

Remembering Our Loved Ones
During the Days of Awe
Har Sinai – Ohev Shalom Congregation, Baltimore, MD

At this most sacred season, when we pray for a year of life, health and joy for ourselves and our dear ones, when we pray for the well-being of our people and all humankind, our thoughts turn not only to the living but also to the dead.

We have come here today to remember those who have died in seasons past. Our cemeteries are living memorials to those whom we have loved, to our teachers, and to our friends. So, we come here at this time of year during the Yomim Noraim, the Ten Days of Awe between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur, to spend some quiet moments remembering.

Esa Enai

I have set the Eternal always before me.
God is at my side; I shall not be moved.
Therefore, does my heart exult and my soul rejoice; my being is secure.
For You will not abandon me to death nor let Your faithful ones see destruction.
You show me the path of life;
Your presence brings fullness of joy; enduring happiness is Your gift.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
You make me lie down in green pastures;
You lead me beside still waters.
You restore my soul;
You guide me in straight paths for Your name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Life Is a Journey

Birth is a beginning and death a destination;

But life is a journey.

A going, a growing from stage to stage:

From childhood to maturity and youth to old age.

From innocence to awareness and ignorance to knowing;

From foolishness to discretion and then perhaps, to wisdom.

From weakness to strength or strength to weakness and often back again.

From health to sickness and back we pray, to health again.

From offense to forgiveness, from loneliness to love,

From joy to gratitude, from pain to compassion.

From grief to understanding, from fear to faith;

From defeat to defeat to defeat, until, looking backward or ahead:

We see that victory lies not at some high place along the way,

But in having made the journey, stage by stage, a sacred pilgrimage.

Birth is a beginning and death a destination;

But life is a journey, a sacred pilgrimage,

Made stage by stage...To life everlasting

Prayer for God's Care for Our Departed

May God forever remember our dear ones who have gone to their eternal rest - at one with the One who is life eternal. May the beauty of their lives shine always, and may our lives always bring honor to their memory. Their love and deeds live on with us. We recall them now with gratitude.

Silent Remembrance

El Male Rachamim

For a Male:

אל מלא רחמים, שוכן במרומים. המצא מנוחה נכונה על כנפי השכינה, עם קדושים וטהורים כזהר הרקיע מזהירים, את נשמת ----בן---- שהלך לעולמו. בעל הרחמים יסתייגו בסתר כנפיו לעולמים. ויצרור בצרור החיים את נשמתו. יי הוא נחלתו, ויגונח בשלום על משכבו. ונאמר: אמן.

For a Female:

אל מלא רחמים, שוכן במרומים. המצא מנוחה נכונה על כנפי השכינה, עם קדושים וטהורים כזהר הרקיע מזהירים, את נשמת ----בת---- שהלכה

¹ Rabbi Alvin Fine

לְעוֹלָמָהּ. בְּעַל הַרְחָמִים יִסְתַּיְרָהּ בְּסִתְרָהּ כְּנִפְיוּ לְעוֹלָמִים. וַיִּצְרֹר בְּצִרּוֹר הַחַיִּים
אֶת נִשְׁמָתָהּ. יְיָ הוּא נִחְלָתָהּ, וְתַנּוּחַ בְּשָׁלוֹם עַל מְשֻׁכְבָּהּ. וְנֹאמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

Compassionate God, eternal Spirit of the universe, grant perfect rest in Your sheltering presence to all our loved ones, who have entered eternity. O, God of Mercy, let them find refuge in the shadow of Your wings, and let their souls be bound up in the bond of everlasting life. God is their inheritance. May they rest in peace and let us say: Amen.

Mourner's Kaddish

יִתְגַּדַּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא. בְּעֻלְמָא דִּי בְּרָא כְרַעוּתֵיהּ, וְיִמְלִיךָ מַלְכוּתֵיהּ בְּחַיִּיכוֹן
וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּעַגְלָא וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב, וְאִמְרוּ: אָמֵן.
יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעַלְמֵי עֻלְמָיָא.
יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמַם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא וְיִתְהַדָּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵהּ
דְּקֻדְשָׁא בְּרִיךְ הוּא, לְעַלְמָא וּלְעַלְמָא מְכָל בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא תְּשַׁבְּחָתָא וְנַחֲמָתָא,
דְּאִמְרוּ בְּעֻלְמָא, וְאִמְרוּ: אָמֵן.
יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא, וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאִמְרוּ: אָמֵן.
עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאִמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

*Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'mei rabba. Balma di-v'ra chir'utei v'yamlich malchutei
b'cahyeichon uv'yomeichon uv'chayei d'chol beit Yisrael, ba'agala u-vizman kariv v'imru:
Amen.*

Y'hei sh'mei rabba m'vorach l'alam ul'almei almaya.

*Yitbarach v'yistabach v'yitpa'ar v'yitromam v'yitnasei v'yithadar v'yitaleh v'yithalal sh'mei
d'kudsha b'rich hu, l'eila u'leila min kol-birchata v'shirata tushb'chata v'nechemata
da'amiran b'alma, v'imru: Amen.*

Yehei sh'lama rabba min sh'maya v'chayim aleinu v'al-kol-Yisrael, ve-imru: Amen.

O'seh shalom bim'romav hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu v'al-kol-Yisrael, ve-imru: Amen.

May the glory of God be extolled, and may God's great name be hallowed in the world whose creation God willed. May God's dominion soon prevail, in our own day, our own lives and in the life of all Israel, and let us say: Amen

May God's great name be blessed for ever and ever.

May the name of the Holy One, blessed be God, be glorified, exalted and honored, though God is beyond all praises, songs and adorations that we can utter, and let us say: Amen.

May God grant abundant peace and life to us and to all Israel and let us say: Amen.

May God who ordains harmony in the universe grant peace to us and to all Israel and let us say: Amen.

May the memories of our departed loved ones be a living and loving blessing.