

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.*

שׁוֹיִתִּי יְהוָה לְנִגְדֵי תְמִיד, כִּי מִיְמִינִי בַל-אָמוּט.
לְכֵן שָׂמַח לְבִי וַיִּגַּל כְּבוֹדִי, אֶף בְּשָׂרֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְבָטָח.

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.

יְהוָה, מִה־אָדָם וְתַדְעָהוּ, בֶן-אָנוּשׁ וְתַחֲשֶׁבֶהוּ.
אָדָם לְהִבָּל דָּמָה, יָמָיו כְּצֵל עוֹבֵר.
בְּבִקְרָה יִצִּיץ וְחָלַף, לְעָרֵב יְמוּלֵל וְיָבֵשׁ.
תָּשֵׁב אָנוּשׁ עַד-דְּבָא, וְתֹאמַר שׁוּבוּ בְנֵי-אָדָם.
שׁוּבָה יְהוָה, עַד-מָתִי, וְהִנַּחֵם עַל עַבְדְּךָ.

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.*

In memory of a mother:

יִזְכּוֹר אֱלֹהִים נִשְׁמַת אִמִּי מוֹרְתִי שֶׁהִלְכָה לְעוֹלָמָהּ. הַנְּנִי
 נוֹדֵב / נוֹדֵבֶת צְדָקָה בְּעַד הַזְּכָרֶת נִשְׁמַתָּהּ. אָנָּה תְּהִי נִפְשָׁה
 צְרוּרָה בְּצִרוֹר הַחַיִּים וְתְּהִי מְנוּחָתָה כְּבוֹד, שְׁבַע שְׂמֵחוֹת
 אֶת־פְּנֵיךָ, נְעִימוֹת בִּימִינְךָ נִצַּח. אָמֵן.

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:

יִזְכּוֹר אֱלֹהִים נִשְׁמַת אִשְׁתִּי שֶׁהִלְכָה לְעוֹלָמָהּ. הַנְּנִי נוֹדֵב צְדָקָה
 בְּעַד הַזְּכָרֶת נִשְׁמַתָּהּ. אָנָּה תְּהִי נִפְשָׁה צְרוּרָה בְּצִרוֹר הַחַיִּים
 וְתְּהִי מְנוּחָתָה כְּבוֹד, שְׁבַע שְׂמֵחוֹת אֶת־פְּנֵיךָ, נְעִימוֹת בִּימִינְךָ
 נִצַּח. אָמֵן.

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:

יִזְכּוֹר אֱלֹהִים נִשְׁמַת בְּעָלִי שֶׁהִלְךָ לְעוֹלָמוֹ. הַנְּנִי נוֹדֵבֶת צְדָקָה
 בְּעַד הַזְּכָרֶת נִשְׁמַתוֹ. אָנָּה תְּהִי נִפְשׁוֹ צְרוּרָה בְּצִרוֹר הַחַיִּים
 וְתְּהִי מְנוּחָתוֹ כְּבוֹד, שְׁבַע שְׂמֵחוֹת אֶת־פְּנֵיךָ, נְעִימוֹת בִּימִינְךָ
 נִצַּח. אָמֵן.

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.

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.

We rise.

In memory of a father:

יִזְכּוֹר אֱלֹהִים נִשְׁמַת אָבִי מוֹרִי שֶׁהִלְךָ לְעוֹלָמוֹ. הַנְּנִי
 נוֹדֵב / נוֹדֵבֶת צְדָקָה בְּעַד הַזְּכָרֶת נִשְׁמַתוֹ. אָנָּה תְּהִי נִפְשׁוֹ
 צְרוּרָה בְּצִרוֹר הַחַיִּים וְתְּהִי מְנוּחָתוֹ כְּבוֹד, שְׁבַע שְׂמֵחוֹת
 אֶת־פְּנֵיךָ, נְעִימוֹת בִּימִינְךָ נִצַּח. אָמֵן.

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 martyrs:

יִזְכּוֹר אֱלֹהִים נְשָׁמוֹת כָּל-אֶחָיו בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל שִׁמְסוּ אֶת-נַפְשָׁם
עַל קְדוּשַׁת הַשֵּׁם. הִנְנִי נוֹדֵב/נוֹדֶבֶת צְדָקָה בְּעַד הַזְּכָרָת
נְשָׁמוֹתֵיהֶם. אֲנִי שֹׁמֵעַ בְּחַיָּנוּ הַזֶּה גְבוּרָתָם וּמְסִירוֹתָם
וַיִּרְאֶה בְּמַעֲשָׂיו טָהָר לְבָם וְתַהֲיִינָה נִפְשׁוֹתֵיהֶם צְרוּרוֹת
בְּצָרוֹר הַחַיִּים וְתַהֲיִי מְנוּחָתָם כְּבוֹד, שְׁבַע שְׂמֵחוֹת אֶת-פְּנֵיהָ,
נְעִימוֹת בִּימֵינָה נְצַח. אָמֵן.

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:

יִזְכּוֹר אֱלֹהִים נְשָׁמוֹת יְדֵינֵנו חֲבָרֵי הַקְּהָל הַקְּדוֹשׁ הַזֶּה
שֶׁהֲלָכוּ לְעוֹלָמָם. אֲנִי תַהֲיִינָה נִפְשׁוֹתֵיהֶם צְרוּרוֹת בְּצָרוֹר
הַחַיִּים וְתַהֲיִי מְנוּחָתָם כְּבוֹד, שְׁבַע שְׂמֵחוֹת אֶת-פְּנֵיהָ,
נְעִימוֹת בִּימֵינָה נְצַח. אָמֵן.

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 a son or a brother:

יִזְכּוֹר אֱלֹהִים נְשָׁמַת בְּנֵי / אֶחָי הָאָהוּב שֶׁהֲלָךְ לְעוֹלָמוֹ. הִנְנִי
נוֹדֵב/נוֹדֶבֶת צְדָקָה בְּעַד הַזְּכָרָת נְשָׁמָתוֹ. אֲנִי תַהֲיִי נִפְשׁוֹ
צְרוּרָה בְּצָרוֹר הַחַיִּים וְתַהֲיִי מְנוּחָתוֹ כְּבוֹד, שְׁבַע שְׂמֵחוֹת
אֶת-פְּנֵיהָ, נְעִימוֹת בִּימֵינָה נְצַח. אָמֵן.

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:

יִזְכּוֹר אֱלֹהִים נְשָׁמַת בְּתִי / אֶחֹתִי הָאָהוּבָה שֶׁהֲלָכָה לְעוֹלָמָהּ.
הִנְנִי נוֹדֵב/נוֹדֶבֶת צְדָקָה בְּעַד הַזְּכָרָת נְשָׁמָתָהּ. אֲנִי תַהֲיִי
נִפְשָׁה צְרוּרָה בְּצָרוֹר הַחַיִּים וְתַהֲיִי מְנוּחָתָה כְּבוֹד, שְׁבַע
שְׂמֵחוֹת אֶת-פְּנֵיהָ, נְעִימוֹת בִּימֵינָה נְצַח. אָמֵן.

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:

יִזְכּוֹר אֱלֹהִים נְשָׁמוֹת קְרוּבֵי וְרַעֲי שֶׁהֲלָכוּ לְעוֹלָמָם. הִנְנִי
נוֹדֵב/נוֹדֶבֶת צְדָקָה בְּעַד הַזְּכָרָת נְשָׁמָתָם. אֲנִי תַהֲיִינָה
נִפְשׁוֹתֵיהֶם צְרוּרוֹת בְּצָרוֹר הַחַיִּים וְתַהֲיִי מְנוּחָתָם כְּבוֹד, שְׁבַע
שְׂמֵחוֹת אֶת-פְּנֵיהָ, נְעִימוֹת בִּימֵינָה נְצַח. אָמֵן.

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.

PSALM 23

תהלים כ"ג

מזמור לדוד.

יהוה רעי, לא אֶחָסֵר.

Adonai is my shepherd, I shall not want.

בְּנֵאוֹת דֶּשָׁא יִרְבִּיצֵנִי,

God gives me repose in green meadows,

עַל מֵי מְנַחוֹת יַנְהִילֵנִי.

and guides me over calm waters.

נִפְשִׁי יִשׁוּב, יִנְחֵנִי בְּמַעְגְלֵי-צֶדֶק לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ.

God will revive my spirit and direct me on the right path
— for that is God's way.גַּם כִּי אֵלֶךְ בְּגִיא צְלֻמוֹת
לֹא אִירָא רָע כִּי אִתָּה עִמָּדִי.Though I walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no harm, for You are at my side.

שִׁבְטֶךָ וּמִשְׁעַנְתֶּךָ הִמְדָּה יִנְחֵמֵנִי.

Your staff and Your rod comfort me.

תַּעֲרֹךְ לִפְנֵי שְׁלֹחַן נֹגֵד צָרָרִי,

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

דִּשְׁנַת בְּשֶׁמֶן רֵאשִׁי, בּוֹסִי רוּיָהּ.

You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.

אֵךְ טוֹב וְחֶסֶד יִרְדְּפוּנִי כָּל-יְמֵי חַיִּי,

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

וּשְׁבַתִּי בְּבֵית יְהוָה לְאָרְךָ יָמִים.

and I shall dwell in the house of Adonai forever.

In memory of the six million:

אֵל מְלֵא רַחֲמִים, שׁוֹכֵן בְּמְרוֹמִים, הַמַּצֵּא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה
תַּחַת כְּנָפֵי הַשְּׂכִינָה, בְּמַעְלוֹת קְדוּשִׁים וְטְהוּרִים, כְּזֹהָר
הַרְקִיעַ מְזֹהֲרִים, לְנִשְׁמוֹת כָּל-אֶחָיוּנוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׁנִטְבְּחוּ
בְּשׂוֹאָה, אֲנָשִׁים וְנָשִׁים וְטָף, שְׁנִחְנְקוּ וְשִׁנְשְׂרְפוּ וְשִׁנְהַרְגוּ,
שְׁמָסְרוּ אֶת נַפְשָׁם עַל קְדוּשַׁת הַשֵּׁם, בְּגֵן עֵדֶן תְּהִי מְנוּחָתָם.
אָנָּה בְּעַל הַרְחָמִים, הַסְתִּירָם בְּסִתְרֵךְ כְּנָפֶיךָ לְעוֹלָמִים.
וְצָרוֹר בְּצָרוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת-נִשְׁמוֹתֵיהֶם. יְהוָה הוּא נִחַלְתָּם.
וַיְנַחוּ בְּשָׁלוֹם עַל מְשֻׁכְבוֹתֵיהֶם. וְנֹאמֵר אָמֵן.

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:

אֵל מְלֵא רַחֲמִים, שׁוֹכֵן בְּמְרוֹמִים, הַמַּצֵּא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה
תַּחַת כְּנָפֵי הַשְּׂכִינָה, בְּמַעְלוֹת קְדוּשִׁים וְטְהוּרִים, כְּזֹהָר
הַרְקִיעַ מְזֹהֲרִים, לְנִשְׁמוֹת כָּל-אֵלֶּה שֶׁהִזְכֵּרְנוּ הַיּוֹם
לְבִרְכָה, שֶׁהִלְכוּ לְעוֹלָמָם, בְּגֵן עֵדֶן תְּהִי מְנוּחָתָם. אָנָּה
בְּעַל הַרְחָמִים הַסְתִּירָם בְּסִתְרֵךְ כְּנָפֶיךָ לְעוֹלָמִים וְצָרוֹר
בְּצָרוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת-נִשְׁמוֹתֵיהֶם. יְהוָה הוּא נִחַלְתָּם. וַיְנַחוּ
בְּשָׁלוֹם עַל מְשֻׁכְבוֹתֵיהֶם. וְנֹאמֵר אָמֵן.

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.

When a Minyan Cannot Gather (to be used in exigent circumstances only)

רְבוּנוּ שֶׁל עוֹלָם,

אֱלֹהֵי הַרְוָחוֹת לְכֹל-בָּשָׂר

Ribbono shel olam,
elohei ha-ruhot l'khol basar —

Master of the world, God of the spirit of all flesh, it is revealed and known before You that it is my fervent desire to praise Your name, and to remember and honor my beloved:

father/mother/son/daughter/ husband/wife/partner/brother/sister/_____
[the name and relation of the person may be inserted]

by reciting the Mourner's Kaddish in the company of a *minyan*. Though circumstances prevent me from doing so, may my yearning and prayers find favor in Your eyes, and be accepted and received before You as if I had prayed that Kaddish.

May you grant hope and healing to all who suffer, and may we soon be able to once again safely gather in holiness and joy.

May Your name, Adonai, be elevated and sanctified everywhere on earth and may peace reign everywhere.

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמְרוֹמָיו

הוּא יַעֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ

וְעַל כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל [וְעַל כָּל-

יֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֵל], וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.

Oseh shalom bimromav
hu ya-aseh shalom aleinu
v'al kol yisrael [v'al kol
yosh'vei teiveil], v'imru amen.