `growing, and alive. Amen.*

*1 Corinthians 3:7*

*"God gives the increase."*

*Dear Lord, help us grow towards our maximum capacity. Where there is discouragement, give us hope, where there is doubt give us trust, where there is weakness give us strength, where there is hostility give us friendship, where there is laziness give us industry, where there is hate give us love. And so we will beat unity with you, ourselves, and mankind. Amen.*

*Psalm 116:14*

*"I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people."*

*Dear Father, we thank you for the adventure of life which this new week offers. Let our attitudes and activities reflect the vows we have made and the faith we hold. Bless all those who work together today. Amen.*

*James 1:14*

*"A person is tempted when he is drawn away and trapped by his own evil desires."*

*Dear Father, may we never weave a web lest we are entangled in it; dig a pit lest we fall into it; nor set a trap lest we be caught in it. Give us the courage to live honestly, openly, and righteously before you and our shipmates. Amen.*

*Ecclesiastes 12:1*

*"Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not..."*

*Dear Father, grant us the wisdom to commit the strength of our youth to your righteousness, lest our latter days come upon us and we have no pleasure in them. Amen.*

*Morning Prayers At Sea*

*James 3:13*

*"Is there a wise and understanding man among you? He should prove it by his good life, the deeds he performs with humility and wisdom."*

*Dear Father, we realize that our actions speak so loudly that our words can seldom be heard. Help us to live each day to demonstrate the faith and the love that is within us, that we may experience true contentment and fulfillment. Amen.*

*Song of Solomon 1:6*

*"They made me keeper of the vineyards; but mine own vineyards have I not kept."*

*Dear Father, often we are lost in our own importance ignoring the needs of those for whom we should care. Forgive us for our gross selfishness. Help us to become caring, concerned shipmates, children, husbands, fathers, and friends. Amen.*

*Psalm 107:2*

*"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so."*

*Dear Father, we express our gratitude for your retrieving us often from the pitfalls of life. May we never be ashamed to give answer and evidence of the faith we profess, the promises we claim, and the hope we possess. Amen.*

*Ecclesiastes 11:7*

*"Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun."*

*Good morning Lord, how sweet it is! For some sunrise brings an end to a night of hard work; for others the beginning of the day's labor. In both cases, Father, we rejoice, knowing you are with us. Fill our days with satisfaction, accomplishment, and the knowledge of a job well done. Amen.*

*Morning Prayers At Sea*

*James 4:17*

*"He that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."  
Dear Father, we thank you for the spark that you have put in all of us. So often we speak without thinking, act without consideration, and do evil rather than good - forgive us. May your image come forth from the words of our mouth and the deeds of our life.  
Amen.*

*1 Corinthians 14:8*

*"If the trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself for the battle?"  
Dear Father, thank you for this day of opportunity and service. May we always be positive in our leadership, clear in our instructions, and detailed in our demonstration, using all our resources to the fullest. Amen.*

*Matthew 6:33*

*"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." Dear Father, as we order our priorities today, grant us grace to seek you with our whole hearts. In so doing may our words and actions reflect your character through our conversation and our work.  
Amen.*

*Proverbs 5:1*

*"Pay attention, and listen to wisdom and insight."  
Dear Father, we thank you for that great and wonderful computer, our brain. Give us the will to use it more effectively and to fill it with the good, the positive, and the worthy. May we be alert as we guide our body through this day to a more effective and abundant life. Amen.*

*Dear Father, we realize that this is the first day of the rest of our life. As we endeavor to grasp each opportunity and awake the potential within us, may we never give up nor be content with less than our best performance. Amen.*

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*Morning Prayers At Sea*

*Proverbs 3:5*

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do and He will show you the right way."*

*With gratitude we begin this day, dear Father. Help us have worthy interests and goals lest life become a dull chore filled with boredom. Let us need no device to aid us, except our trust in you. As the mighty tide of your boundless love moves into our lives, we will find victory and meaning in living. Amen.*

*Ecclesiastes 10:18*

*"When a man is too lazy to repair his roof, it will leak, and the house will fall in."*

*Dear Father, may we care enough for our self to repair the leaks in our moral character, lest we decay from within. Grant us the motivation, the observation, and the articulation that is commensurate with our position of leadership. Amen.*

*Proverbs 27:4*

*"Anger is cruel and destructive, but it is nothing compared to jealousy."*

*Dear Father, as we write today's page in our life, keep us from narrow, arrogant complacency. Open our lives to you and our neighbor. Help us to be understanding, kind, and cheerful, never giving place to anger or jealousy. Let us face today with increased faith in you and with undaunted courage. Amen.*

*Morning Prayers At Sea*

*Psalm 103:1,2*

*"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."  
Dear Father, we thank you for this great day which you have made. Make us adequate to receive the blessing it holds. Develop our character, strengthen our courage, and intensify our dedication as we live each moment. Amen.*

*Micah 6:8*

*"He has shown you, O man, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly. with God."  
Dear Father, give us judgment to live as we know we should, and not as we want. May we have the backbone to practice those of your principles which we know. We desire that faith, justice, love, and mercy tempered with firmness be incorporated into our daily lives giving us purpose and direction. Amen.*

*Joshua 24:14*

*"Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve Him in sincerity and in truth..."  
Dear Father, we stand in awe at the magnificence and might of your power. Teach us to serve you in sincerity and in truth, never taking lightly your relationship to us. Amen.*

*Psalm 9:13*

*"Have mercy upon me, O Lord consider my trouble which I suffer ."  
Dear Father, we are thankful that you do have mercy and consideration upon us in our trouble. Often we make our own trouble; deliver us from such blunders today. Help us to show the same mercy and consideration that we desire to receive.  
Amen.*

*Morning Prayers At Sea*

*Colossians 1:10*

*"... Walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God."  
Dear Father, we examine our purpose, plans, and performance as we begin this new day. May we be worthy of the space we occupy and the faith we hold. Help us to fill each hour with good work and with increased knowledge of you. Amen.*

*Matthew 5:16*

*"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven."  
Dear Father, may all our actions identify us as your children. Make your qualities of love, peace, consideration, and dependability foremost in our character. We pray that the action of our lives will fortify the faith we claim.  
Bless those returning from the long weekend today. Amen.*

*Job 16:4*

*"I also could speak as you do: If I were in your place, and you in mine; I could heap up words against you, and shake my head at you."  
Dear Father, teach us compassion, lest we judge our shipmate harshly. Grant us wisdom to give good advice and leadership. Help us to be fair and firm in the direction of our own life. Amen.*

*Mark 4:35*

*"... let us pass over to the other side."  
Dear Father, save us from the cesspool of stagnation and complacency. May we be alert to our need when we are tired for rest, when we are irritated for calming, when we are in a rut for new direction, when we are troubled and hurt for healing, and when our faith falters for renewal. Help us to be whole and well persons.  
Amen.*

*Luke 11:4*

*"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."  
Dear Father, let us never dehumanize ourselves so that we become unforgiving in our personal and interpersonal relationships. Help us always to be forgiving so that we may be forgiven.  
Amen.*

*Morning Prayers At Sea*

*Psalm 27:1*

*"The Lord is my light and salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid."*

*Dear Father, we thank you for the dawn and promise of a new day. Give us courage and strength with the light of wisdom that we may know fullness of life.*

*Thank you for keeping those who stood watch by night. Now guide those who watch by day. Amen.*

*Matthew 5:7*

*"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."*

*Dear Father, teach us to be merciful, to give the benefit of a doubt, to be concerned. Help us have the quality of self-esteem that will allow us to extend a helpful hand without fear. May the walls that have separated us from fellowship and communication be broken down. Forgive us when we have hidden ourselves from those who need us. Amen.*

*1 Chronicles 16:29*

*"Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name ...worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."*

*Dear Father, may this first day of the rest of our life be filled with adventure and accomplishment for you, ourselves, and our fellowman. Amen.*

*Matthew 16:26*

*"What has a man profited, if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"*

*Dear Father, teach us so to order our priorities that we put first things first. May our faith be in Him who made all things, not in the things themselves; in the eternal and not the temporal; in the building up and not in the tearing down. Grant us the wisdom and courage to conquer inner space that the quality of our life may grow. Amen.*

*Because the world has never been a "safe" place... and never will be... we ask not for the easy job and a soft, comfortable life. Instead, we ask for the strength and the courage to face bravely anything and everything that life with its surprises may yet throw our way... that we may come through these encounters unashamed and with heads held high. Be with us all. Amen.*

*Morning Prayers At Sea*

*Good Morning, Lord! We take time out now to thank you for the crisp beauty of this young day. We ask you to help keep us from being bored with the jobs we have to do and with the lives we end up living. Instead, fill us with a sense of challenge that we may be able to face each day with enthusiasm and anticipation of what it may bring into our lives. Be with us all. Amen.*

*Forgive me those things in my life, O Lord, for which I am today ashamed and help me live today in such a way that the list of these things may not be as long tonight as it must have been last night. Be with us all. Amen.*

*O Lord God, you alone know what lies ahead for me in this new day... grant that in every hour of it I may remain true to my beliefs in you. Give me the courage to live in this day in accordance with the best that lies within me... keep me today from doing anything you would not want me to do or think or say. Be with us all. Amen.*

*Some of us are hurting, Lord, deep down inside where we don't allow anyone else to ever really see... others of us are anxious, Lord, worried about what may happen next in our lives... and all of us, whether we admit it or not, need you in our lives. So, come into our hearts, Lord... soothe our hurts, calm our fears, provide for our needs, and hear our prayers. Be with us all. Amen.*

*Help me to realize, O Lord, that there has to be a reason and a purpose for me to be where I am and doing what I'm doing... make that reason and that purpose clear to me, Lord, and be with us all. Amen.*

*Give me the courage this day, Lord, to do those things I know I should be doing... give me the strength to keep from doing those things I know I should not be doing... give me the ability to properly tell which is which. Be with us all. Amen.*

*Morning Prayers At Sea*

*We acknowledge thee this morning, O Lord, as the source of everything good and clean and decent in our lives. May we this day live our faith in thee the same way we wear our uniforms... unashamed of what either represents... so that the things that we do and the things that we say today may reflect only good, of ourselves... of our country... and of thee, Our God. Be with us all. Amen.*

*O Lord God, I want to thank you for the beauty of yesterday and the challenge of today. I think I know what's right and what's wrong in my life, God... but I get mixed-up sometimes and I need your help. So be with me today... help me do what's right... help me keep from doing what's wrong... and help me know which is which. Be with us all. Amen.*

*Bless, guide, and comfort those we love, Lord... wherever they may be... give them the ability to handle wisely whatever problems they may be facing during our absence... and perhaps because of our absence... and bring us all safely together again. Be with us all. Amen.*

### *Special Occasions At Sea*

*As chaplains, we find ourselves at sea on special days such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Memorial Day, etc. At such times, our public prayers reflect upon these occasions, their meaning, and their significance as they are observed and celebrated far from home.*

#### *Evening Prayer - Thanksgiving*

*O Lord, it's been a long day - a successful day, but a long day. We've again completed our appointed task -that heavy, necessary obligation that is ours - but at least we've found some time for ourselves, and each other. In a way we were family -trying as best we could to lighten the emotional load we share. We even succeeded in bringing a touch of class to our normally regimented lives. It was good. I thank you, O God, for a country that allows, even encourages us, to pray, to give thanks, and to share our spiritual needs in public fashion. In such moments the sacrifices of the past make sense and the mystical fellowship of free men continues togel and take hold. I ask, O God, that the sacrifices we now make, however limited, may add to the tradition evidenced and honored today. So often, O Lord, the love and service to our fellow man we intend is much greater than the love we actually give. Help us, O Lord, by selfless deeds to make up the difference. Give us a good night. Amen.*

#### *Evening Prayer - Thanksgiving*

*Father, we come to You in prayer on this Thanksgiving Eve. We thank you Lord for the bountiful gifts which we have received, for the blessings of freedom, and support of friends and families, we thank you Lord. Father, You are the One Eternal Creator from whom all blessings do flow. Grant, we beseech You, Your holy presence to everyone. May all creation come to know Your name and give thanks. Amen.*

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*Special Occasions At Sea  
Evening Prayer - Christmas Eve*

*Heavenly Father, open our hearts to hear the song of the angels and to share the spirit of a peaceable Christmas. O Lord, make your salvation known to people the world over. As darkness descends from East to West, raise up your faithful in carols of praise and good cheer.*

*Cause us to rejoice with them that we have not been abandoned to the night, but are now called to the light - your grace and truth, once wrapped in swaddling clothes and held closely to the chest by those who treasured the gift to mankind that was entrusted to their care and keeping.*

*O Lord, we pray for the precious little ones of the earth. Help us to create for them a world of possibility and hope. Keep us from giving up and giving in -for they feel the touch of our decision. Bless us all in our many moods this night, O Lord, and grant us your peace.  
Amen.*

*Evening Prayer - Christmas*

*O Lord, this is going to be a difficult few weeks for many of us. Christmas is family time. Even more, many of those rough, hard-to-handle emotions that we so deeply felt when we left home in August are beginning to surface again. They are tough to keep down. At times, O Lord, remembering is not such a great gift.*

*O God, I pray that you would help us to deal with our loneliness over the next few weeks. Being separated as often as we are, we become expert at diversion and denial. And yet, there must be a better way. Keep us from glossing over the truth of our present situation. For every gain there is a loss, and right now we are paying a price for our sacrifice and our chosen profession. Make this for us the "fullness of time." Grant us rest this night. Amen.*

*Evening Prayer - Christmas*

*Almighty God, as this day draws to a close we confess that we have failed to keep alive the joy of Christmas; we have said or done things to one another out of spite or fear or anger. Father, forgive our shortcomings and create concern for each other.*

*Christmas, we know, is not a day, but a spirit, a way of life. Let us lead that life and let the Christmas Spirit shine forth in our lives. Be with our families and loved ones, protect them, guide them and assure them of our love and concern, in Your holy name we pray.  
Amen.*

*Special Occasions At Sea*

*Evening Prayer - Christmas*

*Almighty and Eternal Father, we thank you for this Christmas season, even though we are separated from our families and friends. Father, we thank You for the true meaning of Christmas and Your divine and holy concern for us. Lord, we pray that all peoples may come to know Your love and presence in their lives. Hear our prayers, O God. Amen.*

*Morning Prayer - Christmas*

*Lord God, we ask Your blessing upon us this day as we begin yet another part of our voyage. Grant us, Lord, the ability, strength and wisdom to meet the challenge of the new day and all that it may bring.*

*Father, we thank you for the joy of the Christmas season and the opportunity to share it with others. We pray that the true spirit of Christmas may become and remain our guiding light throughout the approaching New Year. Amen.*

*Evening Prayer - New Year's Eve*

*Almighty Father, this evening marks once more the transition of one year into another, and again prompts the reflection of where we have been and where we are going. The past is evident, the future, as usual, is unknown. Please grant, Father, that whatever this future year may hold, may it be one of continuing creation, so that, in union with our fellow man, we may develop lives marked by peace and good will to all. Amen.*

*Special Occasions At Sea*  
*Evening Prayer - New Year's Eve*

*O God, how does one adequately sum up a year of days? How do you bring to mind and to prayer those memories, those children of-time, that crowd our present past and give definition to what we have, become? Tonight, O God, help us in our attempt to bring together, rummage through, and draw out the feelings and thoughts which cause us to recognize our common community and our oneness in you. In prayer, O Lord, bring us to see that emotional cloth which covers the contours of another year in our lives so that we might find ourselves complete, dressed as servants of your holy will.*

*O Lord, whatever comprises our history together - our fears and sorrows, joys and successes - we bring before your presence this night, this eve of another year. For you are the Ancient of Days and the Eternal Yes - the same today as you were yesterday and will be in our hoped for tomorrow. O God, we commend ourselves and those we so deeply love to your gracious care. Keep us in your hands and bless us both now and forevermore. Grant us your peace this night. Amen.*

*Evening Prayer - New Year's Day*

*O Lord, we plan and purpose and yet in actuality we know little of the future -that empty end of the hour-glass that is filled by the events and emotions that mark the days to come. We ask this night, O God, that you would lift from us the weight of the past year and allow us again to renew our vision of a world in which we can celebrate the gift of life which you have given us.*

*O Lord, we are presently surrounded by an example of man's taken-for-granted dark side. Because our heads and hearts lie elsewhere, it is easy for us to fashion an image of ourselves as mere spectators in the ugly game before us, tourists among the trenches. O Lord, help us to place ourselves in proper perspective, for we share a common need for your forgiveness. As difficult as it is to face and find, bring peace to this land and bring us and those who are to follow, safely home so that we - and all - might indeed have a good and blessed new year. For tonight, bring us rest. Amen.*

*Special Occasions At Sea Evening Prayer Holy Week*

*We come to You, O Heavenly Father, in this Holy Week. Holy Week brings so much to mind; the passover, the passion story, pain and, suffering. Help us to see how suffering builds character and makes deep our faith. Make us to know joy, and give us strength so that we are able to face sorrow. Help us to rejoice with our shipmate who received news of a newborn baby. Help us to feel the pain with our shipmate who has received news of the death of a loved one. Amen.*

*Evening Prayer - Yom Kippur*

*Lord God, for thousands of years communities of worshippers have expressed what everyone of us knows: sin and evil are ever present companions on life's way. While some persons are more sensitive to their sin, all honest men know its power. It doesn't matter whether we call it breaking the commandments, missing the mark, defiance, alienation, estrangement or self-centeredness, sin is a persistent reality. Everyone of us has known the experience of Paul.- "the good that I intend to do I don't do, and the evil that I try to avoid I fall into. "Even we escape the more blatant sins of cruelty, theft, lying, cheating, or murder none of us can claim with a straight face that we have always cared for others as much as for our own selves. We have not always treated others with the kindness we miss when others have acted harshly against us.*

*We have learned to live with our sin in a world where moral purity is a luxury few can afford. If we had to bear the full weight of our failures piled one on top of the other we would be crushed. You are a just God holding us responsible for our acts. Forgive us we pray and cleanse us. Take from us the oppressive burden of guilt. Create within us a new heart and a right spirit. You are a God of mercy treating us far better than we deserve. So on this day of atonement, this Yom Kippur, blot out our sins, cast them behind your back and remember them no more. Amen.*

*Special Occasions At Sea  
Evening Prayer - Rosh Hashanah*

*Lord God, on this first day of Rosh Hashanah, may we cast our burdens and sins into the depths of the sea, and may love and justice rule in every heart and mind throughout the world, dwell amongst your troubled people and make our lives your home;*

*Call forth your peacemakers from every land - and enable all warring factions to lay down their arms and in unity reconstruct this your ancient land to its glory - a land of milk and honey where all faiths and all people will live in peace and harmony.*

*Steady each and every man on the (Ship)- that every skill and talent, every duty, every watch and every evolution - may be exercised with professional pride and confidence.*

*Remember your presence with us as we continue our task. Amen.*

*Evening Prayer - Sabbath*

*Help us each Sabbath day, O Lord, to lay aside our worries and cares and turn to you - praising your Name in voice and song for your many blessings. Cause us to know that the truly grateful man dances across the fullness of life and leaps beyond the void to begin the someday process of holding court and conversation with his Creator.*

*O God, we ask that our prayers, however halting and humble, would echo from quark to quasar to catch the attention of the Lord of the Universe, the God who holds in his grasp the mysteries of life and dark death.*

*O Lord, let prayer be our window to the dimension beyond dimensions and the word picture that opens to us a world still unknown - yet hinted at when we discover the calm and steady voice within that stills our anxieties and causes us one day to finally get the point - that you are the object of our struggle and the source of the gift called life. Grant us peace this night, O God, and be with our brothers still ashore. Amen.*

*Special Occasions At Sea*  
*Evening Prayer - All Saints Day*

*O Lord, for some of us today is All Saints Day. I know that in your eyes every creature is precious and, if chosen to be so, a saint. Yet, Lord, I still appreciate those among us who have become heroes of the faith. I think not only of marbled, pedestal bound figures, but also of the lady in Beirut whose son has died at the hands of revengeful men and yet refuses to seek or return the disfavor, or the young man aboard made helpless by contracted separation who loads on his back another pound of family displeasure and yet, trusting you, moves on. Saints aplenty, O God, marching to distant dreams and visions missed by most. O Lord, help us to understand this night that the best way to get faith across is to wrap it in a person. Saints are not simply for the fabled past, but are in fact the present tense of God- living examples of Being and blessing at work in the world. Bless them and us all. O God, and grant us rest this night. Amen.*

*Evening Prayer - Delayed Return*

*You know us well, O Lord, and therefore we can't hide what we feel. Disappointment clouds over us tonight. Most of us have been here before, and still delay strikes a low basso cord in our ranks. O God, at times we have trouble accepting what we must. We tire of giving, just giving. We've made it thus far. We've had our tragedy. We simply want to bring our time apart to its proper conclusion. In effect, P Lord, our life comes down to yet another confrontation with reality. As always, we need you to lighten our burden. O God, allow us to share our frustration - however felt - without forsaking loyalty or our proven appreciation of the real world we face and daily serve. Just the fact that we're going home is enough. In actuality, O God, our deepest concerns are for our families and friends. They often don't have the support which we have. They've had enough. Enough! O Lord, hold them when we can't. Whatever, Lord, one thing we know for sure - March will indeed come in like a lion. The roars and cheers of well-deserving sailors and marines will be heard across the land. Home at last! Home at last! Give us peace this night. Amen.*

*Special Occasions At Sea*  
*Evening Prayer - Start of Deployment*

*Almighty God, our thoughts turn to you as we sail for distant places. You know the future and we are confident that you will defend us from all adversities to body and soul, if we put our trust in you. Watch over wives, children, and loved ones at home through all the days of our separation, that our return may be a blessed homecoming. Enable each of us to accept cheerfully our place of duty within this ship and, with true devotion, attend to our appointed task as a service with good purpose. Grant us the ability to maintain a good ship's spirit, the fortune of a happy voyage, and a safe return. Amen.*

*Evening Prayer - Start of Deployment*

*Almighty and Everlasting God, as we begin our deployment to we are keenly aware of our feelings and emotions. We are excited with a sense of adventure; we are still a little numb from the shock of physical separation from our loved ones; and we are a little apprehensive at what the future holds for us.*

*Minister to us, Father, according to our need. Give us the strength to do our jobs, give us a spirit of co-operation and harmony, grant to us and our families your protection, your guidance, and your peace. Amen.*

*Special Occasions At Sea*  
*Evening Prayer - Start of Deployment*

*Eternal God, it's happened, so smoothly, so beautifully, so well that day, for so many among us, that very first day, at sea. The days of preparation, the weeks and even months of long hours and tedious labor by so many are now somehow well worth it. Some among us will work while others sleep as we make our way across the silent seas. Bless those who stand watch this night as well as those who sleep that both may have a sense of satisfaction and pride at being a vital part of this magnificent ship and its marvelous crew. You have blessed us richly, bless us still by a grateful awareness of your creative power and love. Amen.*

*Evening Prayer - Start of Deployment*

*Eternal God, today we set sail again. As always there was both joy and sadness. Increasingly we say good-bye to shipmates who have been with us through memorable experiences, and we welcome new men who have come to assume their responsibilities though not to take their places. Human life is such a unique thing. No two of us are the same, yet all of us share the same needs for acceptance and is recognition, accomplishment and satisfaction. Our lives are like our days. Each one has something that sets it apart even while it is made up of the same number of seconds, minutes and hours. Keep us open to the appreciation of each person's distinctiveness even as we engage in operations or exercises which require our becoming part of something larger than ourselves. We thank you, O God, that you haven chosen to make us so much alike but with such interesting differences. Amen.*

*Evening Prayer - Start of Deployment*

*O Lord, it's good to be at sea, to establish a new routine. It is also painful to leave those we love. The tears still linger. As the days and nights unfold cause us to remember, to enjoy our life when we can, and to relax when we must. Keep us from being and becoming faceless people. Add spirit to our muscle and bone. In the end bless our journey and bring us safely home when our time and task is done. Grant us a good night. Amen.*

*Special Occasions At Sea  
Evening Prayer - Start of Deployment*

*Now we can say we are truly beginning, O Lord. The Marines are on board - our time has come. We are underway. We are complete. Bless us, O God. Help us to mold ourselves into a like-minded community, respecting our differences because we respect each other. As we are bearers of the sword, allow us ultimately to bring peace, for we seek to affirm rather than to negate life. These are not empty words, O God, for we are taking the point - we approach the front line of history. What we do is very real. Yet, when all is said and done, cause us to understand that while we plan and determine and act - you still remain the Lord of history. Your will be done. Amen.*

*Evening Prayer - Start of Deployment*

*Heavenly Father: As we spend our first night at sea on this particular voyage, we pray that you will be with and sustain our families and loved ones whom we have left behind. As the hours of darkness stretch before us, give those who stand watch through the night strength equal to their tasks. When the time for sleep comes, now or later, give each of us a good rest and a refreshed feeling on the morrow, we pray. Amen.*

*Evening Prayer - End of Deployment*

*Our Father, ageless God of all those who go down to sea in ships, on this last night before homeport we thank you for the constancy of care you have shown us during the past days at sea. We know you were there in the middle of it all and we thank you for seeing us through complicated and dangerous evolutions. Your strength has become our strength whenever we turned to our appointed tasks. Forgive us our thoughtless pride which led us to assume, at times, that we were working all on our own, or riding a streak of good luck. We have had some bad moments here and there, but you were holding us in your hands and we are truly grateful. As we return from sea to shore and home to families and friends, help us to shift from the character we adopt at sea once again into being whole men with eyes to see, ears to hear, arms to hold -- men once again living to love. We know you would have us be more like you, O Lord, so help us on our homeward way and bless us and our loved ones with happy reunion. Amen.*

*Special Occasions At Sea  
Evening Prayer - End of Deployment*

*Eternal God, as we watch the nightfall around us, we find ourselves searching for your presence. We are filled with mixed feelings about coming home. Sometimes we feel good about the end of the deployment but other times we feel that we need more time to get ready for our homecoming. But then we think of the new day that you 'have promised. So tonight we commit to Your care all our cares for You care for us. Amen.*

*Evening Prayer - End of Long Line Period*

*Lord, may the end of a long line period be marked by a simple sentiment--gratitude for what we are--safe, and gratitude for those who made it so--our shipmates. Amen.*

*Evening Prayer - End of Deployment*

*Almighty God, our thoughts turn to you as we sail toward home again. Months ago we rolled up our sleeves to get into a dirty fight. Most of the time we didn't seem to be as close to you as we used to be. Well, Lord, we've had our time away from the finer things in life, but now we're going back. Back to loved ones who count upon us to be whole men and not just fighters.*

*Help us shift gears and make the transition to being more human and more manly again. Steady us up. Open our eyes to see, our ears to hear, our arms to hold, and our lives to love once again. We know you would have us be more like this Lord, so help us on our homeward way. Amen.*

*Special Occasions At Sea*  
*Evening Prayer - End of Deployment*

*The Psalmist says of us:*

*"They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; These see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep." 0 And let us praise the Lord for this day, because we come to him with pride in our accomplishments, with thanksgiving that we have been kept safe, and with hopefulness that our future may be one of continued achievement.*

*Lord our God, we thank you for joy this day, and ask you to bless our work in preparing for the future. Encourage us when we need it, comfort us when we hurt, and pour your love on our Nation and on those we love, this day and forever. Amen.*

*Evening Prayer - End of Deployment*

*Lord, as we begin to wind-up the cruise, we thank you for your help over the past months. At sometime-or-other all of us were hurting either in mind or body or soul. We are thankful that you didn't CASREP us, but helped us hang in there. Help us Lord, now to finish-up in style. Amen.*

*Special Occasions At Sea*  
*Evening Prayer - End of Deployment*

*Our Father who art in heaven, we pause now to give Thee our thanks... For Thy providence over us during our weeks on the sea. For families and friends and homes to return to, the thought of which fills our hearts with warm anticipation. For close friendships formed while out... For returning home a little wiser and more appreciative than we were when we left... O Thou who hast given us so much... Give us now a grateful heart.*  
*Amen.*

*Evening Prayer - End of Deployment*

*Eternal God, we pray tonight with the anticipation and excitement of men who having shared the labors and learning, now look forward to the joys and comforts of home. We have learned much about our ship, her capabilities, her idiosyncrasies, her performance in different situations. We have learned even more about one another – our strengths and weaknesses, the points at which we are sensitive or vulnerable, our personal hurts or public pride. We know ourselves a bit better, also. We know too well that none of us are gods. But, we know that to be a man is great; even a man with fantasies, fears and failures. Help us to accept one another without the necessity of making others over into a likeness of ourselves. Let us receive from others such acceptance as will set us free to strive after the best of which we are capable.*

*While our public prayers will not be shared for awhile, help us to continue our private conversation with you. For you alone are our God, the Lord and giver of life. From you we have come and to you we will ultimately return. We have been given the privilege of being creators with you of our destinies for which we bear the responsibility of gratitude and the accountability of fulfillment. As wise men before us, we pray; "Protect us all the day long of this troublous life until the day is spent and the evening shadows lengthen and the noise of life is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is done." Amen.*

*Special Occasions At Sea*  
*Evening Prayer - End of Deployment*

*Dear Lord, as we end this long deployment, we lift up our prayers of thanksgiving. You have watched over us and our loved ones. You have helped us to make this ship a good home away from home. You have brought into our lives, shipmates who have taught us how to suffer misfortunes with moral victories. You have calmed the seas and quieted the winds and during times of perilous storms have protected us with Your Divine Power.*

*As we turn our thoughts homeward and breathe a prayer for our loved ones, we thank you that we have done our duties well and have made our mark with the Fleet. Amen.*

*Evening Prayer - Mid-Deployment*

*O Lord, it was another day of dangerous, but necessary labor for many of our crew as we spread rubbery fingers across the rushing waters to regain our strength. Thank you, O Lord, for your protective hand and yet another reminder that we still retain connections to the outside world -those umbilical-like ties to loved ones and land that continue to sustain us.*

*O God, as we approach the half-way point of our present voyage, I sense that stress brought on by long, tedious days and nights and the time-lengthened distance from family and friends is beginning to catch up with us. We carry around August 23 feelings like an old bag of potatoes - dried, heavy, but still alive.*

*O Lord, teach us the skill of emotional survival. Grant us the grace of time and place for ourselves. Give us the wisdom of respecting each other's needs to the same degree we demand and require his skills. Give us a calm and peaceful rest. Amen.*

*Special Occasions At Sea  
Evening In Port*

*O God, help us expect to receive something from you now in this moment of pause. Help us to open up to every possibility of what you have in store for us. You have promised us that if we ask, believing, we will receive. Okay, Lord, we are open to you and we ask these things: Don't let us face tomorrow with attitudes which permit us to do less than our best today or yesterday.  
Give us new spirits: We need them, Lord.*

*Take away our repressions and depressions and give us a song to sing tomorrow. Keep us and those we love in your watchful care. Give us the gift of quiet rest for both body and soul. Amen.*

*Evening In Port*

*The busy daytime activity of this ship draws to a close, O Lord God and the relaxation and rest of night draws around us. Quiet the strivings of our hearts and bring peace to our souls. Create in us an appreciation for the things of the spirit and a tenderness in dealing with the precious values of life. May we not make sport of your power, nor discredit the workings of your spirit in this world. Amen.*

*Special Occasions At Sea  
Evening In Port*

*Eternal God, there are many men on this vessel. In our years of youth we find we want to get out there in the world and explore; we must discuss our doubts and we must examine our beliefs. This is exciting. But, Lord, the temptation that is resident in each of us is to put off making some basic commitments in our lives. We rationalize our delays by saying we are searching. We find it easy to delay moving into the gusto of life until suddenly we discover that life is passing us by. May each of us firmly fix in our minds that we are no longer children and that we need to consider seriously the important issues and decisions in life. Father, to make the most of life and to make it more meaningful now and for the future, teach each of us to see that the present is the best time to think about our beliefs, doubts, fears, and values, and to explore the true meaning of life. Amen.*

*Evening In Port*

*Eternal Father, sometimes the jobs on this ship assigned to me seem so small and insignificant that they hardly seem worth doing. But will you help me to do those minor jobs faithfully and in doing them may I find that the responsibilities given me later will become broader and more challenging. Help me to know that the first experiences are necessary in order to do a good job at bigger tasks. May each of us always do our best with the abilities you, O God, have given to us. Amen.*

*Evening In Port*

*God, its hard to know who is wetter, the men in the boats or the men on the lines who have moved so much cargo so faithfully. Strengthen them we pray. This morning we saw a rainbow off the portside of the ship while to starboard the clouds were dark and rain showers were intense. We thought of Noah and the promise and hope the rainbow held for him and his family. His world had been destroyed and everything had to begin again. The rainbow was a sign from you that the rebuilding would be worth all the hard work. We also thought of Kermit the Frog and the rainbow connections. Amidst the darkness of misunderstanding or ridicule, there is a beauty and symmetry where people live and work together in hope. So whether you speak to us through Noah or Kermit may we hear your voice and see your sign and be filled with hope. Amen.*

*Special Occasions At Sea  
Evening in Port*

*Lord, I guess you know what a really "fantastico" time most of our men had in . It was really great. And I think for the most part, it showed us how really nice it is to get along with other people who are different from us. It's kind of like "symbiosis," being all interrelated. There are at least two kinds of symbiotic living arrangements in your world, Lord, parasitism and mutualism. Parasites live or sponge or take advantage of other plants, animals, or even humans. But man must live together, not by parasitism but by mutualism - by working and playing together for the mutual advantage of both, not taking all you can get, and saying "to hell with the other person." And it's not just the ability to get along with our neighbors, but it's the fact that we cannot live without them. It's like having a "thing going." We sure had a "thing going" with the people of Lord. Thanks. Amen*

*Evening in Port*

*Night before last, Lord, out on the landing waiting for the launch to bring me back to the ship, I watched a little scene being played out. There were two sailors, one must have had enough pisco to float this ship, he was really soused, but happy and not making any trouble. There was another guy there, who was sober, but he was a do-gooder. He was afraid that this other fellow is going to freeze, so he takes his blouse off and tries to get the drunk to put it on, "for his own good." The more the one fellow tries to put his coat on the other guy, the more hostile the other fellow gets, and for a few moments I thought there was going to be a fight. The do-gooder thought it was his bounden duty, his right to "save" the other from his misery. Well, Lord, we all like to do good, and we should, but there is a time and a place and a way. Someone said one time, "I found me a place where I can do good without doing any harm." I think that's what we all need, Lord. Help us to do good, without doing any harm. Amen.*

*Special Occasions At Sea  
Prayer for Entering Port*

*Lord, we thank you for our safe return to port. The shelter of this harbor reminds us of the haven of rest we have in you. We are pleased we have given a good account of ourselves in these trials. It really feels good to do well Lord. And to hear the Bravo-Zulu: Well done! Grant we may always please you as well, that in that day you will say to us: Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Amen.*

*First Evening Prayer at Sea*

*Did you hear it Lord? Did you catch the crescendo of excitement that burst upon us when all the planning, and building and training came to fruition in the announcement, "Underway!" Underway! the completion of the builder's dream. The final exam for the designer and all the craftsmen. The "at last" moment for those whose life is the way of the sea and who do their work plying ships upon great waters. We are intruders out here, Lord. But we feel secure because we have learned what the seas require of us; and we have built this ship to conform to this alien place. It bespeaks our respect for the power of the sea, and you who command the wind, the waves and the tides on which we move.*

*Grant we never take you for granted, or the laws by which we survive in this place. Grant a sense of satisfaction to all who have worked so hard in these successful trials.*

*Help all of our guests to feel welcome. Bless those who received messages of sorrow and sickness today. Lift them out of their grief; heal those who are ill. Be present with those who watch for all of us during the long night. Care for those whom we love. And one more thing, Lord, let there be peace in our time. Amen.*

## *Community Occasions*

*Navy Chaplains are frequently invited to offer prayers of invocation and benediction for various community occasions. The following prayers are presented to spur your imagination and to provide examples of what some chaplains have done.*

### *Civic Group - American Red Cross*

*O Gracious and Heavenly Father, we pause and bow our heads before you to humbly ask thy Blessing and to give thanks for the goodness you have shown to us. To assist us to overcome our human weaknesses and needs, you have urged us to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty, and to aid the poor and needy. May your blessings be graciously bestowed upon our American Red Cross, and upon those who have accepted in such a special way, the fulfilling of your admonitions. Remember especially in your love, these volunteers, who give so much of their time and talent to your service and to their fellowman. Amen.*

### *Civic Group*

*Eternal Father, we are humbly grateful for the good and gracious land in which we live. We are grateful for the earth that is our home, and for the sea and air in which we have our being. As we recall with pride this evening the courage and initiative of those who have found excitement and adventure in the exploration of air and space... we are grateful for their success, and for the knowledge that they have brought to us, which has given us new ways of living, and made this life of ours on earth a better thing. Eternal Father, may we pray for your continued grace and support in our human effort to explore and to understand the universe that you have made. Amen.*

*Community Occasions  
Civic Association*

*Thank you for the privilege of praying the invocation tonight. Whatever your religious persuasion and background, let us take a moment together to invite the Spirit of God to be present. One of my earnest hopes is that Almighty God might have a hand in the development of this community.*

*LET US PRA Y.. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Almighty God, ruler of heaven and earth, Heavenly Father: Your servant and king, David, once wrote, "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." We thank you, Lord, for the land, and all the things you have created.*

*We thank you especially for creating this beautiful part of the earth which we call home. Help us to be good stewards of it. Yet, more importantly, we thank you for each other. We pray that you will help us to be the kind of people for which we were created. Help us to learn to have better fellowship with each other. May we here in (Location) be an example to others as we live together in freedom, creating a spirit of brother and sisterhood among peoples of different backgrounds. May the American Dream exist here now and forever. Thank you God who creates among men and women real togetherness. Amen.*

*Civic Meeting*

*Father God...*

*You know why we are here. You know the hearts of all men. Remind us today of the urgency of being prepared to serve our fellow human beings in time of need. Help us, as helping agents, always to be available to the collective, as well as the individual, needs of others in times of emergency and when people are in stressful and hurting situations. Give us an understanding of the reasons why we exist and serve. We affirm today, O Lord, that a better community and a better America begins with us. Bless now this gathering. Amen.*

*Community Occasions  
Little League Game*

*Almighty God, Lord of the Universe, Our Heavenly Father, as we pause now in a moment of prayer, we recognize that you are the source of all life and animation and that in You we live and move and have our very existence. We pray now for the Little League that Your Spirit would under gird its administrators, the coaches and managers, and all those involved in this growing and developing of youthful bodies.*

*Bless every family represented here today and especially the players coming together in this sports program. May they give of their best, and have a good time in the good spirit of athletic competition. Amen.*

*Graduation*

*Our Eternal God, You who are the creator and sustainer of our universe, we pause here this day to recognize You as the source of all knowledge. Within these walls many have learned the wisdom You give to mankind and many have discovered unlimited potential which You have placed in us all. Bless these students with a continuing desire to grow in wisdom and understanding of their world, their fellows and themselves. Bless also their teachers who have so unselfishly shared God-given knowledge and skills... May the candles they lit in these boys and girls always burn bright to light up the darkness in our world.  
In Your holy name we pray. Amen.*

*Community Occasions  
Graduation*

*Who taught the bird to fly, And the tree upward to grow? Who taught the river to flow, And the sea waves to roar? Who taught the sun to rise, And the earth to grow food for the living? Who taught life the art of living, And the mind to perceive things and know? Who taught man to write and compose, And what drives him to feel and hope? Who organized knowledge to feed the soul, And established discipline, That our behavior may be controlled? All of us are students born to be taught, And to be guided to our set goals. In this graduation commencement, The students are receiving their rewards After many years of hard work. And now they are ready to face the reality of life. They used their talents well which God has Given them; and therefore, they ought to rejoice in reaping the fruits of their labor. Let us thank the Lord our God, who has given us our bodies and minds, And let us be grateful to Him for His love and compassion. Amen.*

*Community Occasions  
Graduation*

*Eternal God of life and truth, at this commencement season we commit to you the most precious treasure of our home and nation -these boys and girls of the graduating class. With them we thank you for the hopes and labors and sacrifices of their families, for the long expectations and devoted efforts of their teachers, and for the unstinted support and abiding confidence of this community. May your blessing go with them as they graduate on to higher grades and further education. May they look upon this day as one of the first of a series of unending graduations into ever higher experiences of wonder. Amen.*

*Cub Scouts*

*O Lord, the family is the only true institution that has the power to build new civilizations, and to cultivate new cultures. It has the power to bring up new responsible generations to guard and protect the rights of all the living beings in this world. Therefore, O Lord, bless the family, and bless all the Cub Scouts, their sponsors, their parents, their brothers and sisters, their relatives and their friends. Also, we beseech you to bless the food and drink which we are about to receive for you are holy and blessed. Amen.*

*High School Football Game*

*Almighty God, Lord of the Universe, Our Heavenly Father, as we pause now in a moment of prayer, we recognize that you are the source of all life and animation and that in You we live and move and have our very existence. We remember the words of the Psalmist, "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."*

*We pray for our schools - that your Spirit would undergird the administrators, those who teach, and all others involved in the education process. May they impart not only academics, but patriotism, friendship, and a sense of spiritual morality. Though we observe the separation of church and state, we recognize that our roots lie in theism. May we ever remember that.*

*Bless every family represented here tonight. Be with the coaches, their staff, and especially the players coming together in this sport's program. May they give of their best, and have a good time in the spirit of competition. Amen.*

*Community Occasions  
Elementary PTA*

*Father God, thank you for the many gifts You have given to us. Thank you especially for the friendship and service expressed in this organization. Help us all to be more useful in fulfilling Your purpose of being peacemakers and the purpose of assisting in the proper education of our children.*

*May those gathered here tonight be guided by Your help and strength. May they look to no reward other than the good feelings that come by helping others.*

*We pray for all our schools - that Your Spirit would undergird the administrators, those who teach, and all others involved in the education process. May they impart not only academics, but patriotism, friendship, and a sense of morality.*

*Bless now every family represented here and may this be a most productive meeting. Amen.*

*Elementary PTA*

*Father, God, we know that we are different in so many ways. We are all individuals with our own particular backgrounds and our own particular needs. And yet, our Father, we recognize how much alike we are. Give us proper direction as we seek unity of purpose for our service in the proper education of our children. Take away any confusion and create a deep sense of direction. Give us understanding of each other and the needs of others.*

*We affirm tonight that a better school, a better community, and a better America begins with us. Bless now every family represented here. Amen.*

*Ladies' Night*

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

*O Lord, the family is the cornerstone upon which our society stands. We entreat you to bestow your love, mercy and care upon the families, members & supporters of the club. We ask you, O Lord, to bless us and the food and the drink which we are ready to receive from Your bounty, for You are holy and blessed now and forever. Amen.*

*Community Occasions*

*Heart Association*

*The heart that feels love is in agony*

*For those whom it loves are suffering.*

*The heart that knows its friend is in pain.*

*For they are in emotional turmoil.*

*The heart that feels sorrow is weary,*

*For those who lost their loved ones and are alone.*

*The heart that feels sympathy for humanity, is limping along the road, for it is sick and depressed.*

*May the hand of the Lord reach out and touch it, bless it, and then heal it.*

*And may the hand of man be more generous and skilled, to aid the ailing heart;*

*That it may live longer - to thank God and man -for it now feels a reason for its Life.*

*Hence, it shall love, forever and ever. Amen.*

*New Organization*

*"If the Lord does not build the house, the builders labor in vain."*

*O Lord, you established the earth and the heaven, and all are your handiwork; and you make them all in wisdom.*

*O Lord, our God, look upon this newly formed association, and guide its members by your wisdom to reach their goals. Make this organization prosperous, and give it the strength to help those in need of assistance in vocational training, and let it be an instrument of good fellowship, and of inspired hope and a place for sound ideals.*

*O Lord, our God, let Your Holy Spirit be upon us and bless us all. Amen.*

*After Banquets*

*We thank you, O Lord of heaven and earth for enriching our souls and bodies with Your love and grace.*

*We thank you for the drink and the food which we received from Your bounty.*

*We lift our hearts up to You; hear our prayers. Be with us. Save our nation from moral corruption. Fill our hearts with faith and justice.*

*For You are good, and unto You we ascribe glory now and forever. Amen.*

*Community Occasions*

*Chamber of Commerce*

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

*Let us thank the Lord our God for His blessings.*

*Let us acknowledge His gifts to us.*

*Let us do His will at all times in order to be called truly His children.*

*The Lord is our guide in time of crisis, and in time of peace.*

*So let us call upon His holy name when we are in need of him, for He is our God.*

*We thank You, O Lord, for listening to our prayer.*

*We thank You for Your gifts; and we thank You for protecting our souls from evil. Amen.*

*Prayer at Meals*

*Eternal Father, for the continued blessing of Heaven we give you thanks. As you feed our bodies so may our minds partake of that which is wholesome and pure. With this physical and mental nourishment grant that we may so live in a way that brings honor to the corps, our country, and ourselves. Amen.*

## *Community Occasions*

### *Prayer at Meals*

*Lord, as we remember the trip You made to Jerusalem to face the cross, come travel with us as we face our trials and testing grounds. Be with us through this day and at this meal. Amen.*

### *Prayer at Meals*

*They that hunger shall eat and be satisfied, they that seek after the Lord shall praise Him; their hearts shall live forever. Bless us, U Lord, and these Your gifts of which we are about to partake, for You are blessed and glorified now and forever. Amen.*

### *Prayer at Meals*

*Our Father, we are mindful of those who have friends but no food... and those who have food but no friends. We thank you this day that we have both. Help us to befriend the friendless and to share our substance with those who hunger. Amen.*

### *Prayer at Meals*

*We approach you in reverence tonight, Lord, as we prepare to share this meal with each other. Let your presence be felt in our midst by our speech... by our appreciation... and by our respect for each other. Amen.*

## *Community Leaders*

*Let us pray:*

*U Lord, let your mercy be upon us, and let your love be in our hearts. Guide us to know the truth in this life, and help us in the time of decision making.*

*O Lord, these community leaders are assembled to express their good faith and willingness to serve their fellow men according to their ability. Help them to achieve their task successfully. Guide them to know your will at all times. Fill their minds with useful knowledge.*

*We ask you, O Lord, to bless these earthly gifts which we are about to receive for the nourishment of our bodies, and take away evil from us and our families. Amen.*

## *Community Occasions*

### *Ecumenical Gathering*

*O Lord, thank you for the opportunity that brings us together to explore better ways to serve those who believe in your holy name.*

*So we beg you:*

*To give us the wisdom to make the right decisions in the right time.*

*To give us the courage to carry out our duties wherever we are.*

*To give us patience to ease our frustration and difficulties.*

*To give us insight to avoid misjudging our fellow men.*

*To give us power and the humility to respect one another as human beings.*

*To give us the knowledge to understand each other at all times.*

*To give us the proper means and methods to serve those who are in need of our help with joy and gladness. Amen.*

### *Convention*

*O Lord our God, let Your Holy Spirit be present in this Convention. Guide the delegates to do Your will. Grant them the spirit of love and tolerance. Let them be instruments of Your love and of Your peace. And by doing that, they will glorify Your Holy Name now and forever. Amen.*

### *Church Meeting*

*O Lord our God, guide us to be wise and open-minded in discussing matters of importance to the well-being of your Church. Direct us in our service to others. Be with us when we are in need of You, for You are our God, and to You we ascribe glory now and forever. Amen.*

### *Blessing of the Food*

*Bless us, O Lord, our food and drink which we are about to receive from Your bounty.*

*Bless this house and those who live in it, granting them health, peace and progress: For you are good and to You we ascribe glory now and forever. Amen.*

## *Community Occasions*

### *Before Meeting*

*O Lord our God, in time of peace and in time of crisis, help us to understand one another. And let us be mindful of the needs of others. Let us learn to be patient, fair and tolerant in our views and convictions, in our discussion and in our deliberation in all matters. Guide us, O Lord our God, to do Your will now and forever. Amen.*

### *Family Day*

*O King of light, on this day of light, Grant our families your love and compassion. Grant us and our families joy, peace and wisdom. Prosper our ways, and heal our infirmities.*

*We pray you to touch our hearts with your love and care. We pray you to protect us, and to shield us from evil*

*We pray you to respond to our petitions with your fatherly affection and mercy.*

*Bless us and our families, O Lord, on this FAMILY DAY:*

*Brighten our hearts to enjoy your gifts, and to praise your holy name now and forever. Amen.*

*Benediction-Interfaith Meeting*

*We thank You, O Lord our God, for Your heavenly and earthly gifts which we have received from Your bounty.*

*Thank You for Your love and care with which You have provided us.*

*Thank You for giving us Your blessings in this assembly in order to discuss matters of importance to You and to Your Holy Church.*

*Thank You for providing us with a responsible leadership to minister to the well-being of the community. Amen.*

## *Community Occasions*

### *Benediction-Parish Dinner*

*Thank you, O Lord, for guiding us towards achieving our goals.  
Thank you for giving us the opportunity to rise in the morning  
and appreciate life. Thank you for your heavenly and earthly gifts  
which you have granted us.*

*Thank you for your love and compassion for mankind. You are a  
good God, and to You we ascribe glory now and forever. Amen.*

#### *Miscellaneous*

*Increase our faith, Lord... increase our faith... It is so easy to  
forget, Like a piece of sand on the beach, Or a drop of water in the  
ocean, A moment in eternity, To be absorbed into what we are and  
what we do, So easy to be so involved in the gift that we sometimes  
forget the giver. Help us not to forget. Amen.*

#### *Miscellaneous*

*Many words pass between us during the course of a day... some  
wise... some foolish... some clever... some vulgar... words fall lightly  
from our lips,... yet they are the only chain that links our minds with  
others. Their service is truth... they mirror what we feel and what  
we really are. Even now, as I speak... if my words do not reflect the  
true thoughts of my mind... the true feelings of my heart... the  
dignity of all who hear me has been lessened and diminished.  
Guide us with your word. Amen.*

#### *Miscellaneous*

*Prayer, Lord, is an awareness of our individual relationships  
with you. It is as special and as unique as each one of us.  
We realize that words, and ideas, and mental images are needed  
too... but above all, we must let you, God, work on us. To that end,  
be with us. Amen.*

## *Community Occasions*

### *Miscellaneous*

*Lord, we never seem to have enough time. We rush and rush from one activity to the next... one experience after another. There never seems to be enough time... time to finish... time to be with... time to listen... time to write. Time is a perishable gift -- the hours are too short... the days are too short... our lives are too short. Tonight, Lord, I ask not that you give me more time... or time to do this or do that.. but the wisdom to do well whatever you want of me in the time you have given me. Amen.*

### *Miscellaneous*

*Lord, the only things that last and stand the test of time are the things I have come to know by my own efforts... by personal intimate contact with sweat and hard work and pain and effort and people... these I cherish. Bless them, Lord,- they are now part of me. Amen.*

## *Community Occasions*

### *Miscellaneous*

*We are grateful, Lord For those here who inspire us For those with courage enough to lead us For those with wisdom enough to challenge us But, above all, For those with backbone enough to be themselves With us. Amen.*

### *Miscellaneous*

*A transistor, Lord, makes it possible to hear more composers in a day than the composer heard in a lifetime. An art gallery gives us more masterpieces in an hour than the artist saw in a year. Magazines provide more news in ten minutes than medieval man discovered in ten years. But, we wonder.. are we gaining touch with the world at the expense of losing touch with ourselves? Guide us, Lord, Amen.*

### *Miscellaneous*

*Lord, we must do more than imagine what you are saying to us... we must listen to you speaking to us in our lives and in the world ..through every event ...even the most insignificant. Active we must be, yes ...but still also from time to time quiet enough to hear your voice. Amen.*

### *Miscellaneous*

*Lord, nothing worth doing is ever really completed in one lifetime. So, we must be men of hope. Nothing worthwhile makes complete sense at any particular moment of history. So, we must be men of faith. Nothing we do can be accomplished alone. So we must be men of loyalty. Grant us hope, faith, and loyalty. Amen.*

*Community Occasions*

*Miscellaneous*

*Father,*

*You have trusted us by letting us have the gifts of life, intellect, and free choice. May our thoughts and actions prove worthy of your trust. Amen.*

*Miscellaneous*

*Father,*

*Sometimes you seem very distant - like an absentee landlord who could care less. And then I ask myself - but who tossed the planets into their orbits? And piled high the mountains and walked in the sea? And who made this computer brain of mine and programmed it to think? And then I know that you are closer to me than this tongue of mine that coughs up sounds and spits out these words. Father, may The ever conscious of your presence. Amen.*

*Miscellaneous*

*Father in Heaven,*

*Some people say you are dead. If so, I'm sure you died of neglect. But we, who believe, know you are alive - we feel your presence in the eyes of loved ones, in the sparkle of the stars, in the roar of the breakers, in the holy words of scripture, in the gifts of life that have given us the chance to be and to do. For all this we thank you, O Lord, Our God. Amen.*

*Community Occasions*

*Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi*

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace!*

*Where there is hatred let me sow love.*

*Where there is injury pardon.*

*Where there is discord union. —*

*Where there is doubt faith.*

*Where there is darkness light.*

*Where there is sadness joy.*

*O Divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek*

*To be consoled as to console.*

*To be understood as to understand.*

*To be loved as to love.*

*For It is in giving that we receive.*

*It is in pardoning that we are pardoned. It is in dying that we are  
born to eternal life.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

*The following prayers were used by chaplains in observance of special days and occasions. They are offered to stimulate your imagination as you prepare your own prayers for these important times.*

### *Memorial Day*

*O God, our Heavenly Father, you who would not willingly bring suffering to humanity, your creation; you have brought us to this place today -- that our sensibilities might be shaken; -- that we might weigh the peace of this garden setting against the pain and terror which brought thousands who died in wars to rest here and in countless other gardens. The contrasts are so stark that we would like not to see, much less experience them.*

*But it is for us the living to bear remembrance. To remember first, Father, then rejoice, that it was not we who sacrificed self before the enemies of each age of war, but some other son, daughter, brother, father. Few are the names we know on the gravestones, but they read not with our names imprinted and we are glad. And then to remember, Father, that those who sacrificed could well have been us. That all too soon the gifts of war--the torn body, the early grave--could have been ours; a price that we would have paid, were it not but for fate. WE WERE WILLING, not cowards or heroes, BUT WILLING.*

*And finally, to remember that time underscores the futility of wars -- that foes become friends -- that friends become foes until the confusion of friend and foe makes us wonder at it all--and recognize the mindlessness of warring.*

*Dear God, help us to remember the significance of a "Memorial Day" and pray indeed for the implements of war to be forged anew into the plowshares and pruning hooks of our great-grandchildren. This is our prayer that we offer in your Holy Name, in memory of those of the past and in the hope for a future of peace, O God our Father. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Memorial Day*

*God, tomorrow is our nation's Memorial Day. There was a time when people in small towns all across our land gathered in parks or cemeteries and heard the flowery oratory, felt the stirring marches, stood in silence at the crack of ryes and the haunting notes of taps that spoke an Amen to the list of local heroes while some elderly relative sat teary-eyed on the stand. We were there to remember our nation's history and her heroes. But that is apart of another age. We don't live in small towns anymore and high school bands no longer march five miles to stand among the graves of men they never knew. So why bother you with a prayer for Memorial Day. Because you know how badly we need a sense of both heritage and destiny, at least a hero or two we can call to mind, an event that stands out because it was the point at which those values which nourish us were preserved. We can be no greater than the men and women we most admire. So keep our memories alive with our gratitude and gratitude alive with faithfulness. Amen.*

### *Memorial Day*

*At times, Lord, we wonder at the mystery of nature...  
The height of great mountains --  
The vastness of the sea...  
The complexity of an insect...  
The simplicity of season's spring ... .. and forget, Lord to wonder at ourselves. Help us to remember.*

*Amen.*

*Occasional Prayers*

*Memorial Prayer*

*In the midst of life we are in death; from whom can we seek help? From you alone, O Lord, who by our sins are justly angered.*

*Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and merciful Savior, deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.*

*Lord, you know the secrets of our hearts; shut not your ears to our prayers, but spare us, O Lord.*

*Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and merciful Savior, deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.*

*O worthy and eternal Judge, do not let the pains of death turn us away from you at our last hour.*

*Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and merciful savior, deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.*

*Eternal Lord God, you hold all souls in life: Give to your whole Church in paradise and on earth your light and your peace; and grant that we, following the good examples of those who have served you here and are now at rest, may at the last enter with them into your unending joy. Amen.*

*Memorial Prayer*

*Almighty God, we remember before you today your faithful servant (N), and we pray that, having opened to Him the gates of larger life, you will receive Him more and more into your joyful service, that, with all who have faithfully served you in the past. He may live and reign with you, for ever and ever. Amen.*

*Memorial Prayer*

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in whose hands are the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all those of your servants who have laid down their lives in the service of our country. Grant to them your mercy and the light of your presence, and the assurance of your peace. Amen.*

*Occasional Prayers*

*Memorial Prayer*

*May the Lord our God bless us all present here, to memorialize those who died to preserve liberty and freedom in our nation and in the world. And may the Lord our God remember all those whose sacrifice gave this nation its greatness, progress and richness.*

*May our memory of them be an honorable one, full of thanksgiving to the Lord who accepted them into His kingdom.*

*The Lord is for all, and in Him we believe, and to Him we pray remember all who died in the service of their country, whether in the air, or on land or in the sea.*

*O Lord, be gracious and merciful unto them, and let Your light shine upon them, for You are our God, and unto you we ascribe glory now and forever. Amen.*

*Memorial Prayer*

*We pause now in the busy routine of this new day to pay our last respects to the memory of a shipmate (name) who died (when). Be particularly close, O Lord, to those who loved him most in this their hour of greatest need. Help them survive and enable them to bear-up under the burden of their pain and loss. Be with us all. Amen.*

*Memorial Prayer*

*Eternal God, the Source and Giver of life, the destiny toward whom all life flows, we have gathered in this memorial service to remember (Name). Sanctify every good memory and cut short every vain attempt to treat his death lightly. In his death give us the honesty to appreciate him simply for who he was among us. In the awful waste of death for one so young, we are dismayed at how transient and fleeting life is. Give us the grace to give to him the integrity of his death. Comfort those who knew him well and mourn his loss. Bring peace to the troubled spirits of all those who have the courage to face their own death. Let his death be a bond between us as we are never far from death. Speak comfortingly to us that we need never fear the terror of death nor flee from the rare privilege of life. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Invocation-Memorial Service*

*O Lord Almighty, remember those who died fighting to protect the dignity and the freedom of mankind.*

*Let our spirits be proud of them. Let our hearts be compassionate, and our minds clear and determined in giving them honor and respect. And let us be dependent on the loving kindness of the Lord our God.*

*As we remember the departed, let us be true soldiers in war and in peace. Let us be courageous protectors and true guardians of freedom. Let us be the true masters of brotherly love.*

*O Lord, guide us in the way of moral responsibility; enlighten us true believers in ethics and justice.*

*Let this day be a day of commemoration and honor to those who sacrificed their lives in order to give us liberty, and our nation security.*

*Remember them, O Lord, in your mercy, and have compassion on us. Make us a generation of wisdom, discipline and good faith. Amen.*

### *Invocation - Memorial Prayer for Mass Casualties*

*Our Father, at this time of profound grief, we do not know how to pray as we ought. But You, O God, who searches the hearts of men, can interpret our sighs which are too deep for words.*

*We, as a People, as a Nation, invoke your healing presence... Your comfort... Your strength... Your wisdom. Amen.*

### *Benediction - Memorial Prayer for Mass Casualties*

*A benediction for our dead brothers and sisters:  
May the God of grace and mercy grant you peace. May He give comfort and hope to those who knew and loved you. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Patriotic Occasion*

*O Lord, grant us freedom with discipline, motivation with understanding, and determination with compassion.*

*O Lord, give us the will for self-preservation, and the strength and power to help those who are willing to help themselves.*

*O Lord, give us insight and patience, wisdom along with a sense of duty, and ability coupled with restraint to adjust to the changes in nature and men.*

*O Lord, show us your ways, and never deliver us into the hands of any enemy.*

*Bless us with your heavenly and earthly bounties, and never let us be in want.*

*Guide us in being friendly and generous toward one another.*

*Instill in us faith and knowledge, and let all of us have the ability to live at peace within ourselves. O Lord show the people of our nation the right way to serve and guard the sacredness of all orderly freedoms. Let us realize that you have given us riches not given to any other nation under the sun, let us be ever grateful, and accept the responsibilities which they entail. You are our God, and to you we would ascribe glory and honor, now and forever. Amen.*

### *Breakfast at 8th and I for Members of Congress*

*Our Father, we invoke your blessing upon our President... our Legislators... our Commandant... our Marine Corps. Bless the authority here represented. Help us to learn that he who leads is called to be a servant; and to whom much is given, much is required. Help us to be faithful in support of one another as we work for justice and the common good, for peace itself. We ask this in Your Holy Name. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Armed Forces Day*

*Who are we, Lord...? Why are we here...?  
We are American fighting men... we stand vigil over the free world.  
We are held together by a common bond... our love of life and  
liberty for ourselves and our loved ones... and our right to worship  
you without fear of oppression. Whatever is said about us and our  
ship, when the chips are down, we pull together. It is this that makes  
us a team set apart... we are a floating fortress of men and  
machines, striving to make the world a better place. Keep us aware  
of our heritage. Amen.*

### *Labor Day*

*Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that  
all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the  
work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common  
good, and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us  
mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our  
concern for those who are out of work. Amen.*

### *Independence Day*

*All men enjoy the gift of life; many enjoy the privilege of  
freedom; some enjoy the quality of courage. Life without freedom is  
intolerable. Freedom without courage is impossible. The Navy and  
the Marines have made courage a way of life. The courage of the  
past is in the hands of history. The courage of the future is in our  
hands. As we recall those who have fallen, let us rededicate  
ourselves to the tradition of courage. Give us a deep sense of  
reverence for life, a passionate desire for freedom. Continue in us  
the courage of those who have woven this tradition into the history  
of our country. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Independence Day*

*Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lofted the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the peoples of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace.  
Amen*

### *Independence Day*

*Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will. Amen.*

### *Independence Day*

*As a nation we were convinced early that we could not endure half slave and half free. No man can celebrate liberty as long as his brothers and sisters are in chains or shackled by poverty or ignorance or a denial of basic rights which enables them to contribute to the good of society.*

*Our most elusive dream has been the pursuit of happiness, for no person can give happiness to another. It is a state which each must find for himself. Help us to discover the secret that happiness comes not from selfish pursuit of ingrown indulgence but from sharing not just what we have but who we are.*

*Re-create in each of us the dreams of our founding fathers, who by your grace knew that where there was no dream there could be no destiny. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Independence Day*

*God, our Father, on this Independence Day, we pause for a few moments to give you thanks for a nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the principle that all men are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.*

*Life has been extended for rich and poor alike. Dread diseases that cut short human life in infancy have been virtually eliminated. Now we grapple with the killers of our technological age - death on the highways, disorder proliferating from stressful urban existence - heart attacks, hypertension and cancer, and the awful spectre of nuclear holocaust. In the pursuit of life help us to realize it isn't how long we live but how we live long that is important. Amen.*

### *Veterans Day*

*I pray this evening, O Lord, not as a political man, but as a pastor and a human being. For I am one of those who came back from Vietnam and now am committed to sharing the proud task of remembering my brothers and sisters who have fallen and who are memorialized in the land of our birth this day.*

*O God, how does one summarize the valor, pain, and eventual disenchantment of a generation of young, well-intentioned Americans, who fought and gave their life-blood to fight a war that has yielded little more than bitter fruit? Was their courage of less valor or their sacrifice less sacred than those who have gone before?*

*On this Veterans Day, O Lord, I pray for our dead and missing in Vietnam - 56,000 plus souls who went beyond the borders of self interest and who continue to cry for more than stone-cold recognition. Their memory demands an honest acceptance that a man who follows his convictions from a clear sense of duty and love for his people represents the highest good a nation can offer - be he friend or foe. Those, O God, were our brightest and best - marked by the cynical and clever, but ever remembered by you.*

*O God, Vietnam remains, as it should, a matter of moral contention for all Americans. That suffering land has made dust of our innocence and caused us rightly to question our national intent. O Lord, lift the veil on this tragedy. Help us to work through the war- but never at the cost of refusing our fallen brothers the love and dignity they deserve. Grant us this night an ever peaceful rest. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Invocation-Veterans of Foreign Wars*

*There is always a soldier who lies in the field,  
And once he defended his country.*

*There are those who have worn the military uniform,;  
And still carry in their heart the spirit of patriotism.*

*There are those who stand tall to salute their flag.  
And their hearts beat with glory and greatness.*

*There are those who are always ready to carry arms to defend  
their country.*

*And there are many people who would stand to greet them when  
they pass by.*

*We are proud of those soldiers who have stood with courage to  
protect liberty, justice and equal opportunity for all.*

*There are many soldiers who are proud to see their country  
great among all nations.*

*The greatness of a nation and people are a gift of the Lord to  
those who know him at all times.*

*The Lord brings his people out of war in victory to live in love,  
honor and peace.*

*Let us honor all soldiers with respect and appreciation, and be  
proud before all nations. Amen.*

### *National Prayer Breakfast*

*O GOD our Father,*

*You have commanded the light to shine out of darkness and  
awakened us again to praise your goodness and to ask your favor.  
Accept now the sacrifice of our worship and thanksgiving. Make us  
to be children of the light and of the day, heirs of your everlasting  
inheritance. Remember O GOD, all our brothers and sisters who  
stand in need of your favor on land or sea, in air or space. May our  
lives ever praise your wonderful and holy name. Amen.*

*Occasional Prayers*

*USMC Birthday*

*O Lord our God,  
With your love, touch our hearts;  
With your mercy, forgive our sins;  
With your wisdom, correct our ways;  
With your compassion, overlook our iniquities;  
With your grace, bless our souls;  
With your care, protect us from evil;  
With your bounty, satisfy our hunger.  
Grant us a sound mind and body.  
Sustain us with love and charity.  
Protect our families, and bless  
Their going and coming.  
Bring understanding and peace to the world.  
Enlighten our minds to know the truth.  
Keep us strong, free and loyal to you,  
to our nation and to our families.  
Fulfill our legitimate goals.  
Guide us to serve humanity with justice.  
Guard our families and our nation with your holy angels.  
Embrace us with your fatherly love and affection  
Sustain us with strength in times of pain,  
in times of anguish, in times of suffering, and  
in times of loneliness, distress and oppression.  
Brighten our lives with hope, courage and happiness.  
Dwell in our hearts, and never abandon us for your name's sake.  
Amen.*

*USMC Birthday*

*Eternal Father, Holy God, in whom we live and move and have our being: we invoke Thy divine presence among us as we pause to honor the birthday of the United States Marine Corps. We remember with pride and gratitude the sacrifices made in behalf of the Corps, Our Nation and free men everywhere. Help us to serve Thee and our cause that all men will be blessed by a just and enduring peace. We also invoke Thy blessing upon the families and loved ones of the Marines. Their loyalty and sacrifices have also helped to make the Corps great. Keep us all faithful to Thee and to human dignity. Amen.*

*Occasional Prayers*

*USMC Birthday*

*Our Father God, we pause here today to give thanks for this special day when we celebrate the birth of the United States Marine Corps. We remember with special gratitude those who have carried the Corp's banner throughout its noble history. Some have fallen in defense of our nation, but others have marched on keeping alive our heritage of freedom and justice for all. Grant, Lord to each of us the courage and strength to continue the high ideals and expectations of the Marine Corps. May we keep faith with those who have gone before us and may we take the torch of freedom on into future of this nation and the world. In your name, we pray, Amen.*

*Occasional Prayers*

*USMC Birthday*

*Ever remembering, O Lord, that if you are a God of love, you are a God of peace, I pray this evening a patriot's prayer - a request for your blessing upon the men and women of the Marine Corps. I do this because of the hard realities of the world I know and because I appreciate so deeply the fact that the heritage and freedom we enjoy as a people is not a simple given, but the summation of the sacrifice and devotion of those who have shared their life-blood and youth to defend and give heart to our nation. O God, it is in this tradition that we stand today as we make history and prepare for remembrances to come. Help us to keep the present peace so that men and women of good will can revive hope among suffering people everywhere. Grant us this evening a safe and good night. Amen.*

*USMC Birthday*

*Let us pray: Almighty and Everlasting God, in whom we live move and have our being, we invoke your blessings upon all who faithfully serve in the Marine Corps. Make them solid in the ideals of the Corps in which they serve. Keep them mindful of the traditions of those who have gone before them. Give peace and rest to those comrades in arms who have made the supreme sacrifice.*

*Reward all their efforts with a just and lasting peace. This we ask and pray in your name. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Navy Birthday*

*Eternal God, we celebrate our birthday today. Not our individual birthdays or even that special birthday of our ship. Rather, we celebrate the birthday of our Navy, a for mid able force in war, a potent power in peace. For over two hundred years men have accepted the rigors of our nation's naval service often without either adequate pay or the recognition by their nation which they rightfully deserved. They often endured cramped quarters and unpalatable food. They were often tossed about in those sailing vessels we speak of romantically, but in which few of us would have signed on for a second tour. They knew the biting cold, fiercely blowing wind and burning sun. When they turned from sail to steam they were covered with the dirt and grime of coal. So much of what made their lives a constant hardship has been changed. But some things haven't changed, and we share their sorrows and their joys. We share the mystical experience of the sea so hard to describe to someone who has never known it. We share the disciplined training in preparing for events we hope will never happen. We share their sadness at leaving those we love and their joy in returning to them again. We share their conviction that no other job would be quite so satisfying as serving at sea with men we respect and admire. We share their sense of adventure in looking forward to new ports and as yet unsailed seas. And we share their faith that you are our strength, our very present help in time of trouble, our maker, defender, redeemer and friend. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Commissioning*

*Eternal God, for as long as men have gone to sea in ships, they have felt the awesome urging and mystery which takes them from those they love and to whom they long to return. For as long as men have known that life lived only for oneself is too constrictive, they have taken up arms for lives more precious than their own. This magnificent ship brings together the sailor's dedication to successfully sail the unobstructed seas and the Marine's tenacity in combat on land or in the air. As the (Ship) is commissioned to take her place in our nation's Navy, we pray that those who have contributed to her planning and construction may never have cause for shame; that those whose valor is commemorated in her name may be properly honored by her outstanding service; that those who sail her may devote themselves to the fullest accomplishment of their every responsibility.*

*May her nation look to her with pride and as a model of excellence in execution of every task. May she be a respected adversary in conflict, an effective deterrent to war, and a welcomed means of compassion and assistance to those whose misfortunes make her the means of survival and hope.*

*We celebrate this glorious day with deep gratitude. May we ever draw our strength and support from you whose perfect love is our peace and whose peace is our power. Amen.*

### *Commissioning*

*Eternal Father, from whom we come and to whom we ultimately return, we commend this ship, the (Name of Ship) to your care and keeping. Make her name great among those whose judgment is honored; spread her fame throughout the land so that the young may desire her service and the old admire her deeds. Bless those who sail her. Sustain them always in their pursuit of peace through power.*

*Lord bless us and keep us. Lord, may your face shine upon us and be gracious to us. Lord lift up your countenance upon us and give us peace forevermore. Amen.*

*Occasional Prayers*

*For Ship and Crew*

*Creator God, who founded the seas and equipped them with the very resources that sustain life on this planet - we acknowledge our need to be mindful of humanity's dependence on the seas for food, minerals, communications and climate - we seek your will for our nation in meeting its obligations to maintain the freedom of the seas and ask your blessings on this ship and crew in meeting its commitments to that end. Amen.*

*Launching/ Commissioning*

*Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our country's Navy ashore and afloat. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Launching/ Commissioning*

*Almighty God, who has given men vision and skill to devise and construct all manner of works, we praise you for the men who have labored with brain and hand to build this ship, and we ask your blessing on all their labors. Amen.*

*Launching/ Commissioning*

*May Almighty God save, sanctify, and bless you and this ship; and carry you with favouring winds over the sea and into harbor, according to his good will,- and, as your divine and heavenly pilot, bring you at last to the haven of his peace. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Commissioning*

*Almighty God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we ask your presence and blessing as we gather to commission this ship for the United States Navy. Give us loyalty and devotion so that we will not lose faith in our glorious heritage of freedom, the gift of so many from the past. Help us to be peace-seekers and peace-makers in all our works. Bless the officers and crew who will serve in her with fidelity in all their tasks. Watch over our families in times of separation. Give us courage and faith to meet the challenges which will be placed before us. Preserve us from the dangers of the sea and the violence of the enemy; for you are the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Amen.*

### *Launching*

*O Almighty God, the sovereign commander of all the world, at whose word even the wind and the sea obey, we turn to you as we gather to launch this ship for the United States Navy. We ask you to bless this occasion. We ask that this ship may always travel in peaceful waters, but if conflict is thrust upon us, may she bring credit to the traditions of our Navy. Bless the officers and crew who will sail her. May they see the wonders of the deep and always invite your hand to steady her course. May her voyages be made in safety and may we be ready to express our thankfulness for your providence by constant devotion to duty and sincere faith in you. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Commissioning*

*Almighty and everlasting GOD, in whom we live and move and have our being, we humbly pray that you will bless us with your spirit as we gather to commission this vessel of the United States Navy. Endow us with such loyalty and devotion that we will not lose faith with the glorious heritage of freedom which has been handed down to us by the patriots of old. Keep us from finding our security in arms alone, but in the conviction that right makes might. Bless the officers and crew of this ship, giving us fidelity in all our tasks. Create and maintain among us cheerfulness and a good ship's spirit. Grant fair weather in all our voyages, and if dangers confront us in the midst of the sea, may you always be our strong tower of defense. Preserve us from the dangers of the sea and violence of the enemy. Make us strong in the fear of GOD and the love of righteousness that we may gird ourselves in support of the high ideals upon which our nation was founded. This we pray in your name. Amen.*

### *Commissioning*

*Our Heavenly Father,*

*We are gathered this morning to commission and present this ship to the nation for service in its behalf. It represents the collective efforts of thousands of your people, who, pursuing their vocation as stewards of your gifts, gave not only the work of their hands and minds. They await now an accounting of their stewardship as this ship comes alive and is put to the test of prolonged service in the fleet. We invoke your blessing upon them, this ship, and those generations of sea service personnel who will serve in her. We bless you for the memory of life-long example of our name sake, . We pray that this ship, we who will first take her to sea and those who follow, will be equal to the high standard he set. As he was known, may this ship be known for loyalty, vision, integrity, courageous and honorable service.*

*May you especially bless in this hour he who will assume command, Captain . We know him as a talented and trustworthy leader. Cause us to be loyal and trustworthy followers.*

*Being mindful of the imperfect world in which we live and the complexities of world leadership, we ask your forgiveness that we have not yet found a more perfect way to peace. Cause us who serve, along with those in the public trust, to engage this ship only in the pursuit of honorable and lasting peace, and the preservation of tranquility among the nations. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Blessing of the Fleet*

*Eternal Father, maker of the seas and the earth, keeper of our log, may there be no unworthy entries concerning our loyalty and industry.*

*May all our soundings be true.*

*We invoke your blessing upon our maritime community, the Coast Guard, the Navy and especially our fishermen and their families.*

*Father, we come to pay tribute to our fishermen today. May they always return safely to port from their adventures at sea. Bring them through the deep waters of life, not to drown them, but to cleanse them.*

*May they and their loved ones find the blessing of Your care, protection and good health. As they view the beauties of Your sunset, may they thank God for their eyes to see. As they hear the sound of the wind and the waves--yes, the lonely gulls--may they thank You that You gave them ears to hear. As they embrace the invigorating salt air, may they thank God who gave them taste and smell to appreciate the good things in life.*

*Give us all a greater harmony within ourselves and a better understanding in our relationships with others. Grant us Your love and peace to share with mankind everywhere ...in our joys and in our sorrows, in our hopes and in our disappointments, until we cross that bar and meet our Pilot face to face.*

*Grant us, our heavenly Father, the sense of accomplishment as we are anchored in that final haven of rest. We pray in Your name. Amen.*

### *Change of Command*

*We pray, O Creator of the world without and the world within, asking that these moments be more than a ceremonious exercise, but rather a heartfelt expression of joy and praise for your presence among us and a sense of the possibility and purpose which your Spirit instills within our hearts.*

*We thank you, O Lord, for the Wisdom inherent in the change of command ceremony, creating within us, as it does, a sense of continuity and strength amidst change.*

*We ask that you be with (Captains and whose authority to command we acknowledge, confirm, and pass on this day. Cause them to be proactive to the responsibilities granted them and yet ever aware of their humanity. Let them know that we cheer them on and are thankful for their commitment and good will. Bless them and the men they serve, O Lord. Amen.*

*Occasional Prayers*

*Change of Command*

*Lord God, Creator of the Universe,  
Our pride in past efforts causes us to stop on this occasion and give  
thanks.*

*Today we celebrate past achievements and ask your support in a  
new beginning.*

*May your presence, peace and care always accompany Captain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and his family.*

*We pray that wisdom, compassion and creative leadership will mark  
the Command of Captain \_\_\_\_\_. May all our people in positions  
of authority be sensitive to the demands of the faith we entrust to  
them, and the needs of the people they serve. Amen.*

*Change of Command*

*Eternal Father, we ask your continued blessing on the men and  
women of the (Command); the many individuals whose many  
sacrifices and dedication have shown them to be people of integrity  
and professionalism. We pray, Lord, that as a nation, our strength  
will be rooted in our commitment to justice and our constant quest  
for freedom for all your people. May every member of (Command)  
continue to be a clear, strong example of that commitment and that  
quest. Amen.*

*Change of Command*

*O Lord, let your mercy be upon us, and let your love be in our  
hearts.*

*Guide us to know the truth in this life, and help us in the time of  
decision-making.*

*O Lord, these officers are gathered here in a moment significant  
to them and to us -- to change command, to pass the baton, that they  
may serve effectively their nation and the Marine Corps.*

*Guide them to know your will at all times. Fill their mind with  
useful knowledge, and their hearts with compassion.*

*For you are good and to you we ascribe glory now and forever.  
Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Change of Command*

*Almighty God, Creator and Sustainer of us all, as we begin this ceremony we invoke the power and presence of your Holy Spirit. As the command passes from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, may we be reminded of the responsibilities and opportunities of leadership, of the commitment and sacrifice of those who go down to the sea in ships, and of those families who support them. Let us use this occasion to celebrate the ideals of freedom, courage, honor, and peace, and to dedicate ourselves anew to those values we hold so dear. In God's most holy name we offer our prayer, Amen.*

### *Change of Command*

*Dear Father, as the torch of leadership is passed may this awesome responsibility be coupled with your blessing and wisdom and a consciousness of your presence. May our godly and patriotic duty be performed at our highest level of expertise. Now to the only wise God who is able to keep you from falling, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, and may He keep you in the security of His presence. Amen.*

### *Change of Command*

*Our Father God and Divine Creator, we ask for Thy blessing upon this change of command ceremony. May we once again be reminded of Thy concern for man and for the dignity of life that this nation and ship are dedicated to preserve. Bless those who lead us with wisdom and vision and strength. Particularly bless (Name) who departs for another assignment and (Name) who now becomes our new captain. Grant to us all a sense of loyalty and trust in our way of life, our nation, our ship, and our captain. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Change of Command*

*Heavenly Father, we ask your blessing upon all who are gathered here and pray that You be with us at this transfer of responsibilities. Inspire us with Your Wisdom, that we may appreciate the true nature of command and the serious consequences that flow from it.*

*May the spirit of justice, care, concern, and dedication to duty be CAPT\_\_\_\_\_ legacy to his shipmates of the USS  
May You continue to be with him and his family as they leave to serve others.*

*We pray Your support for CAPT\_\_\_\_\_ as he assumes the burdens of command. May he feel a sense of confidence and assurance when he turns to You in those lonely moments of decision. Guide and direct him always that Justice, Truth, and the quest for Peace may be served.*

*We ask that you be present to us all, that all our actions may give honor and praise to Your Name in which we pray. Amen.*

### *Change of Command*

*Father of us all - we pause to remind ourselves of your presence, to render you honors, and to invoke your blessing. We are present to witness a change of command, a transfer of power.*

*Jesus once said to a man in authority, "You have power only because it comes from God" Help us, Lord, to remember that power is your gift - that its purpose is to accomplish your will. Bless those who must command; bless those who must obey; that thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.*

### *Change of Command*

*God of our fathers, who kindled in us the love of liberty and granted us such faith and courage in Thee, that wide seas and strange shores were overpassed and eagerly embraced, bestow upon us, a love of liberty; and direct us by Thy hand, that we neither grow faint in faith nor fail in courage. Bless and guide those who now lead us in our nation's course... to him who goes to other duty and to him who comes to be our new captain. Guide them both with understanding and strength of purpose. With this we invoke Thy divine blessings upon these proceedings. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Change of Command*

*Eternal Father, Almighty God, we ask for Thy divine blessing upon this change of Command. May we be aware of Thy interest in such activities and thus strive to serve Thee and our country with added conviction. Bless always the men of this ship, those who command and those who carry out the commands. In the name of our Lord, we pray. Amen.*

### *Change of Command*

*Eternal Father, Creator of land and sea, grant to us gathered here, an appreciation for responsibility and command. To all who are called to lead, bless with strength of purpose and courage. Keep them firm and yet understanding, wise and yet learning, brave but not foolhardy. May they be rocks of confidence and trust for those who follow them. Our special prayer today is for Thy divine blessings upon him who leaves us for another assignment and upon him who comes to receive command of this ship. May she always sail with pride in the free life she defends. Amen.*

### *Military Graduation*

*Eternal Father, we pray that your blessing may rest on these young men that we have come here to honor today. Instill in them a lasting desire to maintain and defend our great nation's high principles of freedom, justice, and dignity for all. Make them this day aware of the great responsibilities being placed upon their shoulders and those of their generation. Bless them with wisdom, courage, and compassion. Bless also those who have so unselfishly given of themselves to train these young men and to prepare them to stand at the gates off freedom. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Graduation-National War College Invocation Gracious God, Lord of the Universe,*

*We pray your blessing on these graduates, who in the tradition of the Centurion know that they are men and women under authority: -responsible to honor Your holy name; -obligated to seek peace and pursue it in the name of humanity; -sworn to uphold the laws of this land and to use their professional skills in the interest of the citizenry; -charged to represent their families in the being and the doing of good,, and accountable to self for the satisfaction of success deserved and enjoyed. Amen.*

*Benediction Almighty God who makes all things new- You have ordained that all rites of passage, like this graduation, will simultaneously conclude one phase of life, while commencing a new phase of life. So be it. Bless now, O Lord, these graduates to begin anew. Amen.*

### *Convocation - National War College*

*Our Father, we are taught to ask, and it will be given us... seek, and we will find... knock, and it will be opened to us. At this beginning of a new academic year, we ask for Divine wisdom... we seek understanding... we knock at the door of truth. Bless our endeavors, we pray; and grant that what we are given... what we find... and whatever is opened to us... will be employed for the furtherance of justice, unity and peace among the peoples of this earth. Amen.*

### *Military Graduation*

*Almighty God, we ask for Your blessing for these young men who have completed a difficult and challenging period of discipline and training. We know that You have taught us that whatever is good must be sought after with great persistence and effort. We therefore are grateful for these who have persevered and are now ready to serve You, their country, and their Navy as only a sailor can. Grant, we pray, that they may always bring honor to the Navy and to themselves. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *DI School Graduation*

*Almighty God, we gather here today to lay the mantle of responsibility and leadership on these men who have worked hard for many weeks to prove themselves worthy of this honor. For them we ask a special blessing that they may see in the task of building Marines an honored trust. Guide them and grant them wisdom, honesty, patience, determination, understanding, and honor. We would not forget also those who stand beside them-their wives and families.*

*May their support give strength and encouragement to these men as they go forth now to help prepare the future of the Marine Corps, a Corps dedicated to preserving the freedom and human dignity of all mankind. Amen.*

### *RTC Graduation*

*Our Father, we ask you for your blessing on these young men and women who have worked many difficult weeks and have given so much of themselves to arrive at this moment. Be their constant companion as they now take on the awesome responsibility of guiding and molding other young men and women into well disciplined and confident United States Marines. Keep them always aware of the high honor and trust placed on them by the Corps and their country.*

*Grant also to the wives and families of these men your blessing as they standby their husbands and fathers supporting and encouraging them in their honored task. In your name we pray. Amen.*

### *Military Graduation*

*Eternal Father, you have fashioned and created us as a people, and called us as a nation to a place of trust and leadership in the world.*

*We honor this evening young men and women who will shortly become apart of the Naval community. We pray that you may bless their intentions and their commitment to the welfare of our nation.*

*Guide them with wisdom, judgment and prudence in the careers they have chosen.*

*Bestow upon our country's leaders, wisdom and courage, that in their leadership we may be successful in maintaining peace with justice in this our day. Bless us all, as we go about the duties and responsibilities of our lives. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Equal Opportunity Luncheon*

*Father God, Creator of the universe and giver of life, thank you for the opportunity to seek after life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Help us, as agents of goodwill, always to be available to the collective as well as the individual needs of others. Give us a better understanding of the reasons why we exist and serve.*

*Thank you for the many gifts you have given to each of those present here today. Thank you for the friendships and service expressed. Help us all to be more useful in fulfilling your purpose of being peacemakers and the purpose of assisting in providing equal opportunity for all.*

*We affirm today, O Lord, that a better community and a better America begins with us. Bless now this gathering. Amen.*

### *Hospital Prayer*

*Bless us, Lord, as we watch with those who wake, or watch, or weep... bless us as we tend your sick ones... rest your weary ones... bless us as we pray for your dying ones... soothe your suffering ones.. give sympathy to your afflicted ones... shield your joyous ones... bless us that we may do these things for your name's sake. Amen.*

### *Chaplain Corps Seminar*

*Almighty and Eternal Father, you sent the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, who had gathered in the upper room, and enlightened their minds and strengthened their wills and inflamed their hearts so that they went forth with courage and confidence to proclaim Your word and will.*

*May we ask for the same outpouring of your grace in our hearts and minds this day.*

*Direct and guide our thoughts and minds during the days of this seminar, so that influenced and guided by your grace we may be instruments to strengthen and establish the Kingdom of God on earth. May it be a Kingdom of justice and truth, a kingdom of love and peace. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Medical Corps*

*Our Father God, we pause in this ceremony to ask for your divine blessing on all those who bind up the wounds of the injured and give relief to the sick. Especially on this occasion we remember the honored profession of the Navy Corpsmen who with courage and faithful devotion have carried so often their healing trade into the valley of the shadow of death. May their compassion for their fellowman inspire us all and guide us in our daily relationships with one another. Grant also Your blessing on this ceremony as we honor that nobleness and spirit that makes heroes of common men. In Your name we pray. Amen.*

### *ARC Commencement*

*God, our Creator and Sustainer, we ask your blessing on all who are here this morning to celebrate this commencement. Bless especially those who are leaving to start a new way of life -- give them sobriety and serenity.*

*Bless the staff with renewed faith in your power to heal. Bless the guests with understanding and patience for their recovering alcoholics. Bless the people just coming in this week and those continuing in the program with honesty, open mindedness, and willingness to recover. We ask all these blessings in your holy name. Amen.*

### *Retirement*

*A lot of men serve with honor... a lot of men come and go. Their spot is soon filled and the memory fades. Occasionally an unusual person emerges whose qualities are obvious. He makes all of us proud of what we are because of what he is. Such a man is (Name,) soon to be retired. Some of you may not know him but most of you do. We pray the Lord may be with him... grant him god speed, fair winds, and following seas. Amen.*

*Occasional Prayers*

*Decommissioning Invocation*

*O Lord, Our Heavenly Father, we invoke your divine blessing as we gather to decommission this United States Ship. She has rendered many years of distinguished service on behalf of freedom loving peoples and has upheld the highest traditions of the our Navy. We pay respect and tribute to the officers and men who sailed her on the high seas in times of war and peace. We express our gratitude for the preservation of this ship from the dangers of the sea, and the violence of the enemy and for bringing her safely to this hour. May we, like her, live our lives with a similar devotion that when our tour on earth is over, we may hear your "Well Done." In your holy name we pray. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Decommissioning*

*Our Heavenly father, we pray for your divine blessings upon us as we have gathered to bid farewell to a grand lady of the sea. She has been a sister and a mother to many a seafarer. She is a proud lady in her haze gray coat. She bears her years well. We will miss her!*

*For every man who walked her decks, for every engineer who gave her life, and for every officer who guided her, we give thanks. May they have fond memories of this lady, who brought romance and responsibility into their lives.*

*We ask that the unselfish spirit \_\_\_\_\_ of who gave her his name, live on in each of us. We pray that when we are called upon to defend liberty, we will quickly heed the call, and if necessary give our all that others may have the blessings that we now enjoy. May the sacrifice\_\_\_\_\_ of and the thousands like him, not soon be forgotten, but ever be our example.*

*And now, Eternal Father, be with every sailor, every marine, their families and their loved ones. Grant our leaders your wisdom, and grant us your continued presence and love. Amen.*

*Occasional Prayers*

*A Marine's Prayer*

*Dear God, in a world that's racked with war,  
Let me think of the coming years  
When the cannon's core has ceased its roar,  
And the nations dry their tears.  
Keep Thou my heart unblemished. Give  
Me strength to wait release;  
And let me live as a man should live  
In a fight for the God of Peace.*

*O Father, grant that I may last  
To build the world again;  
To know when pestilence is past  
A brotherhood of men.  
Bless Thou the aged with Thy light;  
Protect our troubled youth;  
And let me fight as a man should fight  
In a war for the God of Truth.  
Thy will be done, if Thou decree  
That I shall die a field.  
But let me go face to the foe  
Sustain me, lest I yield.  
Let no man cry he saw me fly  
The battle's agony.  
And let me die as a man should die  
In a fight for Liberty. Amen*

*Written by PFC G.E. Lord, USMC, in 1943 right after the 1st  
Marine Division left Guadalcanal.*

*Occasional Prayers*

*Marine Corps Birthday*

*Our Father, in whose name and trust we pray, we give you thanks for the blessings of liberty and freedom.*

*We are thankful for the honor and courage of United States Marines, both past and present.*

*We are grateful for the skill and determination of marines who have contributed to the continuation of that liberty and freedom. We are aware that those contributions have often been made at great personal sacrifice.*

*May those same values which have made the Marine Corps strong be renewed as marines celebrate this birthday.*

*We especially lift our prayer and thoughts for those marines and their families, and persons of other services, who are prisoners of war, and those missing in actions. Amen.*

*Benediction*

*Almighty Father, help us to remember that freedom does not automatically perpetuate itself; that we have to work at it, nurture it, protect it, and pray for it. That freedom, like faith, needs our attention and our cooperation. Lord, be with us now to strengthen us; about us, to keep us; above us, to protect us; beneath us, to uphold us; before us, to direct us; behind us, to keep us from straying; 'round about us, to defend us. Blessed are you, Our Father, forever and ever.*

*Amen.*

*Occasional Prayers*

*Change of Command Invocation*

*O God our Father, as we face a change of command, give us faith to believe that you make all things work together for good to them that love you.*

*Strengthen our conviction that your hand is upon us, to lead us and to use us in working out your purposes in the world. Even though we may not see the distant scene, let us be willing to take one step at a time and trust in you for the rest.*

*Give us a boldness of faith that has conviction as well as sentiment, and take from us all fear except the fear of failing to do your will.*

*Today we pray especially for open minds, a willingness to receive new light and to respond to new challenges. Let not the past be so dear to us that we attempt to enshrine it and thus limit the future. Keep our eyes and ears ever open to your truth and your word-so that we always may be ready to respond to you, however and whenever and wherever you happen to speak to us.*

*In your holy name we pray. Amen*

*Occasional Prayers*

*Navy Birthday Invocation*

*O God our Father, on this festive occasion, as we pause to celebrate the great heritage which is ours as members of the United States Navy, help us to make this a genuine celebration. Remind us, O God, of just how many fantastic accomplishments and achievements we can celebrate.*

*Remind us, that we can celebrate the maturation of thousands of young Americans-both male and female-who because of their service in the U. S. Navy, have sharpened their understanding of responsibility and honor.*

*Remind us that we can celebrate the countless hours of selfless sacrifice and devoted service evidenced by so many of our shipmates.*

*Remind us that we can celebrate the patience of those who accept without protest the hardships of shipboard life: living with seasickness, undergoing lengthy separations, enduring cramped living environments.*

*Remind us that we can celebrate an institution determined to eradicate every sign of prejudice and to provide equal opportunity for every human being.*

*O God, tonight as we eat and drink, and laugh, and dance, help us to do even more! Help us to celebrate! Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Prayer for Memorial Day*

*Eternal Father, who alone rules the destinies of nations and who has deemed that men should live in freedom and not fear, awaken in us a new appreciation of our land that we may apply ourselves to the great work of keeping alive a sense of freedom. Grant us your spirit as we honor those who have fought a good fight and finished the course. On this day we call to remembrance those who served in far off places and have laid down their arms to march into that land of eternal peace. We remember the sufferings, the fears and the horrors of what they endured. It is a time for us to realize that much of our best blood has been spilled-all over the world-so that we might live free and unchained! May they, and those who suffer wounds for peace, as well as their families who valiantly and silently also serve, receive rest from their struggles and a "well done" from you, Captain of their souls. Permit us never to forget our comrades-in-arms from whose fallen hands we have taken up the sacred cause of freedom. Today, we consecrate unto you the debt of our national gratitude which is their rightful due. Keep sacred their sacrifice in our hearts. Keep holy our course in your sight. Enkindle within us a flame of ceaseless unwavering devotion to duty that we may never be found wanting in those qualities of spirit and mind which alone are able to preserve hearth and home, the peace of our nation, and the tranquility of the world. We earnestly implore your providential care as we face the grim and great task which lies ahead. May the day soon come when we can lay down arms and more earnestly give our attention to do justice, to live in kindness, and to walk humbly in your sight. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Change of Command Invocation*

*O God, who art the confidence of all who dwell upon the earth and of them that are afar off upon the sea, hear our prayer for thy servants who defend their country on the oceans and maintain justice and freedom. Safeguard their lives amid the violence of foes. Keep them strong in faith, in courage, and in self-control. Let thy presence calm their minds in the hour of danger and hold them fast from temptation in times of ease. Enable them to fulfill their duty with fidelity throughout the voyage of life. Especially do we pray for our captain as he is relieved and as he assumes new duties, and for our new commanding officer as he assumes these responsibilities. Guide them both. We ask in your name. Amen.*

### *Change of Command Benediction*

*Our heavenly Father, we ask for your benediction to rest on us this day. As you have graciously preserved our nation through the years and have led us in wondrous ways, grant that we may be worthy of our high calling as a nation. Make us reverent in the use of freedom, just in the exercise of power, and generous in the protection of weakness. Inspire the men and women who direct our nation, that they may guide it wisely and well. Especially do we pray for our former commanding officer as he moves to new responsibilities and for our new commanding officer. Grant them in all their duties, your help; in all their perplexities, your counsel, in all danger, your protection; in all sorrow, your peace. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Ship Launching Invocation*

*Almighty God, we acknowledge your master design in all creation and your authority to direct our every act. How small our accomplishments seem when compared to the majesty and wonder of your works! Yet we stand with pride before this symbol of what human hands and minds can do, and celebrate the commitment of the men who will breathe life into this structure. We give you thanks for the skills and dedication that will keep this ship afloat and efficient through many miles of trackless oceans. May those who lead in this ship be granted wisdom in the ways of ships and men, and a tireless commitment to fair treatment of those in their charge. May those who serve aboard this ship be given patience and a firm sense of their own value as persons. But Lord, let not our enthusiasm distract us from a prayer for what even this ship cannot provide: peace on earth and good will toward all people. We pray that the people of this planet might receive the divine gift of your peace, and know justice, security and hope. Amen.*

### *Change of Command Benediction*

*Eternal Father, we pray that your blessing might rest upon this ship, her commanding officer and this crew. May they face with courage the dangers of the sea and the menace of hostile forces. Bring them safely through all threats. Strengthen and sustain their families who endure the stress, the separation and the sacrifices required to transform these many individuals into one efficient crew. Grant to each of us your grace. Grant to all of us your peace. Amen.*

*Occasional Prayers*

*Commissioning Prayer*

*Eternal Father, whose power is unsurpassed and whose desire is to give all nations peace on earth, help us to see with your eyes the significance of this event today. We ask that we maybe humbled and inspired by the willing sacrifice of the one we honor today whose name will forever honor this ship.*

*We commend to you, Lord, the honest labors of the men and women whose hands have given birth to this great vessel. We pray for your blessing on them and their families.*

*Father in heaven, we also pray for the sailors who will give life to this ship-the thousands over the years who will run her engines, cook her meals, fix her machines, hoist her flags, and guide her ways upon the great waters of this world. Grant to them the endurance to master the rigors of their duties. Grant them consolation in separation from families and home. Grant to them the courage needed for the dangers of war with angry seas and hostile forces.*

*O God, bless this ship; may she be in your hands an avenger to all who would disturb peace in the world. Make her a symbol of justice and freedom for all the world to see. And with her great might, may she always deter and never have to destroy. Bless the captain and all who have authority under him, that working together we may be pleasing to you, to whom authority belongs.*

*We ask this in your name. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Memorial Service*

*Two centuries ago Benjamin Franklin challenged a fledgling nation with these words: "Let us ever remember that our interests are in concord and not in conflict, and that our true greatness rests in our victories of peace rather than those of war. "*

*It is in the spirit of that challenge, that we offer this prayer: "Almighty God, we stand here today to pay tribute to brave people, living and dead, who have gone down to the sea in ships. Accept our thanksgiving for their sacrifices and the sacrifices of their families, that have purchased for us a free land. Cause us never to take for granted their devotion to liberty.*

*Grant, we pray, joy and fulfillment to those still living; and for those who are at rest, grant thy peace, until men everywhere `shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks . . . and learn of war no more'" " Amen.*

### *Marine Corps Birthday*

*O Lord, throughout the years the United States Marines have served with pride and dedication. The mission of the Marine Corps is not an easy one. Those of us who are marines are grateful to serve our country in its bravest Corps. We are grateful for past examples of readiness, courage, persistence and dedication. O God, help us as we seek to be always faithful, serving as you would have us serve, in this age and the ages to come. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Independence Day*

*God of our fathers, hooray for the fourth of July. Back home I people are celebrating our liberty with a holiday. They are having picnics and beach parties. They are enjoying county fairs and base ball games; eating hot dogs and drinking beer and cokes. In stadium bleachers or on grassy slopes, they are watching super colossal fireworks displays. They are hearing the Star Spangled Banner played. Maybe for a few brief moments they remember that our nation was "conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal "or that "all men are endowed b y their creator with the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. " For our men on the \_\_\_\_\_ today certainly wasn't a picnic or holiday. There were no bands playing stirring marches; no baton twirlers leading parades. There was instead devotion to duty. Men doing their jobs-whether moving stores and supplies, taking on fuel oil, transferring ammunition, sending and receiving messages, preparing and serving meals, or whatever each one of us does. There was not much freedom here, except the freedom to do our job well so that our countrymen can enjoy the freedoms we all hold dear. Bless this incredible company of professionals who love liberty so much that the v sacrifice their own celebration of it to work at preserving it. Grant to them restorative sleep and deep satisfaction. Amen.*

*The Marine's Prayer*

*Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow marines, my loved ones and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family. Give me the will to do the work of a marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my country and the Marine corps have entrusted to me. Make me considerate of those committed to my leadership. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold.*

*If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again.*

*Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer. Amen.*

*POW-MIA Day*

*Eternal God, for few moments tonight ree remember our ship-mates who have been prisoners of war are missing in action , As our nation observes a POW-MIA day of remembrance may their heroic example cause us, to look deep within ourselves to see what resources we might have to persevere. We have known the grief of death and the agony of not knowing about or loved ones. We pray, therefore, for fathers and mothers, wives and children who are not even given the cleansing of grief because hope still flickers. We are grateful to our compatriots for their sacrifice, their tenacity, their faithfulness. From them we learned again that you are our rock and salvation, our fortress and shield. Let it be so for us always,*

*Marine Corps Anniversary*

*Our God, our Father, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Corps, we ask that you grant your blessings upon all marines everywhere, but especially upon the marines of this \_\_\_\_\_ Grant that each may be aware of the tradition of which we are a part, and which has been entrusted to us by those who have gone before. May we strive to maintain the high standards of the Corps and so continue to serve our country and the cause of freedom, always trusting in you, our God, Amen.*

*Occasional Prayers*

*Change of Command*

*Dear Lord God,*

*As we gather to commemorate this changing of command, we are thankful for the promises of assistance we receive from you in your Word. We are reminded of the words of Isaiah*

*"Don't you know, haven't you heard? . . . the Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth! . . . the Lord cannot grow weary or tired . . . the Lord gives strength to the weary and power to the weak Youths grow tired and weary, young men stumble and fall.*

*Yet those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength  
- soar like eagles  
run and not grow weary walk and not grow faint*

*Father, we are thankful for the hope that these verses give us. We pray that you would give strength to these two men as they each assume new responsibilities and duties. For the individuals within this command, Father, we pray that these promises would be a reality in their lives as they accept the responsibility to be prepared for action anytime and anywhere. May your wisdom guide these two men in the many areas of challenge they will face. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Marine Corps Anniversary*

*O God, our Father, we come to you with grateful hearts on this the anniversary of our Corps. We are grateful for the illustrious history and honored tradition which is our heritage for the past years. But, we are equally grateful for the opportunity we have to add to that history and enhance that tradition. We serve you, our country and our Corps with great pride.*

*As we reflect on past years, we are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of our comrades in Lebanon and Grenada. But, by this tragedy, our resolve is strengthened and our courage renewed. By their sacrifice, we are made to reassess our commitment. May we never lose our loyalty and thereby dishonor their memory.*

*We are saddened by the loss of all friends and former members of this command. They will be sorely missed. We honor their devotion and contributions.*

*Now, O God, grant your blessings on each of us so that we may always serve honorably, putting our trust in you. Amen.*

### *Change of Command Benediction*

*Now as we pass the mantle of responsibility from one person to another, O Eternal God, we would call upon You to bless Help each person to realize the great responsibilities which are placed upon him/her by those in higher authority. May we dedicate to him/her our loyalty, our industry, and our best. May we take a fresh hold upon our duties that we may bring credit to our new commanding officer.*

*This is our prayer in God's name. Amen.*

*Occasional Prayers*

*Change of Command Invocation*

*Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we ask Your blessings today as we participate in this most impressive Navy tradition . . . the change of command ceremony. Today we honor the outstanding leadership \_\_\_\_\_ has given through these past years as \_\_\_\_\_*

*We offer special thanks for the personnel in this command who have given of their talents and dedication in service. For the spouses and families who have given encouragement and exercised more than their share of patience, we offer special thanks. Grant, O God, that each of us might realize our own self worth and the need for our talents exercised to the best of our abilities in this command, in our Navy, in our beloved country and in this Your world.*

*We pray that \_\_\_\_\_ may have good memories of the years he/she has commanded \_\_\_\_\_ Bless him/her in his/her new duty. Amen.*

*Occasional Prayers*

*Navy Day*

*O Eternal Father, strong to save, we pause to remember this  
\_\_\_\_\_ the anniversary of the founding of the Navy.*

*We remember all who have served in the air, on land, on sea,  
and under the sea.*

*Those whose lives were given in dark jungles, ocean depths,  
desert sands or on far distant bases and beaches.*

*May we recognize their contributions to the security of our  
nation.*

*Grant, O God, Your blessing and protection on all men and  
women who now serve in our Navy-on watch and on station around  
the world, from the Caribbean to the Mediterranean, from the  
shores of Lebanon to the Eastern Pacific and in the Middle East.*

*Preserve them from the dangers of sea and air and bring them  
safely to port. Put new meaning in our national commitment of  
"Peace through Strength" that we may truly strive to be instruments  
of peace in a distrustful world.*

*Amen.*

*Occasional Prayers*

*Commissioning Invocation*

*Dear Father in heaven,  
Many ships and many men have gone to sea.  
Some have sailed for conquest,  
Others to explore new worlds.*

*The officers and crew of \_\_\_\_\_ stand  
As you have created them.  
With blood from Europe, Asia, and Africa.  
Their colors are different,  
Their accents are different, even  
Their prayers are different.*

*But one quality is common –  
They are free!*

*Believing that all are created equal and  
That all share the same freedoms,  
Our Navy seeks no reward other than the  
Peace and Freedom that you have promised.*

*Lord, we now commission  
A new vessel of liberty.  
Medal it with honor,  
Forge it in faith so that  
All the world can say,  
"There is hope, there is freedom.  
Here comes the \_\_\_\_\_ "Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *The Prayer of a Midshipman*

*Almighty God, whose way is in the sea, whose paths are in the great waters, whose command is over all and whose love never faileth: Let me be aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and in deed, and helping me so to live that I can stand unashamed and unafraid before my shipmates, my loved ones, and Thee. Protect those in whose love I live. Give me the will to do my best and to accept my share of responsibilities with a strong heart and a cheerful mind. Make me considerate of those entrusted to my leadership and faithful to the duties my country has entrusted in me. Let my uniform remind me daily of the traditions of the service of which I am a part. If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again. Guide me with the light of truth and give me strength to faithfully serve Thee, now and always. Amen.*

*Two Bell Ceremony*

*[“Eternal Father” played very low at the beginning of the ceremony.]*

*The toll of the ship’s bell.  
Reminds us of the reverence.  
We owe to our departed shipmates.  
And to those who guard the honor.  
Of our country.  
Upon the seas.  
Under the seas.  
In the air.  
And upon foreign soil.  
Let us who gather here.  
Not forget our obligation.*

*[Stop playing “Eternal Father.”]*

*And in silence [delay while taps is played, lights off,  
spotlight on the bell only.]*

*[Lights on.]  
Breathe a prayer.  
For our absent shipmates.*

*Occasional Prayers  
Coast Guard Anniversary*

*Dear Father in Heaven,*

*On this day, we ask your blessing on a unique group of men and women. They represent all the continents and all the islands. They respond to all languages. They touch all nations, colors and creeds. They are, in fact, humanity at sea. That's why they are so precious to you, dear God, because they believe, just like you, that no call for help shall go unanswered. Like you, they labor long and hard to save all. Like you, they never give up until all are safely back in harbor. Like you, they give hope to the hopeless, rescue to the threatened and life to the dying. Who better deserves your blessing than they who share your providence so thoroughly.*

*Dear Father, you who breathe upon the waters, grant them all, on this anniversary, some of the joy and happiness that they have given to so many. And may the men and women of the United States Coast Guard be forever in your mercy, always part of your providence and close to your home port. Amen.*

*V-50*

*Occasional Prayers*

*A Prayer for the Coast Guard*

*To breathe upon the waters and give life, to safeguard the law, to rescue floundering souls from their pride or peril, these are the traits of the God of history. In their own way, dear Lord, the men and women of the Coast Guard have striven to imitate your mien and manner since those first cutters set sail in 1790. Their boldness and courage have encircled this land with a new prayer of hope, a cry of salvation rising from your imperiled, abandoned and lost, a phrase cherished by all the people of this land of promise. It resounds from coast to coast with the simple declaration, "Thank God, here comes the Coast Guard!"*

*On this anniversary, we invoke your blessings upon the oldest service of our nation. Bless our ships and our crews, bless those who command and those who serve and since, in your timelessness, you are as present to 1790 as you are to this day, bless this new world laden with old sins. Bless our country and especially bless our Coast Guard. And we promise you, dear Lord, that since you will not abandon these turbulent waters, then neither shall we. Amen.*

*Occasional Prayers*

*ARC Commencement*

*O Lord, we pause today to recognize Your presence among us at this important time in our lives. We may know you by different names: Higher Power, Father, Friend. We may sometimes doubt your love for us, or even your existence. Yet you continue to guide us, sometimes despite ourselves, and we are amazed at the miracles we see taking place in our lives. We thank you for even the hard times that have led to growth, for "tough love," and for true friends who cared enough to tell us the truth. We thank you, most of all, for a second chance at life. When the excitement of this ceremony fades, when we grow tired of working a program, when we grow restless, give us such a hunger for growth and serenity that we will have the courage to reach out for help. Teach us self-acceptance and patience so that we can face the truth and live one day at a time. Most of all, teach us how to truly live so that we may see the exciting, the unique, even the miraculous all around us. We commit ourselves to your care.  
Amen.*

*Inter-faith Benediction*

*May the Lord bless and keep us;  
May He grant us strength to live through troubled times;  
May He fill us with grace equal to every need and His peace which  
passes all understanding  
May He grant us the wisdom-and the will-to do justice, to love  
mercy, and to walk humbly with Him; and  
May He surround us with His love, and lead us in the paths of  
everlasting life. Amen.*

*Occasional Prayers*

*Launching*

*Almighty and eternal God, who art the fountain of all wisdom and power, we invoke Thy blessing upon this ship. We praise Thee for this memorable and climactic moment of human achievement. We rejoice that under the dispensation of Thy providence, in this particular moment of history, Thou has made it possible for the ingenuity, skill and labor of free people to bring this ship into being. May there come now, to those who have been laborers in its planning and construction, the inner satisfaction of having done their tasks worthily and well.*

*As we christen the we commend her to Thy guidance and care. Grant that her services may be used in the preservation of peace, and for war only when the defense of freedom shall so dictate.*

*To this petition we add also our supplications for the President of the United States and all others in authority. We ask Thy blessing, too, upon all who serve in the armed forces of our nation, particularly those who are making sacrifices in the troubled areas of the world. Be pleased to protect and uphold them with Thy love and care.*

*Finally, O God, unite us all in an eternal purpose, to preserve and bear aloft the torch of freedom and peace among nations. To Thy honor and glory we offer this prayer. Amen.*

## *Occasional Prayers*

### *Commissioning*

*O Thou Eternal God, who in the beginning did cause light and life to break forth out of darkness and chaos. Who didst separate the heavens from the earth, the land from the sea. Who with lavish hand didst cause broad prairies to appear for the growing of grain, streams and flowing waters for the giving of life, vast oceans for the bearing of commerce. Who didst create man in Thine own image to the end that in the enjoyment of life he might glorify Thee. We ask Thy blessing upon us and Thy presence with us in this time of dedication.*

*We are gathered on this solemn occasion to do honor to those who, by the ingenuity of mind, conceived this vessel; to give praise to those who by dint of mighty effort and sacrifice caused her to evolve from a naked keel into a great and proud ship. We pray for the officers and crew of this ship: for the young seamen too soon, perhaps, torn from the guiding influence of home and family; for the Petty Officers who have learned well the lessons taught in the school of experience; for the Officers who carry the heavy burden of responsibility; and for our captain who, in the loneliness of command, must make those final decisions that will affect the destiny of us all. We pray also for mothers and fathers, spouses and children who must one day stand upon a lonely shore and watch the departure of this ship on her mission of peace. Be with them in the quiet watches of the night and give them strength for every time of testing.*

### *Occasional Prayers*

*In our larger purpose, keep constantly before us our true mission as an instrument of peace and not of war. Expunge from our hearts and minds all hatred that causes divisions among Thy people. When decisions must be made that require moral courage, help us to choose that which is right and forsake that which is wrong, that honor might appear more desirable than personal gain, that loyalty might be revered above life. When the time comes for us to stand up and be counted, we pray that we might be numbered among those who are found faithful.*

*Be with us, Our Father, on all occasions that we may proudly bear the flag of the United States and the good will of her people to lands beyond the seas. Amen.*

### *Retirement*

*Eternal Father, we ask for a very special blessing. A blessing upon \_\_\_\_\_ who has given many years of service not only for his country but also for the God-ordained dream of peace in our world. Such service has meant sacrifices, chief of which has been the long separations from home and family. We rejoice with him on his retirement day. Bless the future years. May they be a time of enjoyment and peace, filled with the presence of loved ones and friends. In your name we pray. Amen.*

*Occasional Prayers*

*A Marine Memorial Prayer*

*For all of your blessings of the past, O Lord, we give you honest and humble thanks. For our homeland, with its torch of liberty shining bright welcome to exiles and refugees of oppression and persecution throughout the world, we praise you. Through your providence, O Lord, you have given our nation a position of high responsibility among the nations of the world and we entreat you for strength to shoulder the burdens of duty which you have placed upon us.*

*For the tenacity, courage, strength, and skill of fighting marines who on wild seas and hostile beaches, in steaming jungles and mud filled valleys, on icy mountains and in rubble-strewn cities, suffered and died for all the families of our land, we give you praise, O Lord, and in their memory dedicate ourselves anew to you, our country, and our Corps.*

*Occasional Prayers*

*We remember with solemn appreciation the heroic deeds of the marines who fought at Trenton, Bladensburg, Tripoli, and bloody Chapultepec. We commemorate the "devil dogs" of Belleau Wood, Soissons, St. Mihiel and the Argonne. We remember with deepest gratitude the valor and sacrificial struggle of our fathers and brothers of the United States Marine Corps who gave their lives in the defense of Bataan, Corregidor, and Wake Island. We remember those who died in the offenses of Guadalcanal, Tulagi, New Georgia, Bougainville, and Tarawa. Tinian, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. On the Pusan Perimeter and Inchon and the Chosi Reservoir. We hold in hallowed remembrance over 12,000 marines who gave their lives in Southeast Asia at Chu Lai, DaNang, Khe Sahn, Quang Tri, Cam Lo, Con Thein, Phu Bai, and Hue. We remember, Heavenly Father, those tragic hours of Lebanon.*

*For all marines who have given their lives in action on land, at sea, and in the air, we pause in tribute, O Lord.*

*[Playing of TAPS]*

*Indicates a single toll of the bell.*

## *Occasional Observances*

*From time to time, chaplains are called upon to plan special observances such as Memorial Services, Thanksgiving celebrations, National Prayer Breakfasts, etc. The following resources and sample services are presented to assist you in your planning.*

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*Scripture Resources:*

*PS 8, 77:11-20, 87, 126, 133*

*GEN. 37:12-20*

*EX. 3:7-12 AMOS 5:25*

*ZEPH. 3:8-10 IS 40:1-5, 42:1-7*

*ECCLESIASTICUS 44:1-4, 8-9, 10-15*

*MATT 5:1-2 MATT 22:34-40*

*MA TT 25:41-44 LUKE 6:26 36*

*I JOHN JAMES 2:5-9, 12-17*

*REV 21:1-7*

*REV 22:3-5*

*VI-1*

*Occasional Observances*

*A Service of Remembrance  
For Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*Opening Hymn . . . . . "Lift Every Voice and Sing"-  
Invocation*

*Commanding Officer's Tribute*

*Special Music . . . . . "If I Had a Hammer"*

*Old Testament Reading . . . . . Amos 5:25*

*Prayer*

*We give thanks to you, O Lord our God, for all your servants and witnesses of time past: for the patriarchs, lawgivers, apostles and martyrs. We remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. And especially today, we remember your servant, Martin Luther King, Jr. Grant that we may not rest until all people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in your holy name. Amen.*

*New Testament Reading . . . . . Matthew 5:1-2,  
25:41-44*

*Special Music . . . . . "His Eye is on the Sparrow"*

*Message*

*Special Music . . . . . "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"*

*A Reading . . . . . "I Have a  
Dream"*

*Closing Hymn . . . . . "We Shall Overcome"*

*Benediction*

*Occasional Observances*

*A Litany of Commemoration*

*LEADER: In the grand order of the universe, our Lord God wisely has chosen men and women to serve Him in each era. Such a servant of our Lord God was Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birth we now commemorate. We are thankful for the life of this 20th Century Prophet of Freedom, who joined the prophets of history in the cry:*

*CONGREGATION: In the name of freedom, let my people go.*

*LEADER: Martin Luther King, Jr. envisioned the ultimate freedom: the freedom achieved in struggle; the freedom reached in brotherhood; the freedom fired by the dream of a man; the freedom inspired by the lot of a people; the freedom free of hate; the freedom full of love.*

*CONGREGATION: In the name of the freedom of love, let my people go.*

*LEADER: He came into our lives when the yearning of people to be free had turned their attention to justice. For justice, and only justice, we shall follow, that we may live and inherit the land which the Lord our God gives us.*

*CONGREGATION: In the name of justice, let my people go.*

*LEADER: He reminded us that the spirit of man soars from depths of despair with the strength and belief in the promise of the Creator of the universe. We know and we testify: The Lord loves justice... He will not forsake his saints.*

*CONGREGATION: In the name of the Lord, let my people go.*

*LEADER: And so he set off with us on a journey for justice. It was a journey proclaiming the words of the ancient prophet, Amos.- "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream." It was a journey calling forth the modern Christian ministry to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.*

*CONGREGATION: In the name of the prophet, Amos, and in the name of the suffering people, let my people go.*

*Occasional Observances*

*LEADER: The journey went to Montgomery, to affirm human dignity and courage; to Birmingham, to defeat the sickness of separating human life; to Selma, to ensure the equality of people in human affairs; to a hundred nameless communities to remove painful shackles of oppression and light joyous torches of liberty.*

*CONGREGATION: In the name of this journey toward freedom, let my people go.*

*LEADER: When war was encountered, the leader of this journey sang with the people: "Ain't gonna study war no more." When violence was met, he spurned it and said.- "Hate is too great a burden to bear."*

*CONGREGATION: In the name of the Promised Land, let my people go.*

*LEADER: So we are thankful that the Spirit of the Lord anointed a man who preached good news to the poor, who rejected segregation and embraced liberation, who prophesied the greatness of his people in struggle for the deliverance of all people.*

*CONGREGATION: In the name of the Spirit of the Lord, let by people go.*

*LEADER: We praise the Lord God for sending us a man of peace who resisted tyranny, a man of nonviolence who fought for liberty, a man of God who worked for people. Thank you, Lord, for Martin Luther King, Jr., who inspired us with his dream, who walked into our lives and our hearts with marches for justice, who demanded freedom with great courage in the face of great danger, and who has now passed on into your Promised Land. Thank you for his noble legacy to continue the journey to that land here on earth, in life for all people. Thank you, God. You have sent us one who now causes us to say:*

*ALL: In the name of Martin Luther King, Jr., let my people go.*

*Occasional Observances*

*Memorial Services/ Memorial Day*

*Scripture Resources:*

*PS 23, 27, 42, 46, 90 JOHN 10:11-16  
103:13-22, 106, 116, IS 61:1-3  
121, 130, 139 LAMENTATION 3:22-26, 31-33  
IS 25:6-9 REV 7:9-17  
WISDOM 3:1-9 REV 21:2-7  
1 COR 15:50-58 11 COR 4:16-5:9  
JOHN 5:24-27 I JOHN 3:1-2  
JOHN 11:21-27*

*A Memorial Service*

*Opening*

*In the midst of life we are in death;  
from whom can we seek help?  
From you alone, U Lord,  
- who by our sins are justly angered.*

*Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy and merciful Savior,  
deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.*

*Lord, you know the secrets of our hearts;  
shut not your ears to our prayers,  
but spare us, O Lord.  
Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy and merciful Savior,  
deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.*

*O worthy and eternal Judge,  
do not let the pains of death  
turn us away from you at our last hour.*

*Holy God, Holy and Mighty,  
Holy and merciful Savior,  
deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.*

*Hymn - Armed Forces Hymnal 310, 135, 509*

*Occasional Observances*

*A Memorial Service (continued)*

*Responsive Reading - Armed Forces Hymnal 643, 670, 679, 701, or  
Psalm above ,'*

*Scripture*

*Homily/Address*

*Special Music*

*Litany - Armed Forces Hymnal, page 643*

*Prayer - Armed Forces Hymnal, 759, 760*

*Benediction/ Dismissal*

*Hymn - Armed Forces Hymnal 73, 198  
See also Armed Forces Hymnal No. 625*

*VI-6*

*Occasional Observances*

*Independence Day/ Patriotic Occasions*

*Scripture Resources:*

*PS 33, 107:1-32 REVELATION 21:1-7 PS 145 or 145:1-9*

*ECCLESIASTICUS 10:1-8, 12-18 DEUT. 10:17-21 JAMES 5:7-10*

*HEBREWS 11:8-16 MICAH 4:1-5 MATT 5:43-48*

*A Service for Independence Day*

*Opening/Call to Worship*

*"Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord!*

*Happy the people He has chosen to be his own!"*

*PS 33:12*

*Hymn - Armed Forces Hymnal 198, 200*

*Posting of Colors*

*National Anthem*

*Prayer for our Country*

*Responsive Reading - Armed Forces Hymnal 702, or one of the  
Psalms listed above*

*Scripture*

*VI-7*

*Occasional Observances*

*A Service For independence Day (continued)*

*Response - Armed Forces Hymnal 530, 543, err*

*" O ruler of the universe, Lord God,  
great deeds are they that you have done,  
surpassing human understanding.  
Your wars are ways of righteousness and truth,  
O King of all the ages.*

*Who can fail to do homage, Lord  
and sing the praises of your Name?  
for you only are the Holy One.  
All nations will draw near and fall down before you  
because your just and holy works have been revealed,"*  
*REV 15::3-4*

*Address*

*Special Music/ Hymn – Armed Forces Hymnal 190, 200*

*Prayer*

*Retire Colors - Song: Armed Forces Hymnal 193 /194*

*Benediction*

*Hymn- Armed Forces Hymnal 198, 193, 194*

*Postlude*

*See also Armed Forces Hymnal No. 6?6*

*VI-8*

*Occasional Observances*

*Labor Day*

*Scripture Resources:*

*PS 107: 1-9, 90:1-2, 16-17*

*1 COR 3:10-14*

*ECCLESIASTICUS 38:27-32*

*MATT 6:19-24*

*A Service for Labor Day*

*Opening/ Call to Worship*

*"He concentrates on completing the task,  
and stays up late to give it a perfect finish."  
Ecclesiasticus 38:28*

*Responsive Reading - Armed Forces Hymnal 669 or Psalm above*

*Hymn - Armed Forces Hymnal 172, 475*

*Prayer - Armed Forces Hymnal 797*

*Scripture Reading*

*Hymn - Armed Forces Hymnal 200*

*Homily/Address*

*Special Music*

*Prayer/ Benediction - Armed Forces Hymnal 826, 831*

*Hymn - Armed Forces Hymnal 187*

*See also Armed Forces Hymnal No. 626*

*Occasional Observances*

*Thanksgiving*

*Scripture Resources:*

*PS 65 or 65:9-14*

*DEUT 8:1-3, 6-10*

*JAMES 1:17-18, 21-27*

*MATT 6:25-33*

*Prayer*

*Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season, and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

*A Service for Thanksgiving*

*Opening sentence - "Give thanks to the Lord, and call upon his Name; make known his deeds among the peoples." Ps 105:1*

*Hymn - Armed Forces Hymnal 74, 50, 52*

*Responsive Reading - Armed Forces Hymnal 661, 702, or Psalm listed above*

*Scripture*

*Homily*

*Hymn - Armed Forces Hymnal 75, 82, 52, 344*

*Special Music*

*Offering*

*Prayer & Benediction - Armed Forces Hymnal 814, 815*

*Hymn - Armed Forces Hymnal 46, 50*

*VI-10*

*Occasional Observances*

*Peace*

*Scripture Resources:*

*PS 85:7-13*

*JOHN 16:23-33*

*COLOSSIANS 3:12-15*

*EPHESIANS 2:13-15*

*MICAH 4:1 5 MATT 5:43-48*

*Prayer:*

*Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love. Amen.*

*A Service for Peace*

*Opening/Call to Worship*

*"Mercy and truth have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other."*

*Psalm 85:10*

*Song - "Let There Be Peace On Earth" or Armed Forces Hymnal  
400*

*Prayer - Armed Forces Hymnal 793, 799, or above*

*Responsive Reading - Armed Forces Hymnal 667 or Psalm above*

*Scripture*

*Hymn - Armed Forces Hymnal 175, 176*

*Homily*

*Special Music*

*Prayer and Benediction*

*Hymn - Armed Forces Hymnal 403, 420*

*See also Armed Forces Hymnal 615*

*VI-11*

*Occasional Observances*

*Prayer Breakfast*

*Introduction*

*Colors*

*National Anthem/Pledge of Allegiance*

*Invocation/ Blessing of meal*

*Meal*

*Introduction of guests*

*Scripture reading*

*Special music*

*Address Prayer/Silent reflection*

*Benediction*

*Hymn/ Song*

*O GOD our Father,*

*You have commanded the light to shine out of darkness and awakened us again to praise your goodness and to ask your favor. Accept now the sacrifice of our worship and thanksgiving. Make us to be children of the light and of the day, heirs of your everlasting inheritance. Remember, O GOD, all our brothers who stand in need of your favor on land or sea, in air or space. May our lives ever praise your wonderful and holy name. Amen.*

*VI-12*

*Occasional Observances I*

*A Litany in Memory of Dr. Martin Luther King,*

*CH: O Lord. Have mercy upon us.*

*ALL: O God, Have mercy upon us.*

*CH: O Lord. Have mercy upon us.*

*CH: From hypocrisy used to save face and create the illusion of  
commitment to racial justice and equality*

*ALL: Save us, Lord.*

*CH: From the death of our souls and the deadening of our hearts  
to the cries of the poor and the disenfranchised*

*ALL: Save us, Lord.*

*CH: From misplaced priorities; seeking personal security and,  
advantage without accepting or understanding the  
consequences of our actions in the lives of others.*

*ALL: Help us, Lord.*

*CH: For a curious spirit that seeks out and secures an environment  
in which we respect the rights, differences, and potential of  
other human beings.*

*ALL: Help us, Lord.*

*CH: We acknowledge that words hurt, insensitivity to the realities  
of racial injustice crushes the human spirit and that our  
unwillingness to accept true commitment to change embitters  
us all.*

*Occasional Observances*

*ALL: Help us, Lord.*

*CH: That each of us might understand that the wrong we find in another is essentially a reflection of that which we fear or desire in ourselves; that we learn to trust one another and thus find hope.*

*ALL: Help us, Lord.*

*CH: That my brothers and sisters would not hold me accountable for another's wrong and would accept my individuality and the right to be myself.*

*ALL: Help us, Lord.*

*CH: That we may simply grow tired of finding fault and seeking evidence to justify our distorted views of each other's actions.*

*ALL: Help us, Lord.*

*CH: For this ship, and all aboard her; that we may learn to deal with racial tensions with honesty and fairness; that we may come to appreciate that our own way of life can encourage comraderie and change.*

*ALL: Help us, Lord.*

*CH: That our prayers may be more than empty soundings; but rather evidence of our conviction to actively seek peace and equality among the races.*

*ALL: Praise be to our God!!*

*CH: Praise be to our God!*

*VI-14*

## *Burial At Sea*

### *SOME SUPPLEMENTARY THOUGHTS ON BURIAL AT SEA*

*The manual Navy Military Funerals (NA VPERS 15555A), published in October 1980, needs some additional practical words with special reference to burials at sea.*

#### *A. Shipboard Committals*

*1. In choosing the day for a committal at sea, remember rough water is "softer" than a calm sea. If a casket is to be committed to the deep, it is helpful to recall that the less freeboard and the rougher the water, the better chance there will be for the casket to enter the water intact and sink immediately.*

*2. In the committal of ashes (cremains), it is recommended that the container(s) be opened before hand in the privacy of the chaplain's office. There is great variety in the way cremains are encased; sometimes cardboard containers are used, sometimes metal canisters. Urns are fastened in a variety of ways. Make certain you have the necessary tools to open the container.*

*3. There is variation in kind and amount of ashes. The cremains of a large man weigh up to 9 lbs. and are made up of bone chips. The ashes of a newborn infant are no more than a teaspoon of fine powder in a small plastic bag.*

*4. During the committal the ship should remain underway with scattering done in such a way that ashes blow away from the ship. It may be that the chaplain should kneel near the rail (be sure to have someone with a steadying hand on your shoulder) while scattering the ashes. Also, be sure to check the wind direction.*

#### *B. Committals from Aircraft*

*1. Scattering ashes from an aircraft over water is much the same as that from a ship. Again the container(s) should have been opened before-hand.*

*2. Seek the advice of the aircraft crew chief. When using a helicopter it is recommended that a small pinch of ashes be scattered first to determine their direction. They should go out away from the aircraft. Remember, ashes could foul the engine in the air.*

## *Burial at Sea*

3. *The water should be visible from the aircraft, and if containers are to be discarded; they should sink immediately or be "biodegradeable".*

### *C. General Observations*

1. *if the family" has requested that the urn or container be returned following the committal, it is recommended that all traces of 'the ashes be removed.*

2. *Careful preparation is the key to providing a dignified and fitting burial/committal at sea. The solemn ceremony offers a great teaching opportunity on the way we deal with death --our own and that of others.*

3. *Among the things that are "nice to do", try to arrange for a picture of the committal. Include this with your letter along with a copy of the ship's chart showing the location and a copy of the quartermaster's log.*

### *D. Suggested Services*

1. *The following represent an updating and revision of the suggested services in Navy Military Funerals (NA VPFRS 15555A).*

## *Burial At Sea*

### *Service for Burial of a Person of the Protestant Faith*

*1. During the burial service, if for a person of a protestant faith, the - commanding officer or other person appointed by him/her shall stand near the remains and face in such a way that he/she will be heard by all present and may read all or part of the following.-*

#### *2. The Scripture:*

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will we not fear, though the earth do change, and though the mountains be shaken into the heart of the seas. For God is our God forever and ever. He will be our guide even unto death. (Psalm 46)*

*The Scripture lesson: (John 12:23-26)*

*If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave Him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

#### *3. The Prayers:*

*O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered, make us deeply sensible of the shortness and uncertainty of human life; and let your Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days that, when we have served you in our generation, we may be gathered unto our fathers, having the testimony of a good conscience; in the communion of the is Christian Church; in the confidence of a certain faith; in the comfort of a reasonable, religious and holy hope; in favor with you our God, and in perfect charity with the world; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.*

*Burial At Sea*

*O God, we pray that the memory of our comrade, (name) (fallen in battle) may be ever sacred in our hearts; that the sacrifice which he/she has offered for our country's cause may be acceptable in your sight; and that an entrance into your eternal peace may, by your pardoning grace, be open to him/her, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

*4. The Committal.-*

*Unto almighty God we commend the soul of our brother/sister departed, and we commit his/her body (ashes) to the deep (for burial at sea... tilt the board and release the remains into the sea), in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection unto eternal life, through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

*5. The Benediction:*

*The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.*

## *Burial At Sea*

### *Service for Burial of a Person of the Catholic Faith*

*During the burial service, if for a person of Catholic faith, the commanding officer or such person as appointed by him/her shall stand near the remains and face in such away that he/she will be heard by all present and may read all or part of the following:*

#### *1. Prayer*

*Lord God, through your mercy, those who have lived in faith find eternal peace.*

*Forgive the sins of our brother)sister whose body we bury here.*

*Welcome him/her into your presence, and with your saints let him/her rejoice in your joy forever.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

*ALL: Amen.*

*Our brother)sister has gone to hill her rest in the peace of Christ. With faith and hope in eternal life, let us commend him) her to the loving mercy of our Father. Assist him/her with our prayers.*

*He/she became God's son/daughter through baptism and was often fed at the table of our Lord. May the Lord now welcome him) her to the table of God's children in heaven, and with all the saints, may he/she inherit the promise of eternal life.*

*Let us also pray to the Lord for ourselves. May we who mourn be reunited one day with our brother)sister. Together may we meet Christ Jesus who is our life, when he shall appear in His glory.*

#### *2. Scripture (John 12:23-26) Jesus said.-*

*"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I solemnly assure you, unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But, if it dies, it produces much fruit. The man who loves his life loses it, while the man who hates his life in this world preserves it to life eternal.*

*If anyone would serve me, let him follow me; where I am, there will my servant be.*

*If anyone serves me, him the Father will honor."*

#### *3. Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 93)*

*ANT.- Of earth you formed me, with flesh you covered me;*

*Burial At Sea*

*Lord, My Redeemer, raise me up again at the last day. The Lord is king, in splendor robed; robed is the Lord and girt about with strength; and he has made the world firm, not to be moved.*

*ANT. Of earth you formed me, with flesh you covered me.*

*Lord, My Redeemer, raise me up again at the last day. Your throne stands firm from of old, from everlasting you are, O Lord.*

*ANT. Of earth you formed me, with flesh you covered me.*

*Lord, My Redeemer, raise me up again at the last day. The floods lift up, O Lord, the floods lift up their voice; the floods lift up their tumult. More powerful than the roar of many waters, more powerful than the breakers of the sea... powerful on high is the Lord*

*ANT. Of earth you formed me, with flesh you covered me;*

*Lord, My Redeemer, raise me up again at the last day. Your decrees are worthy of trust indeed: holiness befits your house, O Lord, for length of days.*

*ANT. Of earth you formed me, with flesh you covered me; Lord, my Redeemer, raise me up again at the last day.*

*4. Song of Farewell*

*V. Saints of God, come to his(her) aid! Come to meet him(her), angels of the Lord!*

*R. Receive his(her) soul and present him(her) to God the Most High.*

*V. May Christ who called you, take you to himself may angels lead you to Abraham's side.*

*R. Receive his(her) soul and present him(her) to God the most high.*

*Burial At Sea*

*V. Give him(her) eternal rest, O Lord, and may your light shine on him(her) for ever.*

*R. Receive his(her) soul and present him(her) to God the most High.*

*5. The Committal*

*Father, into your hands we commend our brother (sister). We are confident that with all who have died in Christ he(she) will be raised to life on the last day and live with Christ forever.*

*We commend our brother(sister) to you, Lord (for burial at sea... tilt board and release remains into the sea). Now that he(she) has passed from this life, may he(she) live on in your presence. In your mercy and love, forgive whatever sins he(she) may have committed through human weakness. We ask this through Christ our Lord. All. Amen.*

*6. Benediction*

*V. Give him(her) eternal rest, O Lord.*

*R. And may your light shine on him(her) forever.*

*VII-7*

*Burial At Sea*

*Service for Burial of a Person of the Jewish Faith*

1. During the burial for a person of the Jewish faith, the commanding officer, or such persons appointed by him/her, shall stand near the remains and face in such a way that he/she will be heard by all present and may read all or part of the following:

2. Scripture:

*Adonai natan:*

*Lord, Thou has given. Thou did give unto us our dear .... For all that was good and endearing in his/her life, we offer the deepest thanks of our hearts.*

*Adonai lakah:*

*Lord, Thou has taken, Thou has called him/her unto Thyself. We pray Thee, O God, for the courage to make our broken hearts an altar before which we acknowledge Thy sovereignty and love, as we say,*

*Y'he shem Adonai mevorah:*

*May Thy name be blessed now and forevermore. Amen.*

*O Lord, what is man that Thou dost regard him, or the son of man that Thou dost think of him? Man is like a breath, his days are like a passing shadow. Thou dost sweep men away; they are like a dream, like grass which is renewed in the morning,- in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. The years of our life are threescore and ten, or even by reason of strength fourscore; yet their pride is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Mark the blameless man, and behold the upright, for there is posterity for the man of peace. Surely God will ransom my soul from the grave; for He receives me indeed. The Lord redeems the souls of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned. The dust returns to the earth as it was, but the spirit returns to God who gave it.*

*Burial At Sea*

*(Passages from Psalms)*

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He has me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside the still waters. He guides me on paths of righteousness, He revives my soul for the sake of His glory. Though I walk in the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no harm, for You are with me. Your staff and Your rod do comfort me. You set a table in sight of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil,- my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall abide in the house of the Lord forever.*  
*(Psalm 23)*

*Take unto thyself our comrade who has given his/her love to this great country. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*

*3. Memorial Prayer*

*Ail Malai Rahamem*

*O God, exalted and full of compassion, grant perfect peace in Your sheltering Presence, among the holy and pure, to the soul of who \_\_\_\_\_ has gone to his/her eternal home. Master of mercy, we beseech You remember all the worthy and righteous deeds that he/she performed in the land of the living. May his/her soul be bound up in the bond of life. The Lord is his/her portion. May he/she rest in peace. Let us say: Amen.*

*4. Committal:*

*Out of the depths have I called Thee, O Lord. Lord, hearken unto my voice; let Thine ear be attentive to the voice of my supplications. I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, and in His word do I hope. My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, yea, more than watchmen for the morning. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

*My spirit I commit to God, my body, too, and all I prize; Both when I sleep and when I wake, He is with me, I shall not fear.*

*Burial At Sea*

*Into thy hands, O Lord, we commend the soul of Thy servant departed, now called unto eternal rest. (For burial at sea- "and we commit his/her body to the deep" tilt the board and release the body into the sea).*

*S. Benediction:*

*O Lord, help us to understand that grief and love go hand in hand, that the sorrow of loss is but the measure of a love that is stronger than death. Even though we cry in the bereavement of our hearts, may we be as children who know that their father is near and who cling unafraid to the trusted hand. In this spirit, O Thou Who art the Master of our destiny, do we commit all that is precious to us into Thy keeping, as we repeat the words hallowed by generations:*

*Mourner's Kaddish*

*Yit-gadal v yit-kadash sh'mey raba, AP  
B'alma di v'ra hirutey, v yam-lih mal-hutey  
B'ha-yey-hon uv-yomey-hon uv-ha-yey d'hol beyt yisrael  
Ba-agala u-vizman kariv, v'imru Amen.*

*Y'hey sh'mey raba m'varah l'alam ul-almey alma-ya.*

*Yit-barah v yish-tabah v yit pa-ar v yit-romam v yit-na-sey  
V yit-hadar v yit-aleh v yit-halal sh'mey dkud-sha,  
B'rih hu, l'eyla min kol bir-hata v'shi-rata  
Tush-b'hata v'ne-hemata da-amiran b'alma, Vimru Amen.*

*Y'hey sh'lama raba min sh'ma-ya  
V'ha yim aleynu Val kol yisrael, v'imru Amen.*

*Oseh shalom bi-m'romav hu ya-aseh shalom  
Aleynu Val kol yisrael, v'imru Amen.*

*Magnified and sanctified be God's great name in the world which  
He has created according to His will. May He establish His  
kingdom soon, in our lifetime. Let us say: Amen.*

*Burial At Sea*

*May His great name be praised to all eternity. Hallowed and honored, extolled and exalted, adored and acclaimed be the name of the Holy One, though He is above all the praises, hymns, and songs of adoration which men can utter. Let us say: Amen.*

*May God grant abundant peace and life to us and to all Israel. Let us say: Amen.*

*May He who ordained harmony in the universe grant peace to us and to all Israel. Let us say: Amen.*

*May He who comforts Israel, grant solace in your bereavement.*

## *Inclusive Language*

### *Notes on Inclusive Language*

*"Standby for Evening Prayer . . . "With these or similar words, the chaplain has an opportunity to exercise a unique privilege: to pray on behalf of an entire ship.*

*The chaplain's words are meant to express the gratitude and petition of the Captain on his bridge chair as well as the isolated seaman on watch in aftersteering.*

*During an Evening Prayer, Change of Command or other civic ceremony, a chaplain has an unparalleled challenge and a captive audience. If the words the chaplain chooses are inclusive, every member of ship's company will be able to say, "Amen."*

*The prayers included in this binder are provided as models. They are examples of attempts to carefully craft words, strike a responsive chord and solicit a unanimous affirmation.*

*VIII-I*

## *Inclusive Language*

### *NOTES ON INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE*

#### *A. In Worship*

*Preaching: The chaplain in both prophetic and teaching roles has a responsibility to assist the congregation in developing as an inclusive community. Using inclusive terms and choosing illustrations and anecdotes which reflect the worth and contribution to our heritage of all persons will help to provide the necessary vision and leadership.*

*Using the Bible: Some versions of the Bible have not dealt with problems of male-oriented language. It may be helpful to make a few brief comments or print a statement recognizing the limitations of the passage with respect to gender-based language. This action, taken with care, can help listeners or readers to include each other and themselves in the message.*

*Prayer and praying. Suggestions in the preceding sections apply also to the formulation of individual free prayers and to the creation or adaption of prayers for group use. Traditional prayers provide a link with those who have worshipped over the years but they may require some adjustments to accommodate the needs of persons who might feel themselves excluded by the language a prayer offers.*

*Carefully selected published prayers, carefully worded written prayers, and sensitively phrased extemporaneous prayers can give individual worshippers a sense of being a part of the community of faith.*

*Selecting Hymns: Many traditional hymns contain language and imagery that are out of date. Yet, the hymns are understandably dear to the hearts of persons who have grown up singing them and who have many emotional associations related to them. To deal with the problem, there are several choices: discard those hymns, change the implied sexism (as well as the imperialism and racial prejudice) of some hymns by re-wording, or using them less frequently and provide opportunities to learn contemporary hymns of good quality. In fairness to a wide variety of tastes, discarding hymns is perhaps not a real choice. Freedom to change the words depends on copyright restrictions and upon the availability of substitute words that fit the metre and the feeling of the hymn. Where appropriate, educational materials might assist chaplains and teachers with suggestions for optional word changes in the hymns or songs provided for worship.*

## *Inclusive Language*

### *B. Handling References To Worship Participants And Others*

*When using official liturgies or when preparing an informal worship service, it is relatively easy to use language which includes everyone both in referring to the worshippers themselves and to other people.*

*Showing consideration in this way follows the example found in I Corinthians 10:33; "For my part I always try to meet everyone halfway, regarding not my own good but the good of the many. So that they may be saved." (NEB)*

*Writing rubrics: Some suggestions for writing rubrics (directions for actions of leaders and participants) may be appropriate. Use noun forms when referring to the leader-minister, leader. Avoid the use of pronouns-the minister says; the leader says; the minister kneels; the leader may add these words. To refer to the participants, use a collective noun-the congregation; the worshippers; all the officer select; friends; or use brother(s) and sister(s). If nouns are neuter, do not refer back to them with gender-related pronouns. Continue to use collective nouns throughout.*

*Addressing groups or individuals: When addressing an assemblage, expressions such as brothers and sisters, Christians, people of God, or friends, create a inclusive feeling.*

*When addressing or referring to individuals, brother(s) and sister(s), friend(s), or given names with or without surnames, promote an inclusive atmosphere.*

*Combinations like Jim and Jane Clark or LT and Mrs. Brown convey a greater feeling or equality than Jim and Mrs. Brown, CDR John Brown and his wife, or Mrs. Brown and her husband.*

*Similarly, the phrase husband and wife places two people on an equal footing in a way that man and wife does not.*

*The following suggestions provide examples of words and phrases which when used appropriately can promote an inclusive feeling in worship materials. Materials devised for specific occasions lend themselves to these inclusive useages. But even when using published liturgical materials, consider substituting some of the suggested words and phrases for less inclusive, male-oriented language.*

*Inclusive Language*

<i>Traditional Expressions</i>	<i>Inclusive Expressions</i>
<i>Brotherhood, fraternity</i>	<i>Community, companionship, comradeship, family, kinship, friendship, partnership, unity</i>
<i>Fellowship</i>	<i>Communion</i>
<i>Forefathers</i>	<i>Ancestors, forerunners, forebears</i>
<i>Man, mankind</i>	<i>All of us, everyone, folk, heirs, human race, humans, human beings, humankind, humanity, individual people, persons, sisters and brothers</i>
<i>Personal male pronouns used generically</i>	<i>He or she; use indefinite pronoun such as "who" when it applies; "they" if grammatical</i>
<i>Sons of God</i>	<i>Children of God</i>
<i>The common man</i>	<i>The average person, the ordinary citizen</i>
<i>The family of man</i>	<i>The human family, human race</i>