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, O Lord, that we may attain a heart of wisdom.

Grant us of Your love in the morning, that we may joyously sing all our days.

שְנֵיתִי יהוֹה לְנָגְדִי תָמִיד, כִּי מִימִינִי בַּל אֱמוֹט. לָכֵן שָׁמַח לִבִּי וַיֶּגֶל כְּבוֹרִי, אַף בְּשָׁרִי יִשְׁכּּן לָבֶטַח.

When I stray from You, O Lord, 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.

The Lord has compassion for His creatures.

He has planted eternity within our soul, granting us a share in His unending life.

He 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 this day lovingly remember those whose lives endure as a blessing.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

יהוה, מָה אָרָם וַתִּרָעֵהוּ, בֶּּן־אֲנוֹשׁ וַתִּחַשְּׁבְּהוּ. אָרָם לַחֲבֶל דָמָה, יָמִיוּ כְּצֵל עוֹבֵר. בַּבְּקֶר יָצִיץ וְחָלָף, לָעֶרֶב יְמוֹלֵל וְיָבֵשׁ. תָשֵב אֱנוֹשׁ עַר דַּכָּא, וַהְּאמֶר שִׁוּבוּ בְנֵי אָרָם. שוּבֵה יהוה, עַר מָתִי, וְהִנָּחֵם עַל עַבָּדֶירְ.

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.

As we reflect upon those whose memory moves us this day, we seek consolation, and the strength and the insight born of faith.

Tender as a father with his children, the Lord is merciful with His worshipers.

He 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 the Lord's compassion for His worshipers, His righteousness to children's children, remain, age after age, unchanging.

Three score and ten our years may number, four score years if granted the vigor.

In memory of a mother:

יִןכּר אֱלֹהִים נִשְׁמַת אִמִּי מוֹרָתִי שֶׁהָלְכָה לְעוֹלָמָה. הִּנְנִי נּוֹבֵּר (נוֹדֶרֶת) צְרָלָה בְּעַד הַוְבָּרֵת נִשְׁמָתָה. אֲנָּא הָהִי נַפְּשָׁה צְרִיּרָה בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים וּתְהִי מְנוּחָתָה בָּבוֹר, שְׁבַע שְׁמָחוֹת אֶת־פָּנֵיךְ, נְעִימוֹת בִּימִינְךְ נָצַח. 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 memory, 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 link me more strongly with her memory and with our entire family. May she rest eternally in dignity and peace. Amen.

In memory of a husband:

יְוְכֵּר אֱלֹהִים נִשְׁמַת בַּעֲלִי שֶׁחָלַךְ לְעוּלָמוֹ. הַנְנִי נוֹדֶרֶת צְּדָקָה בְּעַד הַוְּבָּרַת נִשְׁמָתוֹ. אָנָּא הְּהִי נַפְּשׁוֹ צְרוּרָה בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים וּתְהִי מְנוּחָתוֹ בָּבוֹד, שְׁבַע שְׁמָחוֹת אֶת־פָּנֵיךְ, נְעִימוֹת בִּימִינְךְ נְצַח. 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 memory, is his soul bound up in the bond of life. Love is strong as death; deep bonds of love are indissoluble. The memory of our companionship and love leads me out of loneliness into all that we shared which still endures. May he rest eternally in dignity and peace. Amen.

In memory of a wife:

יִזְבּר אֱלֹהִים נִשְּׁמֵת אִשְׁתִּי שֶׁהָלְבָה לְעוֹלְמָהּ. הַּנְגִּי נוֹדֵר צְדָקָה בְּעֵר הַזְּבָּרת נִשְׁמָתָהּ. אָנָא תְּהִי נַפְשָׁהּ צְרוּרָה בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים וּתְהִי מְנוּחָתָהּ בָּבוֹד, שְׁבַע שְׁמָחוֹת אֶת־פָּנֶיךּ, נְעִימוֹת בִּימִינְךָ נֵצַח. אָמֵן. Our generations are bound to each other as children now remember their parents. Love is strong as death as husbands and wives now remember their mates, as parents now remember their children. Memory conquers death's dominion as we now remember our brothers and sisters, grandparents, and other relatives and friends.

The death of those we now remember left gaping holes in our lives. But we are grateful for the gift of their lives. And we are strengthened by the blessings which they left us, by precious memories which comfort and sustain us as we recall 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, not falsified by sentimentality. Let me recall them, and love them, as they were. Give me the gift of tears. Let me express my sense of loss, my sorrow, my pain, as well as my gratitude and my love. Give me the gift of prayer. May I confront You with an open heart, with trusting faith, unembarrassed and unashamed. Give me 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 eternal compassion.

Each congregant reads silently the appropriate passages among those which follow. Personal meditations may also be added. We rise.

In memory of a father:

יִּוְכֵּר אֶלהִים נִשְׁמַת אָבִי מוֹרִי שֶׁהָלַּךְּ לְעוֹלָמוֹ. הַנְּנִי נוֹבֵר (נוֹדֶרֶת) צְדָקָה בְּעַד הַזְּכָּרַת נִשְׁמָתוֹ. אָנָא הְּהִי נַפְשׁוֹ צְרוּרָה בָּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים וּתְהִי מְנוּחָתוֹ כָּבוֹד, שְׁבַע שְׁמָחוֹת אֶת־פָּנֵיךְ, נָעִימוֹת בִּימִינָךְ נֵצָח. 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 memory, 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 link me more strongly with his memory and with our entire family. May he rest eternally in dignity and peace. Amen.

In memory of other relatives and friends:

יְזְכֵּר אֱלֹהִים ּנְשְׁמוֹת קְרוֹבֵי וְרְעֵי שֶׁהַּלְכוּ לְעוֹלָמָם. הִנְנִי נוֹדְר (נוֹדֶרֶת) צְדָּקָה בְּעַר הַזְּכָּרת נִשְׁמוֹתִיהָם אָנָא תִּקְיֵינָה נַפְשׁוֹתִיהֶם צְרוֹרוֹת בָּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים וֹתְהַי מְנוּחָתִם כְּבוֹר, שַּבַע שַׁמַחוֹת אֶת־פָּנֵיך, נְעִימוֹת בִּימִינְךְּ נָצִיםוּ

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 memory, are their souls bound up in the bond of life. May these moments of meditation link me more strongly with their memory. May they rest eternally in dignity and peace. Amen.

In memory of martyrs:

יְזָכּר אֶלהִים נִשְׁמוֹת כָּל־אַחְינוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׁרָאֵל שֶׁמְּסְרוּ אֶת־בְּנֶיְרְּ, נְעִימוֹת בָּלְרוֹר לְּבָם וְתִהְיֶינוּ הַד גְבוּרְתָם וּמְסִירוּתָם וְיֵרָאֶה נְשְׁמוֹת הָאָנָא יִשְׁמֵע בְּחַיֵּינוּ הֵד גְבוּרְתָם וּמְסִירוּתָם וְיֵרָאֶה נְשְׁמוֹת הָאָנָא יִשְׁמַע בְּחַיֵּינוּ הֵד גְבוּרְתָם וּמְסִירוּת בִּצְרוֹר הַבְּרוֹר הַבְּעוֹת הָבְּרוֹר הַבְּעוֹת הָבְּרוֹר הַחָּבֵּע שְׁמָחוֹת אֶת־בְּנֶוְרְּ, נְעִימוֹת הַחַיִּים וּתְהִי מְנוּחָתם כָּבוֹר, שְׁבֵע שְׁמָחוֹת אֶת־בְּנֶוְרְּ, נְעִימוֹת הַבְּרוֹר הְבִּיים וּתְהִי מְנוּחָתם כָּבוֹר, שְׁבֵע שְׁמָחוֹת אֶת־בְּנִוֹים וּמְיִים וּתְּיִם בְּבוֹר, שְׁבֵע שְׁמָחוֹת אֶת־בּנְיִם וּמְיִים וּתְיִים בְּבוֹר, שְׁבַע שְׁמָחוֹת אֶת־בְּנְיִים וּתְּיִם בְּבוֹר הְיִבְּיִם וּתְּהִים בְּבוֹר, שְׁבַע שְׁמָחוֹת אֶת־בְּנִים וּתְיִבוּי מְנִבְּים וְתִּהְיִם בְּבוֹר, שְׁבַע שְׁמָחוֹת בְּבוֹר הְיִבְּים וּתְהַיִי מְנִיחְתָם בָּבוֹר, שְׁבֵע שְׁבִּע שְׁבִּים בְּיִים וּתְהַיִי מְנִים בְּבוֹר.

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

In memory of congregants:

We lovingly recall the members of our congregation who no longer dwell upon 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 all of us to perpetuate the worthy values 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.

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 memory is her soul bound up in the bond of life. "Many women have done superbly, but you surpass them all." Love is strong as death; deep bonds of love are indissoluble. The memory of our companionship and love leads me out of loneliness into all that we share which still endures. May she rest eternally in dignity and peace. Amen.

In memory of a son:

יִּוְכּר אֱלֹהִים נִשְּׁמַת בְּנִי הָאָהוּב מַחֲמֵד עִינִי שֶׁהָלַךְ לְעוֹלֻמוֹ. הָנְנִי נוֹדֵר (נוֹדֶרֶת) צְרָקָה בְּעֵד הַוְּכָּרַת נִשְׁמָתוֹ. אָנָא תְּהִי נַפְשוֹ צְרוּרָה בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּם וּתְהִי מְנוּחָתוֹ בָּבוֹר, שְׁבַע שְׁמַחוֹת אֶת־פָּנֶיךְ, נְעִימוֹת בִּימִינְךְ נֶצֵח. אָמֵן.

May God remember the soul of my beloved son 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 memory, is his soul bound up in the bond of life. I am grateful for the sweetness of his life and for what he did accomplish. May he rest eternally in dignity and peace. Amen.

In memory of a daughter:

יִוְכּר אֱלֹהִים נִשְׁמַת בָּתִּי הָאֲהוּבָה מַחְמַר צִינֵי שֶׁהָלְּבָה לְעוֹלֶמָה. הִנְנִי נוֹדֵר (נוֹדֶרֶת) צְדָקָה בְּעַר הַוְּכָּרַת נִשְׁמָתָה אָנָא הְהִי נַפְשָׁה צְרוּרָה בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים וּתְהִי מְנוּחָתָה כָּבוֹר, שָׁבֵע שְׂמָחוֹת אֶת־בָּנֶיךְ, נְעִימוֹת בִּימִינְךְּ נֵצַח. אָמֵן.

May God remember the soul of my beloved daughter 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 memory, is her soul bound up in the bond of life. I am grateful for the sweetness of her life and for what she did accomplish. May she rest eternally in dignity and peace. Amen.

יהוה רעי, לא אַחְסָר.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

בְּנָאוֹת דֶשֶׁא יַרְבִּיצֵנִי,

He gives me repose in green meadows.

עַל מֵי מְנָחוֹת יְנַהֲלֶנִי. נַפְשִׁי יְשׁוֹבֵב,

He leads me beside the still waters to revive my spirit.

ַיַנְחֵנִי בְמַעְגְּלֵי־צֶדֶק לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ.

He guides me on the right path, for that is His nature.

נֵם כִּי אֵלַךְ בְּגֵיא צַלְמֶנֶת לא אִירָא רַע כִּי אַתָּה עִמָּדִי.

Though I walk in the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no harm, for You are with me.

שָׁבְטָך וּמִשְעַנְתֶּך הֵמָּה יְנַחַמֻנִי.

Your staff and Your rod comfort me.

תַּצֵרֹךְ לְפָנֵי שֻׁלְחָן נֵגֶר צֹרְרָי,

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

רְּשֻׁנְּתָ בַשֶּׁמֶן רֹאשׁי, כּוֹסִי רְנְיָה.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

אַך טוֹב וָחֶסֶד יִרְדְּפִוּנִי בֶּלֹ־יְמֵי חַיָּי,

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

וְשַׁבְתִּי בְּבֵית יהוה לְאְׂרֶךְ יָמִים.

And I shall dwell in the House of the Lord forever.

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In memory of the six million:

שֵּלֵל מֶלֵא הַחֲמִים, שּוֹכֵן בַּמְרוֹמִים, הַמְצֵא מְנוּחָּה נְּכוֹנָה מְחַת בַּנְפִי הַשְּׁכִינָה בְּמֵצְלוֹת קְדוֹשִׁים וּטְחוֹרִים כְּוְהַר הָרָקִיעַ מַוְהִירִים, אֶתְ־נִשְׁמִוֹת בְּלִ-אַחֲינוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׁרָאֵל, אֲנְשִׁים נָשִׁים וְשִׁנְחְרִים, שֶׁנְּטְבְּחוּ וְשֶׁנָּחְנְקוּ וְשֶׁנְשְׁרְפוּ וְשֶנֶהֶרְגוּ, בְּגַן עָדֶן תְּהִי מְעַרְּחָנִים. אָנָא בַּעַל הָרַחֲמִים, הַסְתִּירֶם בְּסְתֶר בְּנָפֶיְרְ מְשְׁנְּחִר בְּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת־נִשְׁמוֹתֵיהֶם. יהוה הוּא נְחַלְמִים וְצְרֵר בִּצְרוֹר הַחָיִים אֶת־נְשְׁמוֹתִיהֶם. יהוה הוּא נְחַלְיִם עַל מִשְׁבְּבוֹתֵיהֶם. וְנֹאמֵר אָמֵן.

Exalted, compassionate God, grant perfect peace in Your sheltering Presence, among the holy and the pure, to the souls of all our brethren, men, women, and children of the House of Israel who were slaughtered and suffocated and burned to ashes. May their memory endure, inspiring truth and loyalty 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:

שֵּל מָלֵא רַחֲמִים, שׁוֹכֵן בַּמְּרוֹמִים, הַמְצֵא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה מְּחָת בֵּנְפֵי הַשְּׁכִינָה בְּמֵעֲלוֹת קְרוֹשִים וּטְהֹוֹרִים כְּּוֹהַר הָרָקִיעַ מְּזְהִירִים אֶת־נִשְׁמוֹת בָּל-אֵלֶה שֶׁהִוֹכֵּרְנוּ הַיּוֹם לִּבְרָבָּה שֶׁהִוֹכֵּרְנוּ הַיּוֹם לִבְרָבָה שֶׁהְוֹכֵּרְנוּ לְעוֹלָמִים לְּבָרְנוּ הַיּוֹם לְבָרָכָּה הַסְתִּר בְּנָפֶיךְ לְעוֹלָמִים וּצְרֹר בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶתְּדְ נַשְׁלוֹם עַל נִשְׁמוֹתֵיהֶם. יהוה הוא נַחְלָתָם, וְיָנְוּחוּ בְשָׁלוֹם עַל מִשְׁבּבוֹתֵיהֶם. וְנֹאמֵר אָמֵן.

Exalted, compassionate God, grant perfect peace among the holy and the pure, in Your sheltering Presence, to the souls of all our beloved who have gone to their eternal home. May their memory endure as inspiration for 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.

MOURNER'S KADDISH

Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'mei raba b'alma di v'ra khir'utei, v'yamlikh malkhutei b'hayeikhon u-v'yomeikhon u-v'hayei d'khol beit yisrael, ba-agala u-vi-z'man kariv v'imru amen.

Y'hei sh'mei raba m'vorakh l'alam u-l'almei almaya.

Yitbarakh v'yishtabah v'yitpa'ar v'yitromam v'yitnasei, v'yit-hadar v'yit'aleh v'yit-halal sh'mei d'kudsha, b'rikh hu l'ela (l'ela mi-kol) min kol birkhata v'shirata, tushb'hata v'nehemata da-amiran b'alma, v'imru amen.

Y'hei shlama raba min sh'maya v'hayim aleinu v'al kol yisrael, v'imru amen.

Oseh shalom bi-m'romav, hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu v'al kol yisrael, v'imru amen.

Hallowed and enhanced may He be throughout the world of His own creation. May He cause His sovereignty soon to be accepted, during our life and the life of all Israel. And let us say: Amen.

May He be praised throughout all time.

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

Let there be abundant peace from Heaven, with life's goodness for us and for all the people Israel. And let us say: Amen.

He who brings peace to His universe will bring peace to us and to all the people Israel. And let us say: Amen.

Our Creator, the King of kings, delights in life. Because of His love for us, and because we are so few, each of us is important in His kingdom. Though we are flesh and blood, we are irreplaceable. When one of the House of Israel dies, there is a loss of glory in His kingdom and His grandeur is diminished. Therefore, members of the House of Israel, all of you who mourn and all of you who remember on this day, let us fix our hearts on our Father in Heaven, our King and our Redeemer, and let us pray for ourselves, and for Him too, that He and His sovereignty be hallowed and enhanced, glorified and celebrated.

MOURNER'S KADDISH

Mourners and those observing Yahrzeit:

יִתְגַּדֵּל וְיִתְקַדֵּשׁ שְׁמֵה רַבָּא בְּעָלְמָא דִי בְרָא בִרְעוּתָה, וְיַמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתֵה בְּחַיֵּיכוֹן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָּל־בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל, בַּעַנָּלָא וֹבְזָמֵן קַרִיב, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.

Congregation and mourner:

ּיְהֵא שְׁמֵה רַבָּא מְבָרַך לְעָלַם וּלְעָלְמֵי עַלְמֵיָא.

Mourner:

יִתְבָּרַךְ וִיִשְׁתַּבַּח וְיִתְבָּאַר וְיִתְרוֹמֵם וְיִתְנַשֵּא, וְיֵתְהַדַּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלֵּל שְׁמֵה דְּקָרְשָׁא, בְּרִיךְ הוּא לְעֵלָּא (לְעֵלָּא מִבָּל-) מִן בֶּל־בִּרְכָתָא וְשִׁירָתָא, תִּשְׁבִּחָתָא וְנֶחֱמָתָא רַּאֲמִירָן בְּעָלְמָא,

יָהָא שְׁלָמֶא רַבְּא מִן שְׁמֵיֵא וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל בְּל-יִשְּׁרָאֵל,

עושָה שָלום בִּמְרוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֶה שָלום עָלֵינוּ וְעַל בְּל־ ישַרָאַל, ואמרו אַמֵּוֹ.