

## MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE THREE FESTIVALS

### *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. Yea, 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.

### *Reader*

Everliving God, You abide within the ceaseless tides of change which sweep away the generations. In the springtime of the year, when field and forest reawaken from the seeming death of winter, when earth and sky resound with the song of life reborn, renewed faith and confidence surge through our hearts. The clouds that have darkened our spirits are dispelled by the miracle of reviving nature. The gloom of the valley of the shadows is pierced by the light of Your presence. Beyond the winter of death smiles Your eternal springtime. It cannot be that in a world of unending life, we Your children are given over to destruction; that fashioned in Your image we are doomed to annihilation. The spirit, implanted within us, cannot be only a passing breath. You are our dwelling place in life and in death.

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### *Responsive Reading*

I lift up my eyes to the mountains. From where will my help come?

*My help comes from God who made heaven and earth.*

The Eternal will not allow your foot to give way. The One who guards you will not slumber.

*For the Guardian of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps.*

The Eternal is your Keeper; God is your Shade at your right hand.

*The sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night.*

God shall protect you from all evil, and will keep your soul always.

*The Eternal God shall guard your going out and your coming in, from this time and forever more.*

### *Reader*

Heavenly Creator, the solemn call of this hour revives within us the memories of our loved ones who have passed through the portal of death. We recall the happy days when they walked among us and when, blessed with their love, we lived our lives. They are near us though the snow of many winters may have covered their graves. Precious links binding heart to heart still are broken. Transfigured by memory, our dear ones once again are with us at this sacred hour. We remember them with gratitude and name them in our prayers.

We recall those who but yesterday were part of this congregation and who shared in the tasks of our community. We offer our never-ending respect and affection for all those whose devotion has contributed to the growth of our sacred institutions and to the well-being of our people.

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We think, too, of the whole household of Israel. We behold the vacant places once filled by brave spirits who, by noble teaching and personal example, stood forth as faithful guides to our people Israel and a pride to all humanity. Reverently, we reflect upon the unnumbered martyrs who lived and died for the sanctification of Your name. We know of only a small number of the vast legion of victims and heroes who lost their lives only because they were Jews. We treasure their memories, the beauty of their lives, and we vow never to forget the tragic circumstances of their deaths.

In gratitude for all the blessings they brought to us, to our people Israel, and to all humanity, we dedicate ourselves anew to the sacred tasks they have entrusted to us. May You remember them for blessing among the righteous of the world.

### *In Grateful Remembrance*

In the rising of the sun and in its going down we shall remember them.

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

In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring we shall remember them.

*In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we shall remember them.*

In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we shall remember them.

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

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

*When we have joys we yearn to share, we shall remember them.*

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As long as we live, they shall live, for now they are an everlasting part of us, through the blessings of our memories which shall remain with us always.

### *Silent Prayer*

Remember, O God, unto life eternal the souls of my beloved ones who have gone to their repose and shelter them in the embrace of Your love and grace forever more. Strengthen me in my loss, O God of mercy, that I may honor the memory of my departed ones by performing kindly deeds unto the living. Help me to continue the noble tasks which gave meaning to their lives, and to contribute in their spirit to the well-being of others and to the sanctification of Your name.

### *Reader or Choir*

אֵל מְלֵא רַחֲמִים שׁוֹכֵן בְּמְרוֹמַיִם. הַמְצֵא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה עַל כַּנְפֵי  
הַשְּׂכִינָה. בְּמַעְלוֹת קְדוּשִׁים וְטְהוּרִים כְּזוֹהַר הָרֶקֶעַ מְזֹהֲרִים אֶת  
נַשְׁמוֹת יְקִירֵינוּ שֶׁהֲלָכוּ לְעוֹלָמָם. בְּעַל הַרְחָמִים יִסְתִּירֵם בְּסִתְר  
כַּנְפָיו לְעוֹלָמִים. וְיִצְרֹר בְּצִרּוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת נַשְׁמָתָם. ייִ הוּא נִחְלָתָם  
וְיִנְוָחוּ בְּשָׁלוֹם עַל מִשְׁכָּבָם. וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן.

O God, full of compassion, Eternal Spirit of the universe, grant perfect rest under the shelter of Your Presence to our loved ones who have entered eternity. Source of mercy and loving kindness, let them find refuge forever in Your loving presence, and let their souls be bound up in the bond of eternal life. The Eternal God is their inheritance. May they rest in peace, and let us say: Amen.