Yizkor
Memorial Service
There is a time for everything,  
for all things under the sun:  
A time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to laugh and a time to cry;  

a time to dance and a time to mourn,  
a time to seek and a time to lose,  
a time to forget and a time to remember.

This day in sacred convocation  
we remember those who gave us life.  

_We remember those who enriched our lives_  
_with love and beauty, kindness and compassion,_  
_thoughtfulness and understanding._

We renew our bonds to those  
who have gone the way of all the earth,  
to those whose memory moves us this day.  

_As we reflect upon them, we seek consolation,  
and the strength and the insight born of faith._

As a parent shows love to a child,  
Adonai embraces all who are faithful.  

_God knows how we are fashioned,  
remembers that we are dust._

Our days are as grass;  
we flourish as a flower in the field.  
The wind passes over it and it is gone,  
and no one can recognize where it grew.  

_But Adonai’s compassion for those who are steadfast,  
God’s tenderness to children’s children,  
remain, age after age, unchanging._
Three score and ten our years may number,
four score years if granted the vigor.
Laden with trouble and travail,
life quickly passes; it flies away.

*What are mortals, eternal God,*
*that You should be mindful of them?*

What are mortals, that You should take note of them,
that You have made them little less than angels?

*The sounds of infants attest to Your power;*  
*the magnificence of life reflects Your glory.*  
*The heavens display Your splendor.*  
*What majesty is Yours throughout the world!*

Teach us to use all of our days,
that we may attain a heart of wisdom.

*Bless us with Your love in the morning,*  
*that we may joyously sing all our days.*

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I

When I stray from You, Adonai, my life is as death;  
but when I cleave to You, even in death I have life.

*You embrace the souls of the living and the dead.*

The earth inherits that which perishes.  
The dust returns to dust;  
but the soul, which is God's, is immortal.

*Adonai has compassion for His creatures.*  
*God has planted eternity within our soul,*  
*granting us a share in His unending life.*

God redeems our life from the grave.

*May we all be charitable in deed and in thought,*  
in memory of those we love who walk the earth no longer.

May we live unselfishly, in truth and love and peace,  
so that we will be remembered as a blessing,  
as we lovingly remember, this day,  
those who live on in our hearts.

— Jules Harlow
II

When Yizkor is recited, we affirm our love of those
so near and dear who have physically left us.

Our love, however, does not rest on physical being;
it is deeper than that.

When we love, we love the inner being of the beloved,
the quality that makes for uniqueness,
the spirit that creates personality and character.

That does not ever disappear.
It remains with us as long as we live.

Time eases the pain of loss
but does not erode the affection and emotions we feel
for the one who no longer moves about in our midst.

We know that whatever lives, someday must die.
That, however, is true only of the material world.
The spiritual can endure forever.

When we lose one who is dear, we mourn,
but we must not mourn excessively.
We must be grateful for what we have had
and find comfort in our memories.

We must continue the task of living, paying tribute
to our departed by contributing to the lives of others.

— Simcha Kling

III

We tell of Your love in the morning;
we recall Your faithfulness at night.

Yet we remember other mornings, other nights
when love and faithfulness were torn by tragedy.

We celebrate miracles of our people's past,
deliverance from peril into promised land.

Yet we remember slaughter and destruction,
and questions born from ashes of the undelivered.

In spite of Your silence, we reaffirm hope,
sustained by the certainty born of faith.

Lamentation and bitter weeping have been ours,
in refusing to be comforted for those who are no more.
Yet we shall survive to sing, to flourish,
to turn our mourning into gladness.

In spite of every obstacle we shall endure,
nurturing our children to overcome despair.

In spite of every obstacle we shall praise,
sustained by Your promise of redemption.

Our people has survived the sword.
finding favor even in the wilderness.

Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy,
for You redeem our lives from destruction.

Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy,
embraced by love and faithfulness forever.

— Jules Harlow

IV

When my loved one is taken from me, shall I mourn?
When my dear one departs forever,
shall I wall and rend my flesh as I do my garment?
No! That is not the way.

I may find the road ahead lonely.
I may dread tomorrow without that voice, without that smile.
I may not know whence will come the courage to continue.
Yet I shall not despair!

I shall praise God who gave me my beloved.
I shall sing unto God who enables us to love.
I shall voice thanks for what I have had.
I will refuse to become bitter over what I shall lack.

When my loved one leaves me, I shall indeed shed tears.
Yet, even then, I shall utter a hymn —
A song of joy for what has been.

BARUKH ATAH ADONAI!
Praised are You, O God!
You have allowed me to know love;
You have granted me an eternal treasure.

— Simcha Kling
Our generations are bound to one another as children now remember their parents. Love is as strong as death as husbands and wives now remember their mates, as parents now remember their children. Memory softens death’s pain as we now remember our brothers and sisters, grandparents, and our other relatives and friends.

The death of those we now recall left gaping holes in our lives. Even so, we are grateful for the gift of their lives, strengthened by the blessings they left us and the precious memories that comfort and sustain us, as we remember them this day.

_A personal meditation_

Eternal God, Master of mercy, give me the gift of remembering. May my memories of the dead be tender and true, undiminished by time; let me recall them, and love them, as they were. Shelter me with the gift of tears. Let me express my sense of loss — my sorrow, my pain, as well as my love, and words unspoken. Bless me with the gift of prayer. May I face You with an open heart, with trusting faith, unembarrassed and unashamed. Strengthen me with the gift of hope. May I always believe in the beauty of life, the power of goodness, the right to joy. May I surrender my being, and the soul of the dead, to Your all-knowing compassion.

_Each congregant continues with the appropriate passages among the following, in silent meditation._

_Personal meditations may also be added._

_Were rise._

_In memory of a father:_

May God remember the soul of my father who has gone to his eternal home. In loving testimony to his life I pledge charity to help perpetuate ideals important to him. Through such deeds, and through prayer and remembrance, is his soul bound up in the bond of life. May I prove myself worthy of the gift of life and the many other gifts with which he blessed me. May these moments of meditation strengthen the ties that link me to his memory and to our entire family. May he rest forever in dignity and peace. _Amen._
In memory of a mother:

May God remember the soul of my mother who has gone to her eternal home. In loving testimony to her life I pledge charity to help perpetuate ideals important to her. Through such deeds, and through prayer and remembrance, is her soul bound up in the bond of life. May I prove myself worthy of the gift of life and the many other gifts with which she blessed me. May these moments of meditation strengthen the ties that link me to her memory and to our entire family. May she rest forever in dignity and peace. Amen.

In memory of a wife:

May God remember the soul of my wife who has gone to her eternal home. In loving testimony to her life I pledge charity to help perpetuate ideals important to her. Through such deeds, and through prayer and remembrance, is her soul bound up in the bond of life. Love is as strong as death; deep bonds of love are indissoluble. The memory of our companionship and love overcomes loneliness, for all that we shared still endures. May she rest forever in dignity and peace. Amen.

In memory of a husband:

May God remember the soul of my husband who has gone to his eternal home. In loving testimony to his life I pledge charity to help perpetuate ideals important to him. Through such deeds, and through prayer and remembrance, is his soul bound up in the bond of life. Love is as strong as death; deep bonds of love are indissoluble. The memory of our companionship and love overcomes loneliness, for all that we shared still endures. May he rest forever in dignity and peace. Amen.
In memory of a son or a brother:

May God remember the soul of my beloved son/brother who has gone to his eternal home. In loving testimony to his life I pledge charity to help perpetuate ideals important to him. Through such deeds, and through prayer and remembrance, is his soul bound up in the bond of life. I am grateful for the sweetness of his life and for all he accomplished in his lifetime. May he rest forever in dignity and peace. Amen.

In memory of a daughter or a sister:

May God remember the soul of my beloved daughter/sister who has gone to her eternal home. In loving testimony to her life I pledge charity to help perpetuate ideals important to her. Through such deeds, and through prayer and remembrance, is her soul bound up in the bond of life. I am grateful for the sweetness of her life and for all she accomplished in her lifetime. May she rest forever in dignity and peace. Amen.

In memory of other relatives and friends:

May God remember the soul of __________ and of all relatives and friends who have gone to their eternal home. In loving testimony to their lives I pledge charity to help perpetuate ideals important to them. Through such deeds, and through prayer and remembrance, are their souls bound up in the bond of life. May these moments of meditation strengthen the ties that link me to their memory. May they rest forever in dignity and peace. Amen.
In memory of martyrs:

May God remember the souls of our brethren, martyrs of our people, who gave their lives for the sanctification of God’s name. In their memory do I pledge charity. May their bravery, their dedication, and their purity be reflected in our lives. May their souls be bound up in the bond of life. And may they rest forever in dignity and peace. Amen.

In memory of congregants:

We lovingly recall the members of our congregation who no longer dwell on this earth. They have a special place in our hearts. We pray this day that all who have sustained the loss of loved ones be granted comfort and strength.

Exalted, compassionate God, comfort the bereaved families of this congregation. Help us to perpetuate everything that was worthy in the lives of those no longer with us, whom we remember this day. May their memory endure as a blessing. And let us say: Amen.

A meditation

Our Creator, the Eternal One, delights in life. Because of God’s love for us, and because we are so few, each of us is a vital part of God’s kingdom. Though we are only flesh and blood, we are irreplaceable. When one of the House of Israel dies, God’s own grandeur is diminished. May the memory of all those we remember this day, in love, be an undying source of blessing to us, to our children, to all Israel, and to all humanity.
In memory of the six million:

Exalted, compassionate God, grant infinite rest in Your sheltering presence, among the holy and pure, to the souls of our brethren who perished in the Shoah — men, women, and children of the House of Israel who were slaughtered and suffocated and burned to ashes. May their memory endure, and inspire deeds of charity and goodness in our lives. May their souls thus be bound up in the bond of life. May they rest in peace. And let us say: Amen.

In memory of all the dead:

Exalted, compassionate God, grant infinite rest in Your sheltering presence, among the holy and pure, to the souls of all our beloved who have gone to their eternal home. Merciful One, we ask that our loved ones find perfect peace in Your tender embrace, their memory enduring as inspiration for commitment to their ideals and integrity in our lives. May their souls thus be bound up in the bond of life. May they rest in peace. And let us say: Amen.
Adonai is my shepherd, I shall not want.

God gives me repose in green meadows,

and guides me over calm waters.

God will revive my spirit and direct me on the right path — for that is God's way.

Though I walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no harm, for You are at my side.

Your staff and Your rod comfort me.

You prepare a banquet for me in the presence of my foes;

You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and kindness shall be my portion all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of Adonai forever.
How do we face the reality of death?
We know that it is a fact. It is a part of life.
We may postpone it.
We may try to delay it as much as possible.
But some day we must be confronted by it.

How do we face the reality of death?
By giving thanks to God for the gift of life.
By voicing appreciation for the blessings we have known.
By being grateful for those lives that have touched ours
and whose echoes still resound in us.

May the Kaddish, which we now recite,
be not only a remembrance of those no longer with us,
but also a reminder of how we should live
and the values that we should represent.

— Simcha Kling
And now, let us rise to join in prayer — for ourselves, and for all whose spirit now finds voice through us — that God and God's sovereignty will forever be hallowed and enhanced, glorified and celebrated. May all of us who mourn and all of us who cherish loving memories on this day, open our hearts to God, our Ruler and Redeemer, our everpresent hope, our eternal source of comfort, as we recite the words of the Kaddish.

**MOURNER’S KADDDISH**

Yitgadal v’yitkadash sh’mei raba, b’alma di v’ra, kir’utei, v’yamlikh malkhutei b’hashneikhon u-v’yomeikhon u-v’hashnei d’khel beit Yisra-el, ba’agala u-vi-z’man kariv v’imru amen.

Y’hie sh’mei raba m’varakh l’alam u-l’almei almaya.

Yitbarakh v’yishtabaḥ v’yitpa-ar v’yitromam v’yitnasei, v’yit-hadar v’yit’aleh v’yit-halal sh’mei d’kudsha, b’rikhu l’ela min kol birkhata v’shirata, tushb’haṭa v’neḥamata da’amiran b’alma, v’imru amen.

Y’hie shlama raba min sh’maya v’ḥayim aleinu v’al kol Yisra-el, v’imru amen.

Oseh shalom bi-m’romav, hu ya’aseh shalom aleinu v’al kol Yisra-el, v’imru amen.

May God’s name be exalted and hallowed throughout the world that He created, as is God’s wish. May God’s sovereignty soon be accepted, during our life and the life of all Israel. And let us say: Amen.

May God’s great name be praised throughout all time.

Glorified and celebrated, lauded and worshiped, exalted and honored, exalted and acclaimed may the Holy One be, praised beyond all song and psalm, beyond all tributes that mortals can utter. And let us say: Amen.

Let there be abundant peace from heaven, with life’s goodness for us and for all Israel. And let us say: Amen.

May the One who brings peace to His universe bring peace to us and to all Israel. And let us say: Amen.