

## REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

The most beautiful memorial we can give to those we love is a living memory nourished by prayer, gratitude and ever-deepening affection.

Edward M. Hays



We pause and remember that it is our God Who has called us to life and Who continually breathes life into us and invites us to a holy and intimate relationship with Him. He is never far from us.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, for You are the Keeper of the Book of Life.



During the month of November we especially remember those who have gone before us and upon whose shoulders we now stand. We are grateful to them for the faith and for the gift of family they have passed on to us or the friendship they have given to us. We are grateful to God for all those who have touched our hearts and our lives.

### PSALM 100

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into His presence with singing!

Know that the Lord is God!

It is He that made us, and we are His;

we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving,  
and His courts with praise!

Give thanks to Him, bless His name!

For the Lord is good;

His steadfast love endures for ever,  
and His faithfulness to all generations.



**SCRIPTURE: Wisdom 3: 1-9**

**But the souls of the just are in the hand of God,  
and no torment shall touch them.  
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;  
and their passing away was thought an affliction  
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.  
But they are in peace.  
For if before men, indeed, they be punished,  
yet is their hope full of immortality;  
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,  
because God tried them and found them worthy of Himself.  
As gold in the furnace, He proved them,  
and as sacrificial offerings He took them to Himself.  
In the time of their visitation they shall shine,  
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;  
They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,  
and the Lord shall be their King forever.**

**PRAYER**

**Lord God, Lord of Life and Death,  
today we remember our beloved dead,  
family, relatives, friends, teachers,  
whose lives touched ours  
and added to the richness of our existence.  
We are grateful  
for all that we shared in our times together,  
for lessons learned,  
for humor, fun, and work  
for affection and trust,  
for the celebration of life.**

**Remind us, O Friend and Constant Companion,  
that life is indeed brief,  
and that today and its joys are fleeting  
and may never come our way again.**

**Nudge us, O Lord of Life,  
and remind us that the only truly important things in life  
are our relationships with You, O God, with those we love and with  
ourselves.**

**Show us, O Promise of the Resurrection,  
that balance sheet which proves that those things we think  
important are seldom truly of importance,  
and those things we may think not important  
are truly the important things of our short lives.**

**Counsel us, Eternal Beauty,**

that time taken in to behold a sunset,  
to marvel at the butterfly on a leaf,  
the time spent with family and friends  
the awe of a new born baby,  
or the faces of children at play-  
that these times and others like them  
are more valuable than gold or the most precious jewels.

Lord of Gifts and Lord of Memories,  
we rejoice and are grateful for the great treasure of memories that  
we possess. These people who have gone before us have  
intermingled with us and have caused us to be who we are today.  
Our love for them is beyond the touch of death  
and our love for them remains  
and awaits our final union together with You.  
O Lord of Mercy and Compassion, grant eternal joy and peace to our  
beloved and holy dead. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-14

Concerning those who have fallen asleep, brothers and sisters,  
do not be sad like those who have no hope;  
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again,  
God will bring forth with Jesus all who have fallen asleep  
believing in Him.

#### REFLECTION

Is there not a beautiful thought connected with prayer for the dead?  
Were we not sad to feel that when our loved ones pass away, they are  
wholly separated from us? Through prayer we may still hold  
communion with them; by the spirit of prayer we may gather the  
inspiration and clothe ourselves with the mantle they were clothed  
with. In blessing them we receive their blessing...

Andrew Barrett, *The Shakers*, P. 284

#### HYMN

Keep in mind that Jesus Christ has died for us  
And is risen from the dead.  
He is our saving Lord.  
He is joy for all ages.  
If we die with the Lord,  
We shall live with the Lord.  
If we endure with the Lord,  
We shall reign with the Lord.  
In Him our redemption,  
In Him all our grace.  
In Him our salvation,  
In Him all our peace.



## **INTERCESSIONS**

**In death, O Christ, life is changed, not taken away;  
Open us today to Your call to growth in spiritual things.**

**O God, we long to see Your face and to praise You forever:  
Let this “time of not seeing” strengthen our faith and hope in  
You.**

**Jesus, You were in agony the night before You died;  
Give courage and strength to those who fear death.**

**Time passes swiftly; we do not know the day of death;  
Help us to cherish the time given to us and to make each  
moment a preparation for our last so that we might be found  
worthy.**

**Many have lived without the consolation of the Gospel, or having  
heard it have strayed far from it and die alone and afraid;  
Heart of Jesus full of mercy and compassion, have pity on the  
dying who have lost their way.**

**O Christ, You promised eternal life to those who follow Your way;  
Raise up all who have died believing in You, especially those  
we have loved and those who have loved us.  
Grant that we may share eternal glory with them.**

## **BLESSING**

**May the hand of God hold you,  
The peace of God enfold you,  
The love that dreamed and formed you still surround you.  
May the light of God be beside you;  
Above, beneath, inside you,  
The light that shines to guide you home to the loving hand of God.**

**May the angels lead you into paradise,  
May the martyrs come to welcome you,  
And may all the holy ones escort you to the holy city,  
the new and eternal Jerusalem  
where you will enjoy God’s presence forever**



**Saint John Baptist de La Salle and all you holy Brothers  
who have gone before us, help us to recall  
that we, the faithful on earth,  
together with the communion of saints in heaven,  
and the souls of the faithful departed,  
make up the mystical Body of Christ.**

**Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!**