

Sunday, May 25, 2025

Scripture Reading: Psalm 67

*No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends. —John 15:13*

When the remains of a fallen soldier arrive from overseas, a dignified transfer of the body takes place — usually — at Dover Air Force Base, the primary port mortuary for U.S. military personnel killed in action. Perhaps you've seen a ceremony or two on television. It is a tearful and tragic event, a solemn and choreographed moment undertaken by military carry teams who transfer flag-draped caskets from planes to awaiting families.

You may remember, for example, when the bodies of three U.S. service members who were killed in a drone attack in Jordan about 15 months ago were received at Dover Air Force Base with military honors. President Biden attended the ceremony, reflecting the ongoing tradition of dignified transfers to help provide meaning and closure to grieving families.

If you have served in the military or have had family members in the service, you can understand how gut-wrenching these ceremonies can be. I had a close high school classmate who, shortly after graduation, was shipped to Vietnam. His name is now etched in the marble wall of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., along with the names of more than 58,000 other service personnel who died in that war.

Tomorrow is Memorial Day. We will pause to honor the men and women who gave their lives in service to their country. Their sacrifice reminds us of the high cost of freedom and reflects a principle that lies at the heart of the Christian faith: *sacrificial love*. Just as these brave individuals set aside their own safety to serve a greater good, Christ laid down his life on the cross so that we might experience freedom — freedom from sin, fear and death (Romans 5:8).

As we reflect on the sacrifice of these soldiers, we remember that death is not the final word for those who belong to Christ. Memorial Day is not just a day of mourning; it is also a day to celebrate hope — the twin hope that first, *light does shine in the darkness*, and second, that *love is stronger than death*.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Compassionate God, on this Memorial Day, we thank you for the men and women who gave their lives for the sake of freedom. We honor their courage and remember their sacrifice with gratitude. Help us to follow their example by living lives of service and love. We also thank you for the ultimate sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life so that we might live. May his resurrection fill our hearts with hope, even in times of loss. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: John 1-3

Monday: 1 Kings 1-4

Tuesday: 1 Kings 5-7

Wednesday: 1 Kings 8-10

Thursday: 1 Kings 11-13

Friday: 1 Kings 14-16

Saturday: Psalms 52-54

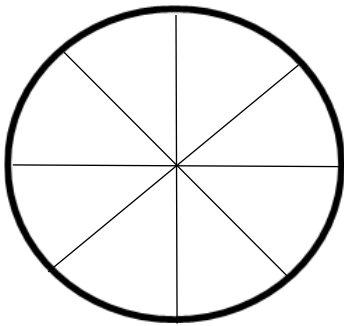
Verse to Remember

*But to all who received him, who believed
in his name, he gave power to
become children of God.*

—John 1:12

Piece of the Pie

Arrange the numbers 1-8 so
that, when a number is
added to its opposite, it
totals nine (9).



ANSWERS: Y IN THE WORLD!—
1. crypt, 2. rhythm, 3. myrrh,
4. nymph. **PIECE OF THE PIE —**
Start anywhere in this order,
clockwise: 8,7,6,5,1,2,3,4. There is
more than one arrangement.
CRYPTO CITIES (reading in rows,
not columns): Barcelona, Bern,
Brisbane, Berlin, Bangkok, Bogota,
Bruges, Blackburn, Basra, Brest,
Boston, Birmingham, Boise,
Buffalo, Baghdad, Bari.

Y IN THE WORLD!

The following words have no vowels except for a “y,” which
provides the sound of a short “i.” Use the clues to find the words.

1. ____ Y ____ : a vault, often beneath medieval churches,
where the dead are entombed.
2. ____ Y ____ : the beat and cadence of a song.
3. ____ Y ____ : a gift of the magi.
4. ____ Y ____ : a mythical maiden living in the forest or
near the water.

CYRPTO CITIES

This group of cities is written in code. Use known letters to help
you decode the entire list. We’ve decoded one city for you.

Q L C O P K Y T L
Q C M E Q L T P
Q L T A N Y N
Q C B A P E
Q L E C L
Q Y E H Y T
Q Y M E P
Q L A J W L W

Q P C T = B e r n
Q P C K M T
Q Y A Y H L
Q K L O N Q B C T
Q C P E H
Q M C D M T A J L D
Q B V V L K Y
Q L C M