

# Service for the House of Mourning

Temple Beth-El, San Antonio, TX



# Kabbalat Panim

We are assembled with our friends  
in the shadow that has fallen on this home.  
We raise our voices together  
in prayer to the Source of life,  
asking for comfort and strength.

We need light when gloom darkens our home;  
to Whom shall we look, if not to the Creator of light?  
We need fortitude and courage when pain and loss assail us;  
where shall We find them,  
if not in the thought of the One who preserves  
all that is good from destruction?

Who among us has not passed through trials and bereavements?  
Some bear fresh wounds in their hearts,  
and therefore, feel more keenly the kinship of sorrow;  
others, whose days of mourning are more remote,  
still recall the comfort that sympathy brought to their sorrowing hearts.

All things pass; all that lives must die.  
All that we prize is but lent to us, and the time comes  
when we must surrender it.  
We are travelers on the same road that leads to the same end

Kol haolam kulo gesher tzar m'od  
V'ha-ikar lo l'facheid klal.

כָּל הָעוֹלָם כְּלוּ גֶשֶׁר צָר מְאֹד  
וְהַעֲקָר לֹא לְפִיחַד כָּלֵל.

The entire world is but a narrow bridge; the most important thing is not to be afraid.

Sorrow comes in great waves...but it rolls over us, and though it may almost smother us it leaves us on the spot, and we know that if it is strong, we are stronger, inasmuch as it passes and we remain. It wears us, uses us, but we wear it and use it in return; and it is blind, whereas, we after a manner see. . . everything will pass, and serenity and accepted mysteries and disillusionments, and the tenderness of a few good people, and new opportunities and ever so much of life, in a word, will remain.

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Religious rituals at the time of death, no matter how much they may differ in form and content, seek to perform two functions: to ferry the departed one safely across the waters of oblivion to the shores of eternity, and at the same time to build a bridge upon which the bereaved living can move from the numbness of sorrow toward a renewed acceptance of life.

# Kindling a Memorial Light

נֵר יְיָ נִשְׁמַת אָדָם

*Ner Adonai nishmat adam*

The light of God shines in our soul. (Proverbs 20:27)

At this moment, in memory of our beloved \_\_\_\_\_,  
we join hands in love and remembrance.

A link has been broken in the chain that has bound us together,  
yet strong bonds of home and love hold us to one another.  
We give thanks for the blessing of life, of companionship, and  
of memory.

We are grateful for the strength and faith that have sustained us in the hour of our  
bereavement. Though sorrow lingers,  
we have learned that love is stronger than death.

Though our loved one is beyond our sight, we do not despair,  
for we sense our beloved in our hearts as a loving presence.  
Sustained by words of faith, comforted by precious memories, we kindle the  
{shivah/yizkor/yahrzeit} light in remembrance. As this light burns pure and clear, so may  
the blessed memory of the goodness of our dear \_\_\_\_\_ illumine our souls.

# Sh'ma uvirchotecha- Sh'ma and its blessings

*Please Rise*

## Bar'chu

Bar'chu et Adonai ham'vorach!  
Baruch Adonai ham'vorach  
l'olam va-ed.

בְּרַכּוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ.  
בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ  
לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

Praise Adonai to whom praise is due forever!  
Praised be Adonai to whom praise is due, now and forever!

## Maariv Aravim

Baruch atah, Adonai,  
Eloheinu, Melech haolam,  
asher bid'varo maariv aravim,  
b'chochmah potei-ach sh'arim,  
Uvit'vunah m'shaneh itim,  
umachalif et haz'manim,  
um'sadeir et hakoachavim,  
b'mishm'roteihem barakia kirtzono.  
Borei yom valailah,  
goleil or mipnei choshech,  
v'choshech mipnei or.  
Umaavir yom umeivi lailah,  
umavdil bein yom uvein lailah,  
Adonai Tz'vaot sh'mo.  
El chai v'kayam,  
tamid yimloch aleinu, l'olam va-ed.  
Baruch atah, Adonai, hamaariv aravim.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ,  
אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
אֲשֶׁר בְּדַבְרוֹ מַעְרִיב עַרְבִים,  
בְּחָכְמָה פּוֹתֵחַ שְׁעָרִים,  
וּבִתְבוּנָה מְשַׁנֶּה עֵתִים,  
וּמַחְלִיף אֶת הַזְּמַנִּים,  
וּמְסַדֵּר אֶת הַכּוֹכָבִים  
בְּמִשְׁמְרוֹתֵיהֶם בְּרַקִּיעַ כְּרָצוֹנוֹ.  
בוֹרֵא יוֹם וְלַיְלָה,  
גּוֹלֵל אוֹר מִפְּנֵי חֹשֶׁךְ,  
וְחֹשֶׁךְ מִפְּנֵי אוֹר.  
וּמַעְבִּיר יוֹם וּמַבְיֵא לַיְלָה,  
וּמַבְדִּיל בֵּין יוֹם וּבֵין לַיְלָה,  
יְיָ צְבָאוֹת שְׁמוֹ.  
אֵל חַי וְקַיִם,  
תָּמִיד וּמְלוּךְ עֲלֵינוּ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.  
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, הַמַּעְרִיב עַרְבִים.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who speaks the evening into being, skillfully opens the gates, thoughtfully alters the time and changes the seasons, and arranges the stars in the heavenly courses according to plan.

You are Creator of day and night, rolling light away from darkness and darkness from light, transforming day into night and distinguishing one from the other *Adonai Tz'vaot* is Your name. Ever-living God, may You reign continually over us into eternity. Blessed are You, Adonai, who brings on evening.

## Ahavat Olam

We are loved by an unending love.  
We are embraced by arms that find us  
even when we are hidden from ourselves.  
We are touched by fingers that soothe us  
even when we are too proud for soothing.  
We are counseled by voices that guide us  
even when we are too embittered to hear.  
We are loved by an unending love.

We are supported by hands that uplift us  
even in the midst of a fall.  
We are urged on by eyes that meet us  
even when we are too weak for meeting.  
We are loved by an unending love.

Embraced, touched, soothed, and counseled,  
ours are the arms, the fingers, the voices;  
ours are the hands, the eyes, the smiles;  
We are loved by an unending love.

Baruch atah, Adonai, ohev amo Yisrael.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אוֹהֵב עַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל.

Blessed are You, who loves Your people Israel.

## Sh'ma

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְיָ אֶחָד:

*Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad!*

Hear, O Israel, Adonai is our God, Adonai is One!

בָּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד

*Baruch shem k'vod malchuto l'olam va-ed.*

Blessed is God's glorious majesty forever and ever!

## V'ahavta

V'ahavta et Adonai Elohecha,  
b'chol l'vav'cha uv'chol nafsh'cha uv'chol  
m'odecha. V'hayu had'varim ha-eileh  
asher anochi m'tzav'cha hayom al  
l'vavecha. V'shinanatam l'vanecha v'dibarta  
bam b'shivt'cha b'veitecha uv'lecht'cha  
vaderech uv'shochb'cha uv'kumecha.  
Uk'shartam l'ot al yadecha v'hayu  
l'totafot bein einecha. Uch'tavtam  
al m'zuzuot beitecha uvish'arecha.

וְאָהַבְתָּ אֶת יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ,  
בְּכָל לִבְבְּךָ, וּבְכָל נַפְשְׁךָ, וּבְכָל  
מְאֹדְךָ. וְהָיוּ הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה,  
אֲשֶׁר אֲנֹכִי מְצַוְּךָ הַיּוֹם, עַל  
לִבְבְּךָ. וְשִׁנַּנְתֶּם לְבַנְיָדְךָ, וְדַבַּרְתֶּם  
בָּם, בְּשִׁבְתְּךָ בְּבֵיתְךָ, וּבְלֶכְתְּךָ  
בַּדֶּרֶךְ, וּבְשֹׁכְבְּךָ, וּבְקוּמְךָ.  
וְקִשְׂרַתֶּם לָאוֹת עַל יָדְךָ, וְהָיוּ  
לְטֹטְפוֹת בֵּין עֵינֶיךָ. וְכִתַּבְתֶּם  
עַל מְזוּזוֹת בְּיַתְדְךָ וּבְשַׁעְרֶיךָ.

L'maan tizk'ru, vaasitem et  
kol mitzvotai vih'yitem k'doshim  
l'Eloheichem. Ani Adonai Eloheichem,  
asher hotzeiti et-chem mei-eretz  
Mitzrayim lih'yot lachem l'Elohim  
ani Adonai Eloheichem.

לְמַעַן תִּזְכְּרוּ וַעֲשִׂיתֶם אֶת  
כָּל מִצְוֹתַי, וְהָיִיתֶם קְדוֹשִׁים  
לְאֱלֹהֵיכֶם. אֲנִי יְיָ אֱלֹהֵיכֶם,  
אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִי אֶתְכֶם מֵאֶרֶץ  
מִצְרַיִם, לְהָיוֹת לָכֶם לְאֱלֹהִים,  
אֲנִי יְיָ אֱלֹהֵיכֶם.

You shall love Adonai your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. Take to heart these instructions with which I charge you this day. Impress them upon your children. Recite them when you stay at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up. Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them serve as a symbol on your forehead; inscribe them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. So that you shall remember to observe all My commandments and to be holy to your God. I am Adonai, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am Adonai your God.

יְיָ אֱלֹהֵיכֶם אֱמֶת.  
Adonai Eloheichem EMET.

## G'ulah

There are times when each of us feels lost or alone, adrift and forsaken, unable to reach those next to us, or to be reached by them. And there are days and nights when existence seems to lack all purpose, and our lives seem brief sparks in an indifferent cosmos.

Fear and loneliness enter into the soul.  
None of us is immune from doubt and fear;  
none escapes times when all seems dark and senseless.  
Then, at the ebb-tide of the spirit,  
the soul cries out and reaches for companionship.

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Standing on the parted shores of history  
we still believe what we were taught  
before ever we stood at Sinai's foot;  
that wherever we go, it is eternally Egypt;  
that there is a better place, a promised land;  
that the winding way to that promise  
passes through the wilderness.  
That there is no way to get from here to there  
except by joining hands, marching  
together.

## Mi Chamocha

Mi Chamochah ba-eilim, Adonai!  
Mi kamochah nedar bakodesh,  
Nora t'hilot, oseh fele!

מִי־כִמְכָּה בְּאֵלִים, יי  
מִי כִמְכָּה נֶאֱדָר בְּקֹדֶשׁ,  
נֹרָא תְהִלַּת, עֹשֶׂה פֶּלֶא!

Malchut'cha ra-u vanecha  
Bokei-a yam lifnei Moshe uMiryam.  
Zeh Eli, anu v'amru,  
Adonai yimloch l'olam va-ed!

מַלְכוּתְךָ רָאוּ בְּנֵי־ךָ,  
בֹּקַעַ יָם לְפָנַי מִשֶּׁה וּמַרְיָם.  
זֶה אֵלַי עָנּוּ וְאָמְרוּ:  
יי וּמְלוּךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

V'ne-emar: ki fada Adonai et Yaakov,  
ug'alo miyad chazak mimenu.  
Baruch ata, Adonai, gaal Yisrael.

וְנֹאמַר: כִּי פָדָה יי אֶת־יַעֲקֹב,  
וּגְאָלוּ מִיַּד חֲזָק מִמֶּנּוּ.  
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי, גֹּאֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל.

Who is like You, O God, among the gods that are worshipped? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders? Your children witnessed Your sovereignty, the sea splitting before Moses and Miriam, "This is our God!" they cried. "Adonai will reign forever and ever!" Thus, it is said: "Adonai redeemed Jacob, from a hand stronger than his own." Praised are You, Adonai, for redeeming Israel.

## Hashkiveinu

Give us a place to rest, O God.  
Bring us into shelter  
in the soft, long, evening shadows of Your truth.  
For with You are true protection and safety,  
and in Your Presence is gentle love.  
Watch over us as we go forth.  
Prepare for us as we return.  
Spread over us Your shelter of peace,  
over all we love—over Jerusalem and Yours.

Baruch atah, Adonai, haporeis  
sukkah shalom aleinu v'al kol amo  
Yisrael v'al Yerushalayim.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, הַפּוֹרֵשׁ  
סִבַּת שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵינוּ, וְעַל כָּל עַמּוֹ  
יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַל יְרוּשָׁלַיִם.

Blessed are You, Adonai, Guardian of Israel, whose shelter of peace is spread over us,  
over all Your people Israel, and over Jerusalem.

*We rise*

## AMIDAH

Adonai, s'fatai tiftach,  
ufi yagid t'hilatecha.

אֲדֹנָי, שְׁפָתַי תִּפְתָּח,  
וּפִי יַגִּיד תְּהִלָּתֶךָ.

ADONAI, open up my lips, that my mouth may declare Your praise.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu  
v'Elohei avoteinu v'imoteinu,  
Elohei Avraham,  
Elohei Yitzchak v'Elohei Yaakov,  
Elohei Sarah, Elohei Rivkah,  
Elohei Rachel v'Elohei Leah,  
Ha-El hagadol hagibor  
v'hanora, El elyon, gomeil  
chasadim tovim, v'koneih hakol,  
v'zocheir chasdei avot v'imahot,  
umeivi g'ulah liv'nei v'neihem  
l'maan sh'mo b'ahavah.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ  
וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ,  
אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם,  
אֱלֹהֵי יִצְחָק וְאֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב,  
אֱלֹהֵי שָׂרָה, אֱלֹהֵי רִבְקָה,  
אֱלֹהֵי רָחֵל וְאֱלֹהֵי לֵאָה,  
הָאֵל הַגָּדוֹל הַגִּבּוֹר  
וְהַנּוֹרָא, אֵל עֲלִיּוֹן, גּוֹמֵל  
חֲסָדִים טוֹבִים, וְקוֹנֵה הַכֹּל,  
זוֹכֵר חֲסָדֵי אֲבוֹת וְאִמּוֹת,  
וּמְבִיא גְאֻלָּה לְבָנֵי בְנֵיהֶם  
לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ בְּאַהֲבָה:

BLESSED ARE YOU, Adonai, our God, God of our fathers and mothers, God of Abraham, God of Isaac, and God of Jacob, God of Sarah, God of Rebecca, God of Rachel, and God of Leah, the great, mighty and awesome God, transcendent God who bestows lovingkindness, creates everything out of love, remembers the love of our fathers and mothers, and brings redemption to their children's children for the sake of the Divine Name.

Between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

Zochreinu l'chayim,  
Melech chafeitz bachayim,  
v chorveinu b'sefer hachayim,  
l'maancha Elohim chayim.

זְכַרְנוּ לְחַיִּים,  
מֶלֶךְ חָפֵץ בַּחַיִּים,  
וְכַתְּבֵנו בְּסֵפֶר הַחַיִּים,  
לְמַעַן אֱלֹהִים חַיִּים.

Remember us for life, O Sovereign who delights in life, and inscribe us in the Book of Life, for Your sake, Living God.

At all times, continue:

Melech ozeir umoshia  
umagein. Baruch atah, Adonai,  
magein Avraham v'ezrat Sarah.

מֶלֶךְ עוֹזֵר וּמוֹשִׁיעַ וּמַגֵּן.  
בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ,  
מַגֵּן אַבְרָהָם וְעִזְרַת שָׂרָה.

Sovereign, Deliverer, Helper and Shield, blessed are You, Adonai, Abraham's Shield,  
Sarah's Helper.

Atah gibor l'olam, Adonai,  
m'chayeih hakol (meitim)atah,  
rav l'hoshia.

אַתָּה גִבּוֹר לְעוֹלָם אֲדֹנָי,  
מְחַיֶּה הַכֹּל (מֵתִים) אַתָּה,  
רַב לְהוֹשִׁיעַ.

**In Winter:** Mashiv haruach umorid hagashem.

**In Summer:** Morid hatal.

מְשִׁיב הַרוּחַ וּמוֹרִיד הַגֶּשֶׁם.  
מוֹרִיד הַטַּל.

M'chalkeil chayim b'chesed,  
m'chayeih hakol (meitim)  
b'rachamim rabim, someich noflim,  
v'rofei cholim, umatir asurim,  
um'kayeim emunato lisheinei afar.  
Mi chamocha baal g'vurot  
umi domeh lach, melech meimit  
um'chayeh umatzmiach y'shuah.  
V'ne-eman atah l'hachayot hakol.  
Baruch atah, Adonai, m'chayeih hakol  
(meitim).

מְכַלְכֵּל חַיִּים בְּחֶסֶד,  
מְחַיֶּה הַכֹּל (מֵתִים)  
בְּרַחֲמִים רַבִּים, סוֹמֵךְ נוֹפְלִים,  
וְרוֹפֵא חוֹלִים, וּמַתִּיר אֲסוּרִים,  
וּמְקַיֵּם אֱמוּנָתוֹ לִישְׁנֵי עֶפְרַיִם,  
מִי כְמוֹךָ בְּעַל גִּבּוֹרוֹת  
וּמִי דוֹמֵה לָךְ, מֶלֶךְ מֵמִית  
וּמְחַיֶּה וּמַצְמִיחַ יְשׁוּעָה.  
וְנֶאֱמָן אַתָּה לְהַחְיֹת הַכֹּל.  
בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ, מְחַיֶּה הַכֹּל  
(מֵתִים)

You are forever mighty, Adonai; You give life to all (revive the dead).

*In Winter: You cause the wind to shift and rain to fall.*

*In Summer: You rain dew upon us.*

You sustain life through love, giving life to all (reviving the dead) through great compassion, supporting the fallen, healing the sick, freeing the captive, keeping faith with those who sleep in the dust. Who is like You, Source of mighty acts? \*Who resembles You, a Sovereign who takes and gives life, causing deliverance to spring up and faithfully giving life to all? Blessed are You, Adonai, who gives life to all.

Between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

Mi chamocho Av harachamim,  
Zocheir y'tzurav l'chayim b'rachamim.

מִי כְמוֹךָ אֲבֹתֵינוּ הַרְחֵמֵנוּ,  
זֹכֵר יְצוּרֵינוּ לְחַיִּים בְּרַחֲמֵינוּ.

Who is like You, Compassionate God, who mercifully remembers Your creatures for life?

Atah kadosh v'shimcha kadosh  
uk'doshim b'chol yom  
y'hal'lucha, selah.\*  
Baruch atah, Adonai, Ha-El hakadosh.

אַתָּה קָדוֹשׁ וְשִׁמְךָ קָדוֹשׁ  
וְקָדוֹשִׁים בְּכָל יוֹם  
יְהַלְלוּךָ סֵלָה.\*  
בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ, הָאֵל הַקָּדוֹשׁ.

YOU ARE HOLY, Your Name is holy,  
and those who are holy praise You every day.\*  
Blessed are You, Adonai, the Holy God.

Between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

Baruch atah, Adonai, HaMelech  
hakadosh.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ, הַמֶּלֶךְ הַקָּדוֹשׁ.

Blessed are You, Adonai the Holy Ruler.

# Silent Meditation

*Light dawns in the darkness for the upright,  
Gracious and merciful and just. (Psalm 112:7-8)*

**TURN US** to your teaching, God,  
A perfect understanding that sees beyond the moment.  
Clarify for us  
Eternity's lucidity:

Torah's intimations of life's finality,  
and of what comes after,  
solutions to the mystery of life and death  
that haunts the vacant places in each house of mourning  
and invades my soul even as I pray.

Let the words that escape my lips  
and the whispers that disturb my heart,  
find acceptance as they reach You,  
Adonai, my Rock and my Assurance.                      -Based on Psalm 19:15

\*\*\*

**ADONAI**, who may abide in Your house?  
Who may dwell in Your holy mountain?  
Those of integrity who act justly, and speak truth in their heart;  
who have no slander on their tongue, who do no evil to their friend,  
and have no insult for their neighbor; who have contempt for the wicked,  
but honor those who fear God;  
who give their word, and come what may, do not retract;  
who do not exploit others for gain,  
or take bribes against the innocent.  
Those who live in this way shall not be shaken.                      —Psalm 15

**WE ARE STRANGERS** in Your sight, O God; like all who came before us,  
our days on earth vanish like shadows. But the speedy flight of life,  
and the grave that looms on the horizon, should not dismay us;  
rather, let them teach us wisdom, and prompt us to put our trust in You.  
For only the dust returns to the dust; the spirit that You have breathed into us returns  
to You, its everlasting Source. Into us You have placed a portion of Your divinity; Your  
mighty strength is our firm support. When we become servants of Your Law, witnesses  
to Your truth, champions of Your dominion,  
then indeed do we endow our fleeting days with abiding worth.

We are children of dust. God, give us strength and understanding that we may fill our  
days with good. Though our days are few, help us to make them great.

\*\*\*

**LET ME DO** my work each day;  
And if the darkened hours of despair overcome me  
May I not forget the strength that comforted me  
In the desolation of other times.  
May I still remember the bright hours that found me  
Walking over the silent hills of my childhood,  
Or dreaming on the margin of the quiet river,  
When a light glowed within me,  
And I promised my early God to have courage  
Amid the tempests of the changing years.

\*\*\*

**LET US TREASURE** the time we have,  
and resolve to use it well,  
counting each moment precious—a chance to apprehend some truth,  
to experience some beauty, to conquer some evil,  
to relieve some suffering, to love and be loved,  
to achieve something of lasting worth.

Help us, God, to fulfill the promise that is in each of us,  
and so to conduct ourselves that generations hence  
it will be true to say of us:  
The world is better, because for a brief space, they lived in it.

## Oseh Shalom

Oseh shalom bimromav, hu yaaseh  
shalom aleinu, v'al kol Yisrael,  
V'al kol yoshvei teiveil, v'imru: Amen.

עֲשֵׂה שָׁלוֹם בְּמִרְוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֵׂה  
שָׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ, וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל  
וְעַל כָּל יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֵל, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

May the One who makes peace in the high heavens make peace for us, all Israel, and all who inhabit the earth. Amen.

*Please Rise*

## Aleinu

Aleinu l'shabei-ach laadon hakol,  
lateit g'dulah l'yotzeir b'reishit,  
shehu sam chelkeinu  
l'yacheid et sh'mo  
v'goraleinu l'hamlich malchuto  
Vaanachnu kor'im  
umishtachavim umodim,  
lifnei Melech mal'chei ham'lachim  
haKadosh Baruch Hu.

עָלֵינוּ לְשַׁבֵּחַ לְאֲדוֹן הַכֹּל,  
לְתֵת גְּדֻלָּה לְיוֹצֵר בְּרֵאשִׁית,  
שֶׁהוּא שָׂם חֶלְקֵינוּ  
לְיַחַד אֶת שְׁמוֹ,  
וְגָרְלָנוּ לְהַמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתוֹ.  
וְאֶנְחָנוּ כּוֹרְעִים  
וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוִים מוֹדִים,  
לְפָנֵי מֶלֶךְ מַלְכֵי הַמַּלְכִּים,  
הַקָּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא.

Let us now praise the Sovereign of the universe and proclaim the greatness of the Creator whose unity we are charged to declare; whose realm it is our purpose to uphold. Therefore, we bow in awe and thanksgiving before the One who is Sovereign over all, the Holy and Blessed One.

V'ne-emar, v'hayah Adonai l'Melech al  
kol Haaretz. Bayom hahu yih'yeh  
Adonai echad ush'mo echad.

וְנֹאמַר, וְהָיָה יְיָ לְמֶלֶךְ עַל  
כָּל הָאָרֶץ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא יְהִי  
יְיָ אֶחָד, וּשְׁמוֹ אֶחָד

And it has been said: "The Eternal God shall rule over all the earth; on that day You shall be One and Your name shall be One."

# Memorial Prayers

## Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul;  
He guideth me in straight paths for His name's sake.  
Yeah, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me;  
Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;  
Thou hast anointed my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord Forever. (Psalm 23)

\*\*\*

*O GOD, HEALER of the broken-hearted  
and Binder of their wounds.  
grant consolation to those who mourn.  
Give them strength and courage  
in their time of grief,  
and restore to them a sense of life's goodness.  
Fill them with reverence and love  
that they may serve You with a full heart,  
and let them know Peace. Amen.*

\*\*\*

*We rise for the memorial prayer*

## El Male Rachamim (male)

El malei rachamim, Shochein bamromim,	אל מלא רחמים שוכן במרומים.
Ham'tzei m'nuchah n'chonah tachat	המצא מנוחה נכונה, תחת
kanfei haShechinah, im k'doshim	כנפי השכינה. עם קדושים
ut'horim k'zohar harakia mazhirim,	וטהורים כזוהר הרקיע
	מזהירים,
et nishmat...(Hebrew name) shehalach	את נשמת ..... שהלך לעולמו
l'olamo.	
Baal harachamim yastireihu b'seiter	בעל הרחמים יסתירהו בסתר
k'nafav l'olamim, v'yitzror bitzror	כנפיו לעולמים. ויצרור בצרור
hachayim et nishmato. Adonai hu	החיים את נשמתו. יי הוא נחלתו
nachalato.	
V'yanuach b'shalom al mishkavo.	וינוח בשלום על משכבו.
V'nomar: A-men.	ונאמר אמן:

O God, full of compassion, eternal spirit of the universe, grant perfect rest under the wings of your presence to our loved one \_\_\_\_\_ who has entered eternity. Source of mercy: let him find refuge forever in the shadow of your wings, and let his soul be bound up in the bond of eternity. Be his inheritance, and may he rest in peace. Amen.

## El Male Rachamim (female)

El malei rachamim, Shochein bamromim,  
ham'tzei m'nuchah n'chonah tachat  
kanfei haShechinah, im k'doshim  
ut'horim k'zohar harakia mazhirim,  
et nishmat...(Hebrew name) shehal'chah  
l'olamah.

Baal harachamim yastireiha b'seiter  
k'nafav l'olamim, v'yitzror bitzror  
hachayim et nishmatah. Adonai hu  
nachalatah.

V'tanuach b'shalom al mishkavah.

V'nomar: A-men.

אֵל מְלֵא רַחֲמִים שׁוֹכֵן בַּמְרוֹמִים.  
הַמְצִיא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה, תַּחַת  
כַּנְפֵי הַשְּׁכִינָה. עִם קְדוּשִׁים  
וְטְהוּרִים כְּזוֹהַר הַרְקִיעַ מִזֵּה־יָרִים,  
אֶת נִשְׁמַת ..... שֶׁהִלְכָה לְעוֹלָמָהּ

בְּעַל הַרַחֲמִים יִסְתַּיְרָהּ בְּסִתְרָהּ  
כְּנַפָּיו לְעוֹלָמִים. וְיִצְרֹר בְּצִרְוֹר  
הַחַיִּים אֶת נִשְׁמַתָּהּ. יְיָ הוּא נִחְלָתָהּ

וְתַנּוּחַ בְּשָׁלוֹם עַל מִשְׁכָּבָהּ.  
וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן :

O God, full of compassion, eternal spirit of the universe, grant perfect rest under the wings of Your presence to our loved one \_\_\_\_\_ who has entered eternity. Source of mercy: let her find refuge forever in the shadow of Your wings, and let her soul be bound up in the bond of eternity. Be her inheritance, and may she rest in peace. Amen.

# Meditations

**IF MY BOUNDARY** stops here

I have daughters to draw new maps of the world

they will draw the lines of my face

they will draw with my gestures my voice

they will speak my words thinking they have invented them

they will invent them

they will invent me

I will be planted again and again

I will wake in the eyes of their children's children

they will speak my words

\*\*\*

**IN NATURE'S EBB AND FLOW**, God's eternal law abides. When tears dim our vision or grief clouds our understanding, we often lose sight of God's eternal plan. Yet we know that growth and decay, life and death, all reveal a divine purpose. God, who is our support in the struggles of life, is also our hope in death. We have set God before us and shall not despair. In God's hands are the souls of all the living and the spirits of all flesh. Under God's protection we abide, and by God's love are we comforted. O Life of our life, Soul of our soul, shine Your light into our hearts, and fill our spirits with abiding trust in You.

\*\*\*

**WE SAY SHALOM**, and not goodbye,  
for shalom is goodbye and hello and wholeness and peace  
all threaded together in one breath,  
and in one breath we too say goodbye. . .  
to a hand to hold, a kiss and a tight embrace,  
and in the same breath of shalom  
we say hello  
to an ocean of memories and a rush of emotion, gratitude and sorrow,  
tears and laughter and trembling and fatigue all in one breath.

\*\*\*

When I die  
Give what's left of me away  
To children  
And old men that wait to die.  
And if you need to cry,  
Cry for your brother  
Walking the street beside you.  
And when you need me,  
Put your arms  
Around anyone  
And give them  
What you need to give to me.

I want to leave you something,  
Something better than words or sounds.

Look for me  
In the people I've known  
Or loved,

And if you cannot give me away,  
At least let me live in your eyes  
And not in your mind.

You can love me most  
By letting  
Hands touch hands,  
By letting  
Bodies touch bodies,  
And by letting go  
Of children  
That need to be free.

Love doesn't die, People do. So, when  
all that's left of me is love, Give me  
away.

\*\*\*

## **BIRTH IS A BEGINNING**

and death a destination.

And life is a journey:

from childhood to maturity

and youth to 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,

and 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,

from birth to death

to life everlasting.

## Mourner's Kaddish

Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'mei raba.  
B'alma di v'ra chirutei, v'yamlich  
malchutei b'chayeichon uv'yomeichon  
Uv'chayei d'chol beit Yisrael, baagala  
Uviz'man kariv. V'imru: Amen.  
Y'hei sh'mei raba m'varach l'alam  
Ul'almei almaya.  
Yitbarach v'yishtabach v'yitpaar  
v'yitromam v'yitnasei, v'yithadar  
v'yitaleh v'yithalal sh'mei d'Kud'sha,  
B'rich Hu, l'eila min kol birchata  
v'shirata, tushb'chata v'nechemata,  
daamiran b'alma. V'imru: Amen.  
Y'hei sh'lama raba min sh'maya, v'chayim  
aleinu v'al kol Yisrael. V'imru: Amen  
Oseh shalom bimromav, Hu  
yaaseh shalom aleinu, v'al kol Yisrael.  
V'imru: Amen

יִתְגַּדֵּל וְיִתְקַדֵּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא.  
בְּעֵלְמָא דִּי בְּרָא כְרַעוּתָהּ, וְיִמְלִיךְ  
מַלְכוּתָהּ בְּחַיֵּיכוֹן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן  
וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּעֵגְלָא  
וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב וְאִמְרוּ: אָמֵן.  
יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלַם  
וְלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמַיָּא  
יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח, וְיִתְפָּאֵר  
וְיִתְרוֹמַם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא וְיִתְהַדָּר  
וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵהּ דְּקֻדְשָׁא  
בְּרִיךְ הוּא, לְעֵלְא מִן כָּל בִּרְכָתָא  
וְשִׁירָתָא, תִּשְׁבַּחְתָּא וְנַחֲמָתָא,  
דְּאִמְרוּן בְּעֵלְמָא, וְאִמְרוּ: אָמֵן.  
יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא וְחַיִּים  
עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאִמְרוּ: אָמֵן.  
עֹשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמְרוֹמָיו הוּא  
יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל,  
וְאִמְרוּ: אָמֵן:

Let the glory of God he extolled, and God's great name be hallowed in the world whose creation God willed. May God rule in our own day, in our own lives, and in the life of all Israel, and let us say: Amen. Let God's great name be blessed forever and ever. Beyond all the praises, songs, and adorations that we can utter is the Holy One, the Blessed One, whom yet we glorify, honor, and exalt. And let us say: Amen. For us and for all Israel, may the blessing of peace and the promise of life come true, and let us say: Amen. May the One who causes peace to reign in the high heavens, cause peace to reign among us, all Israel, and all the world, and let us say: Amen.

## Benediction

הַמָּקוֹם יְנַחֵם אֶתְכֶם בְּתוֹךְ שְׂאֵר אֲבֵלֵי צִיּוֹן וּירוּשָׁלַיִם.

Ha Makom Y'nachem etchem b'toch sh'ar aveilei Tzion virushalayim  
May God console you with all who mourn in Zion and Jerusalem.

Now go forth in peace, to life.