

## Yizkor Service

### From Psalm 16

שׁוֹיִתִּי יְהוָה לְנֶגְדֵי תְמִיד כִּי מִיְמִינִי בְּלֹא־מוֹט : לְכֹן שָׁמַח לְבִי וַיִּגַּל כְּבוֹדִי אֶף־בְּשָׂרִי יִשְׁכֵּן לְבָטָח :

Keep me Eternal One, for in You I find refuge and in You my soul finds its peace. Guardian of all my days, You are my cup from which I drink, and the portion of my life. I thank You for guiding my steps, for the inner voice that instructs me.

We miss them at celebrations, when there's an empty seat at the table.

*We miss them when the community gathers, and there's an empty place beside us.*

We miss them today, and every today, and with every year that passes, as our life goes on without them.

*Their faces, their voices, the feel of our arms around them—these are with us forever.*

For so it is written: “Love is strong as death (Song of Songs 8:6)”.

*The love that we gave, the love we received—these endure amid the pain of loss.*

~ Mishkan HaNefesh

### From Psalm 121

אֲשָׂא עֵינַי אֶל־הַהָרִים מֵאֵין זָבֵא עֲזָרִי : עֲזָרִי מֵעַם יְיָ עֲשֵׂה שְׂמִימִם וְאָרֶץ : אֵלֵי־תֵינן לְמוֹט רַגְלֶךָ אֵלֵי־נוֹם שְׁמֶרְךָ : הַהָרָה לֹא יָנוֹם וְלֹא יִשָּׁן שׁוֹמֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל : יְיָ שְׁמֶרְךָ יְיָ צִלְךָ עַל־יַד יְמִינֶךָ :

Esa einai el-hehariim: mei-ayin yavo ezri? Ezri mei-im Adonai—oseih shamayim vaaretz. Al yitein lamot raglecha, al yanum shom'recha. Hinei lo yanum v'lo yishan shomeir Yisrael. Adonai shom'recha, Adonai tzil'cha al yad y'minecha, al yad y'minecha.

I turn my eyes to the mountains; from where will my help come? My help comes from Adonai, maker of heaven and earth.

### A Covid Kaddish

This is a Kaddish for those who died before we identified the virus

And for those who died after we knew it was spreading among us.

This is a Kaddish for those who died on ventilators

And those for whom there were not enough ventilators.

This is a Kaddish for those who were infected at work

And for those who unknowingly infected others.

This is a Kaddish for those who were already vulnerable

And for those who thought they were invulnerable.

This is a Kaddish for those who perished in care facilities

And for those who were doomed by the carelessness of others.

This is a Kaddish for our family and friends who we lost

And for all those we did not know who have died.

This is a Kaddish for what we all have lost --

The normalcy of human contact. A sense of safety, security and certainty

School, playdates, vacations and meals with friends. Jobs and economic security

And for what we all missed --

Being able to sit by a loved one's side as they lay dying

Celebrating at weddings and b'nai mitzvah. First steps and first words

Being held in the embrace of our family and friends

This is a time to let our tears flow, And to grieve our communal loss.

This is a Kaddish for all those we have lost, And for ourselves.

~ Rabbi Debra Hachen, adapted

### Tears

Oh, for the world. Oh, for our children.

Cover me, hold me, God but don't wipe my tears.

They have to follow their course.

~ Rabbi Menachem Creditor

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### Psalm 23

מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד יְהוָה רֹעִי לֹא אֶחָסֵר : בְּנֵאוֹת דְּשָׂא יִרְבִּיצֵנִי עַל־מִי מִנְחוֹת יְנַהֲלֵנִי : נַפְשִׁי יִשׁוּבֵב יְנַחֲנִי בְּמַעְגְלֵי־צֶדֶק לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ : גַּם כִּי־אֵלֶךְ בְּגִיא צַלְמוֹת לֹא־אִירָא רָע כִּי־אֲתָה עִמָּדִי שִׁבְטֶךָ וּמִשְׁעֲנֶנְתֶּךָ הִמָּה יְנַחֲמֵנִי : תַּעֲרֹךְ לִפְנֵי שְׁלַחַן נֶגְדַּ צַּרְרֵי דִשְׁנֶנֶת בְּשִׁמּוֹן רֹאשִׁי כּוֹסֵי רוּיָה : אֵךְ טוֹב וְחָסֵד יִרְדְּפוּנִי כָּל־יְמֵי חַיֵּי וְשִׁבְתִּי בְּבֵית־יְהוָה לְאָרְךָ יָמִים

A psalm of David. Adonai is my shepherd; I shall not want. You make me lie down in green pastures; You lead me beside still waters. You restore my soul. You lead me on the right paths for the sake of Your name. Though I walk through a valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff - they comfort me. You have set a table for me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of God forever.

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 or sister walking the street beside you  
And when you need me put your arms around anyone and give them what you need to give 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 on your mind.

You can love me most by letting hands touch hands, 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.

~ Merrit Malloy

### Silent Remembrances

May God remember the soul of my father / my mother / my grandfather / my grandmother / my brother / my sister / my son / my daughter / my husband / my wife/ my uncle / my aunt/ my loved one (Hebrew or English name) who has gone to his/her/their place of eternal rest. Please let his/her/their soul be bound up with the living in the continuum of life, and grant him/her/them abundant joy in Your presence. May the beauty of his/her/their life shine for evermore, and may my life always bring honor to his/her/their memory.

### El Malei Rachamim

אֵל מְלֵא רַחֲמִים, שׁוֹכֵן בְּמְרוֹמִים, הַמַּצֵּא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה תַּחַת כַּנְּפֵי הַשְּׁכִינָה, עִם קְדוּשִׁים וְטְהוּרִים כְּזֹהֵר הַרְקִיעַ מְזֵהִירִים, לְנִשְׁמוֹת יַקְרִינוּ שֶׁהִלְכוּ לְעוֹלָמָם, בְּעַל הַרְחָמִים יִסְתַּיְרָם בְּסִתְרָם כְּנִפְיוֹ לְעוֹלָמִים, וְיִצְרוֹר בְּצִרוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת נַשְׁמָתָם, יְיָ הוּא נִחְלָתָם, וְיִנְוָחוּ בְּשָׁלוֹם עַל מְשַׁכְּבָם, וְנֹאמֵר אָמֵן.

Merciful God, God Most High: Let there be perfect rest for the souls of our loved ones who have gone into eternity. May they find shelter in Your presence among the holy and pure whose light shines like the radiance of heaven. Compassionate God, hold them close to You forever. May their souls be bound up in the bond of life eternal. May they find a home in You. And may the rest in peace. Together we say: Amen.

### We Remember Them

At the rising sun and at its going down, we remember them.

*At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.*

At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.

*At the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.*

At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of the autumn, we remember them.

*At the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.*

When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.

*When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.*

When we have joy we crave to share, we remember them.

*For as long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us as, We remember them.*

~ Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn, adapted