

## Introduction

As I remember the dead, I give thanks for the many blessings that you have poured into my life. You promised me that when I call upon your name, you will answer me. May I be near to you as I gather to praise and worship today and every day.

I begin by blessing myself,  
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

### Opening Prayer

Lord God, in this month of November, as the leaves fall and the evenings become longer and nature rests, we take time to remember those people in our lives who have died. With the death of a loved one a light goes out. Our lives seem darker without them. There is a light that can dispel the sadness of grief – the Light of Christ and belief in life everlasting.

- As I light a candle, to represent the life of Christ, I ask you to bless the memories of my beloved dead and comfort me in my sadness. *(light a candle)*
- As I look at the cross, a symbol of death and resurrection, I ask you to heal my heart and give me the strength to go forward with my life. *(place cross on the table)*

### Scripture Reading:

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes 3:1-11)

There is a season for everything, a time for every happening under heaven.

A time for giving birth and a time for dying;

a time for planting, a time for harvesting.

A time for knocking down and a time for building up.

A time for tears, a time for laughter, a time for mourning and a time for dancing.

A time for embracing and a time for refraining from embracing.

A time for holding and a time for letting go.

A time for keeping silent and a time for speaking.

A time for loving, a time for hating, a time for war, a time for peace.

A time for forgetting and a time for remembering.

The Word of the Lord.

## Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want,  
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.  
He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.  
If I shall walk in the valley of darkness no evil, would, I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff.,  
with these you give me comfort.  
You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of your foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.  
Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

### Litany of Remembrance

In the rising of the sun and in its going down, I remember them.  
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, I remember them.  
In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring, I remember them.  
In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, I remember them.  
In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn, I remember them.  
In the beginning of the year and when it ends, I remember them.  
When we are weary and in need of strength, I remember them.  
When we are lost and sick at heart, I remember them.  
When we have joys we yearn to share, I remember them.  
So long as I live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of me, as I remember them.

Now pray the prayer that Jesus himself gave us. Our Father...

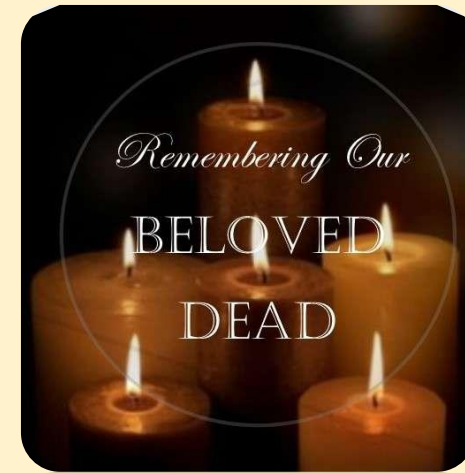
### Final Prayer

Lord God, I ask that you grant my relatives and friends a share in the heavenly banquet you have prepared for them. I remember my loved ones who have died especially those who have died in the last year. I remember the happiness and love they gave me. I see them as your gift to me and now I give them into your care. I make our prayer through Jesus our Friend and Lord. Amen

I Pray, The Lord bless me and keep me; the Lord make his face shine on me, and be gracious to me; the Lord turn his face towards me and give me peace. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

## Reflection

*Death is nothing at all.  
I have only slipped into the next room and I am I and you  
are you.  
Whatever we were to each other that we still are.  
Call me by my old familiar name.  
Speak to me in the easy way which you used.  
Put no difference in your tone.  
Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed  
together.  
Play, smile, think of me and pray for me.  
Let my name be ever the household word that it always  
was.  
Life means all that it ever meant.  
It is the same that it ever was.  
Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight.  
(Henry Scott Holland)*



**Liturgy to Remember those who have Died.**