

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

June 2021

Every year as we end the month of May, we celebrate Memorial Day. Although this holiday has not been throughout time, but rather official in somewhat recent history, it has been a blessing to be able to honor the men and women who have served in our nation especially those that have sacrificed their life for our freedom. We have a song in our church hymnal written by a young man named Stephen Kurtti before he went off to war and ultimately sacrificed his life in June of 1968 for our Country. It is entitled, "When Sojourning Here" and the words are as follows:

"When sojourning here through the mountains of life, thro the valley of darkness and perilous strife; my feet oft grow weary I oft long for home, but with Jesus my savior, I'm never alone.

"He always stays near me, is ever my Guide, I never grow lonely with Him by my side; He has promised to guide me if I will but trust, so I'll serve Him my Lord, till this mould turns to dust.

"Tho' Satan his arts of deceit doth engage, and the war of the flesh I must ceaselessly wage; I shall pray to my Lord when being tempted to sin, He will give me the strength all my trials to win.

"But when in my weakness my strength doth give way, and does not to the Lord's perfect judgement give sway; Jesus Christ suffered death, hell, on Calvary for me, through His gift on the cross, I from sin am set free.

"And when to this life I at last bid farewell, and God calls me home up in Heaven to dwell; my soul from this body of clay shall arise, and sing His praise everlasting in sweet Paradise"

Such a beautiful testimony that he left and this song is a lasting gift to many. We see the great strength and faith that God has granted to His children that have fought for freedom throughout time. We thank each and every one that has served and sacrificed in our armed forces and we also remember and pray for their families and loved ones.

**"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."
John 15:13.**

This verse not only speaks of the love that we have for one another and that has been shown through the sacrifice of many, but more importantly it shows us the depth of love that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ had for us in laying down his life victoriously in the fight against sin, death, hell, and the devil. May our hearts be uplifted and encouraged yet in this late time to know that God's word is ever sure, and that His unfailing arms of grace are still around us to carry us all the way home to our Eternal Homeland of Peace!

In God's Peace!

Mark Traffie