

## REMEMBERING 9/11

The souls of the just are in the hands of God.

Wisdom 3:1

### PRESENCE of GOD

We pause and remember that the Kingdom of God belongs to us.

Blessed are we who weep and mourn, for one day we shall laugh.

And if wicked men insult and hate us, we recall that our God goes before us to give us strength and courage, hope and peace. He loves us with an everlasting love even amid our trials and tribulations.

### PRAYER

**Leader:** In our sadness, horror and shock we acknowledge that our own fears turned murderous and we have sought revenge, sometimes against even the innocent.

*All: We confess and regret our own anger and recognize its dangers to our spirits, our health, our community, and others.*

**Leader:** In the midst of the aftermath of the events of September 11th, 2001 we have been tempted to seek only our own good, hear only our own truth, acknowledge only our own suffering.

*All: We know that peace will come to us and to our children only when the concerns of justice anywhere become the subject of political and social will everywhere, and that no justice leads to no peace.*

**Leader:** In striving for national security and domestic peace we run the risk of confusing might for right and participating in the very behaviors we condemn.

*All: Guard and guide our country that in our search for security we may not trample the rights of the innocent nor disregard the rule of law.*

### HOLY SCRIPTURE: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-27

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. Now the body is not a single part, but many. If a foot should say, "Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. Or if an ear should say, "Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended. If they were all one part, where would the body be? But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," nor again the head to the feet, "I do not need you." Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor, and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, whereas our more presentable parts do not need this. But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy. Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. The Word of the Lord!

## LITANY of REMEMBRANCE

**Leader:** When we remember the stockbrokers, office workers, maintenance workers, bystanders, window-washers and all the others who worked together so valiantly to help each other, we can say together:

**All:** *We remember great courage.*

**Leader:** When we recall the firefighters who rushed upstairs as most everyone else was racing out, we can say together,

**All:** *We remember selfless service.*

**Leader:** When we recall the police officers who stood to protect and defend the people and performed their duties until the towers came crashing down on top of them, we can say together,

**All:** *We remember selfless sacrifice for the safety of others.*

**Leader:** When we recall the thousands of workers, women and men and, old and young, single and married, American-born and those born in countries around the world who did not escape the buildings, we can say together,

**All:** *We remember the loss of human life.*

**Leader:** When we recall those citizens who rushed to help, did all they could to help, we can say together,

**All:** *We remember and give thanks for dutiful commitment to those in distress.*

**Leader:** When we recall the people who stood in line at the nation's blood banks to make living donations from their very bodies, we can say together,

**All:** *We give thanks for those who live on to pass on life and love.*

**Leader:** When we remember the millions of Americans who gave so generously of their life and labor to endow funds to help the survivors and their families recover from their losses, we can say together,

**All:** *We are grateful for generosity.*

## REFLECTION

Remembrance begins with deep, personal identification.

It begins with remembering the affliction of our brothers and sisters,  
and marking their pain as our own.

Remembrance is a sacred moment when we raise up  
and hold to the light of the eternal moment, the good who have passed.

## PRAYER

God of the ages, before Your eyes  
all empires rise and fall yet You are changeless.

Be near us in this age of terror and in these moments of remembrance.

Uphold those who work and watch and wait and weep and love.

By Your Spirit give rise in us to broad sympathy for all the peoples of Your earth.

Strengthen us to comfort those who mourn and work in large ways and small  
for those things that make for peace.

Bless the people and leaders of this nation and all nations  
so that warfare, like slavery before it, may become only a historic memory.

We pray in the Strong Name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.