

**Memorial Day  
May 21, 2017**

**I am with you always, until the end of time**  
*May the eyes of our hearts be enlightened that we may know  
what is the hope that belongs to us all*

Today is Memorial Day! It was borne out of the Civil War in the desire to honor the dead. It was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Army of the Republic. The South refused to acknowledge it until it honored Americans who died fighting in any war.

There are many faces to Memorial Day for us. It is a time to celebrate, a time to remember, a time to honor, a time to mourn, and a time to carry.



**The Civil War: a Time to Celebrate**

Mine eyes have seen the glory  
of the coming of the Lord;  
He is trampling out the vintage  
where the grapes of wrath are stored;

He hath loosed the fateful lightning  
of His terrible swift sword;  
His truth is marching on.  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
His truth is marching on.

*Lord God, if we are forced to fight, first turn the hearts of our enemies to the desire for peace, so that no blood may be spilt upon this earth. With the end of war, we will sing songs of triumph with one accord to you, who reign in all, and above all. Amen.*



**World War I: A Time to Remember**

In Flanders field the poppies blow,  
Between the crosses, row on row,<sup>SEP</sup>  
That mark our place: and in the sky,  
The larks still bravely singing fly.<sup>SEP</sup>

Scarce heard amid the guns below,  
We are the dead. Short days ago,  
We lived, felt dawn,  
Saw sunset glow.<sup>SEP</sup> Loved and were loved:  
and now we lie In Flanders field!

Take up our quarrel with the foe<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
To you, from failing hands, we throw<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
The torch: be yours - to hold it high.<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
If ye break faith with us who die,<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
In Flanders field.

*Blessed are you, Lord our God. You uphold us in life and sustain us in death.  
Shed your light upon us as we walk in the shadow of darkness,  
remembering that death is the gateway to life  
and fellowship with you for ever. Amen.*



### **World War II and Korea: a Time to Honor**

A call to duty is sent out  
and the strong and the brave reply.  
They do it for love of country,  
so there's never a need to ask why.

They leave behind all that they love,  
Their families, their homes and their lives,  
Because to preserve these precious things  
Is the goal for which each soldier strives.

So God bless our troops,  
The courageous women and men,<sup>[SEP]</sup> Who fight to make sure  
The bells of freedom peal again.

*Lord God, relieve the sufferings of the innocent; grant them peace of mind.  
In your kindness, watch over refugees and victims of war. Show your kindness  
to strangers and to all in need, through Christ the Lord.*



### **Vietnam: A Time to Mourn**

Where have all the soldiers gone?  
Long time passing.  
Where have all the soldiers gone?  
Long time ago.

Where have all the soldiers gone?  
Gone to graveyards every one.  
When will they ever learn?  
When will they ever learn?

*Lord God, we are reminded today that our soldiers fight in many ways for our sake,  
and we ask you to intervene in each of one of them with your kindness and love.  
Minister to their every need. Give them renewed hope and cheer this day,  
and every day, in every way, to come back safely home again. Amen*



**Afghanistan and Iraq: A Time to Carry**

The road is long to who knows where.<sup>[L][SEP]</sup>  
But I am strong enough to carry the load.<sup>[L][SEP]</sup>  
He ain't heavy, he's my brother,  
She ain't heavy, she's my sister.

It's a long, long road of no return.<sup>[L][SEP]</sup>  
But while on the way why not share the load.<sup>[L][SEP]</sup>  
Doesn't weigh me down at all  
He ain't heavy, he's my brother,  
She ain't heavy, she's my sister.

*“The Lord is our shepherd; we shall not want. He makes us to lie down  
in green pastures; He leads us beside still waters. He restores our souls.  
Though we walk through the valley of darkness, we will fear no evil,  
for you are at our side. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us  
all the days of our lives; and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”*

**I am with you always, until the end of time**

*Lord our God whether this Memorial Day be for us a time of celebrating, a time of  
remembering, a time of honoring, a time of mourning, a time of helping  
carry each other's load, or all of them, may the hearts of all of us  
be enlightened to know what is the hope that belongs to us all.*

**A Blessed Memorial Day!**