Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Officiant: Let us pray.

Governor of Nations, our Strength and Shield: we give you thanks for the devotion and courage of all those who have offered military service for this country:

for those who have fought for freedom;
for those who laid down their lives for others;
for those who have borne suffering of mind or of body;
for those who have brought their best gifts to times of need.

On our behalf they entered into danger, endured separation from those they love, labored long hours, and bore hardship in war and in peacetime.

Give to us, your people, grateful hearts and a united will to honor these men and women and hold them always in our love and our prayers; until your world is perfected in peace through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Adapted from compilation of resources by the Rev. Jennifer Phillips Veteran's Day Prayer

The Word of God

Reader: A reading from the gospel of John.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. *(15: 12-17)*

Reader: The word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Reflection on the Word

A Litany from The Book of Worship for United States Forces (1974), no. 625

Leader: Let us give thanks to God for the land of our birth with all its chartered liberties. For all the wonder of our country's story:
People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For leaders in nation and state, and for those who in days past and in these present times have labored for the commonwealth:
People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For those who in all times and places have been true and brave, and in the world's common ways have lived upright lives and ministered to their fellows:
People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For those who served their country in its hour of need, and especially for those who gave even their lives in that service:
People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: O almighty God and most merciful Father, as we remember these your servants, remembering with gratitude their courage and strength, we hold before you those who mourn them. Look upon your

bereaved servants with your mercy. As this day brings them memories of those they have lost, may it also bring your consolation and the assurance that their loved ones are alive now and forever in your living presence.

People: Amen.

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Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Officiant: Let us pray.

O Judge of the nations, 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. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
People: Amen. *(BCP, 839)*

Retirement of the Colors

After which "Taps" is played and a moment of silence is kept

Blessing and Dismissal

Veteran's Day Service
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
November 11

Presentation of the Colors

A moment of silence is kept.

Officiant: Blessed be our God, who is Trinity in Unity.
People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Officiant: Holy God, we gather today to revere and thank all our veterans: those who rest in honored glory, those who still suffer from the wounds of war, and those who enjoy with us the blessing of living in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

We thank you for the selfless sacrifice of these veterans and of their families. Help us always to remember them, to pray for them, and to care for them.

Please bring all our departed veterans into your Kingdom and console their families with your unfailing love. Heal our wounded veterans through the power of your Holy Spirit and give to all our veterans the satisfaction of having served you even as they have served us. In God's most holy name we pray.

People: Amen.