

Grace Killian: Morning.

Congregation: Good morning.

Grace Killian: Our responsive reading this morning is Psalm 50 found in your Black Appleton Psalter. Please stand.

Grace Killian: "The God of gods has spoken, God has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting."

Congregation: "Our Zion, perfect in His beauty, God is revealed through glory."

Grace Killian: "O God, you will come and will not keep silent. Before you there is a consuming flame and round about you a raging storm."

Congregation: "You call the heavens and the earth from above, to witness the judgement of your people."

Grace Killian: "Hear, O my people, and I will speak. O Israel, I will bear witness against you for I am God, your God."

Congregation: I will not refuse you because of your sacrifices. Your offerings are always before me."

Grace Killian: "I will take no bull calf from your stalls, nor he-goats out of your pens."

Congregation: "For all beasts of the forest are mine, the herds in their thousands upon the hills."

Grace Killian: "I know every bird in the sky, and the creatures of the fields are in my sight."

Congregation: "If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the whole world is mine, and all that is in it."

Grace Killian: "Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats?"

Congregation: "Offer to God sacrifices of thanksgiving, and make your vows to the Most High."

Chorus: (singing).

Thomas Todd: Good morning.

Congregation: Good morning.

Thomas Todd: "This is my commands, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this than to lay down one's life for one's friends."

- Thomas Todd: On this Veteran's Day, we want to honor all of those who have served. During the history of this country, we have had 18 million persons to serve, male and females, as airmans, soldiers, sailors, marines, merchant marines and coastguard members, have served our country. They graciously served our country out of love and concern for their fellow human beings.
- Thomas Todd: Every day that our citizens enjoy the fruits of democracy, such as free speech, assembly, the practice of freedom of religion, the right to a fair trial, and the right of citizens to vote, these are just a few of the examples of what democracy brings.
- Thomas Todd: The Biblical text read in your hearing had to do with the Evangelist, John, bearing witness to the character of Jesus in his ministry. The Evangelist states a commandment was given by Jesus that instructed his disciples to love one another as Jesus had loved them. "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friend." Jesus was referring to the death that he was about to encounter on the cross, a sacramental act for the whole world, for the forgiveness of sin.
- Thomas Todd: This is a bedrock principle of the Christian faith. We hear this repeated often in Christian rituals when we practice the faith. Our veterans, when they give their lives for their country, are sacrificing themselves out of love as Christ did.
- Thomas Todd: Veterans, in an act of devotion, encourage in sacrifice, put their lives on the line daily for our country. In conflict of war and in peacetimes, veterans are called upon to give up their lives for the betterment of all of us. This is why we shall never forget the sacrifice of our war-dead.
- Thomas Todd: In World War II, many of our warriors was in their late-teens or even high school age because they had lied about their age to get themselves in the military. Even with shortcomings, they still made the sacrifice. Maybe they realized that what they were working for was a more noble calling than just staying home and watching other people make the sacrifice.
- Thomas Todd: Myself, I'm a Navy veteran. Navy veterans are known for telling what are called, "sea stories." For any of you who have been in the Navy before, you probably have heard a lot of sea stories. So, briefly, I want to share a little sea story with you to remind you of the great sacrifice that Navy veterans and others make. So, I cannot leave without telling you one little sea story.
- Thomas Todd: During World War II, there was a ship that was transporting troops. It was off the coast of Greenland, about 100 miles, and a German sub fired a torpedo and it hit the ship and damaged it. Now, every sailor in the Navy is trained in what we call "damage control," because you don't know when the ship is going to be hit and you might have to repair it right there yourself. So, everybody is prepared for that and they have a little section in the ship, each section of the divisions of the ship, prepared to do that.

Thomas Todd: So, even when this happened, and with everybody well-trained, they were not able to save the ship. This was the USAT Dorchester. It was struck on February 3rd, 1943. 902 crew members was on this ship. Some of them died in the explosion, and others were racing trying to get themselves out. When you're on the ship, you always keep a little flashlight with you because if you have some type of accident or the ship is attacked, all the lights may go out and you're going to have to find your way out of that ship up on the deck.

Thomas Todd: There were four chaplains on the ship, a priest, a rabbi, and two protestants. Somehow, they made themselves available on the deck of the ship and they were helping the wounded and others off the ship and giving out life preservers, life jackets. Life jackets on Navy ships are everywhere because you never know when you're going to need one. And everybody is trained how to use them, and everybody is trained how to get off the ship in an emergency. But the rabbi, the priest, and the two protestant chaplains continued to hand out these life jackets to everybody and help them to get on the boats.

Thomas Todd: Out of the 902 crew only 234 of those crew members were saved that day, and the four chaplains went down with the ship. After they had given out all the life jackets, there were none for them left and they died that day. They made the ultimate sacrifice. They saw firsthand what it was to love your country and love your fellow human beings so much that you were willing to give up your life.

Thomas Todd: So, 234 people were saved that day as the result of their work. So, as you go through this Veteran's Day, remember there is someone, somewhere in the world, standing up for the United States of America and they are ready to lay down their life if need be. "No greater love than this, than to lay down one's life for one's friend." Thank you very much.

Grace Killian: Let us join in the Lord's Prayer together as it's written in the Reverse New Order of Worship. "Our Father ..."

Unison: "... Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespassed against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen."

Grace Killian: Let us join in our hymn, hymn number 88, O Lord of Life Whose Power Sustains.

Congregation: (singing).

Grace Killian: Let us go in peace and remembrance.

Congregation: Amen.