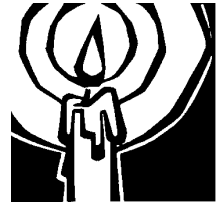


FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

A short bereavement service in our time of isolation.

Greeting

We belong to Jesus Christ,
who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father.
Grace and mercy be with you.



Lighting a Candle

Today we remember before God our loved ones who have died,
to give thanks for their lives and find comfort for our grief.
Lighting a candle we offer to God the memories we cherish and the sadness of parting.

Opening Prayer

Father in heaven,
we praise your name for all who have finished this life loving and trusting you,
and those whose faith is known to you alone.
We thank you for the example of their lives,
the life and grace you gave them
and the peace in which they rest.
We praise you today for all those
whom we have loved but see no more.
Meet us in our sadness
and fill our hearts with your peace,
for the sake of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.
He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
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, they comfort me.
You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.
Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

John Ch.14 vv.1-6

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

Thanks be to God.

Remembering

Father in heaven,
we give you thanks for all those we remember today.
We praise you as we recollect their lives
and cherish their memories.
We bless you that they brought light into our lives;
for we have seen in their friendship, reflections of your compassion,
in their integrity, demonstrations of your goodness,
in their faithfulness glimpses of your eternal love.
Grant to each of us, beloved and bereft,
the grace to follow their good example
so that we may come to your everlasting kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who died and rose again and opened the gate of glory,
to whom be praise for all eternity.
Amen.

Prayers

God our refuge and strength,
close at hand in our distress;
meet us in our sorrow and lift our eyes
to the peace and light of your constant care.
Help us so to hear your word of grace
that our fear will be dispelled by your love,
our loneliness eased by your presence
and our hope renewed by your promises
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Gracious God,
surround us and all who mourn this day
with your continuing compassion.
Do not let grief overwhelm your children,
or turn them against you.
When grief seems never-ending,
take them one step at a time
along your road of death and resurrection
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Lord God, creator of all,
you have made us creatures of this earth,
but have also promised us a share in life eternal.
According to your promises,
may all who have died in the peace of Christ
share with your saints in the joy of heaven,
where there is neither sorrow nor pain
but life everlasting.
Alleluia, Amen

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen

The Peace

Jesus said:

Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you.

Not as the world gives give I unto you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

Closing Prayer

Neither death nor life

can separate us from the love of God

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Grant to us, Lord God,

to trust you not for ourselves alone,

but also for those whom we love

and who are hidden from us by the shadow of death;

that, as we believe your power to have raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead,

so may we trust your love to give eternal life to all who believe in him;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Blessing

May Christ the good shepherd

enfold you with love,

fill you with peace,

and lead you in hope,

to the end of your days;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

