

# Liturgy for the Remembrance of A Loved One

October 31, 2020

## Prelude

*For All the Saints*

*Celebrant:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Dear friends, we are gathered here in the presence of God to offer our grief for lost loved ones, and seek healing. God is full of compassion and mercy, ready to hear when we pray, to comfort when we mourn, to help us bear our griefs and sorrows, and to quiet our anxiety. The steadfast love of our God never ceases.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*(Please stand or kneel)*

*Celebrant:* Let us pray. Father in heaven, we thank you because you made us in your own image and gave us gifts in body, mind and spirit. We thank you for our loved ones and what they meant to each of us. As we honor their memory, make us more aware that you are the one from whom comes every perfect gift, including the gift of eternal life. **Amen.**

## Readings from Scripture

*A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah [61:1-3]*

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**People: Thanks be to God**

## Celtic Canticle:

*Celebrant:* All our tears and all our laughter.

**People: Safe in the hands of God.**

*Celebrant:* All our grief and all our joy.

**People: Safe in the heart of God.**

*Celebrant:* All our stories and all our memories.

**People: Safe in the mind of God.**

*Celebrant:* Those we remember and those we love.

**People: Safe in the grip of God.**

*A Reading from the Gospel According to John [6:37-40]*

Jesus said to the people, "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

*The Word of the Lord.*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Candle Lighting & Reflection

*At this time, we will name and light candles in memory of our loved ones. A period of silence will follow.*

## **Litany of Remembrance**

*Celebrant:* Memories of our loved ones will come to us, unbidden, sometimes unexpected, in all the various moments of our lives. Although memories may bring pain, they also bring comfort for as long as we remember, our loved ones are a part of us.

*Deacon:* In the rising of the sun and its going down,

**People: We remember them.**

*Deacon:* At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,

**People: We remember them.**

*Deacon:* At the opening of buds and rebirth of spring,

**People: We remember them.**

*Deacon:* At the blueness of skies and in the warmth of summer,

**People: We remember them.**

*Deacon:* At the rustling of leaves and the beauty of autumn,

**People: We remember them.**

*Deacon:* At the beginning of the year and when it ends,

**People: We remember them.**

*Deacon:* When we are weary and in need of strength,

**People: We remember them.**

*Deacon:* When we are lost and sick at heart,

**People: We remember them.**

*Deacon:* When we have joys we yearn to share,

**People: We remember them.**

*Deacon:* When we have decisions that are difficult to make,

**People: We remember them.**

*Celebrant:* Lord of all mercies: abide with us when the darkness deepens and we suffer loss, pain, and grief. Help us to know and understand you are with us even when we cannot feel your presence. Let your saving help shine through the shadows as you hold your cross before our eyes, reminding us that you share our sufferings and have overcome death so that we might rise again with you. Let morning break upon our sorrowing hearts; abide with us in life and in death, Lord, so that we may live in your peace and rejoice in your love. **Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

May God, our Creator, fill you with peace. **Amen.**

May Christ, our Savior, redeem all your sorrows. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, our Comforter, heal and restore you. **Amen.**

## **Musical Meditation**

*Amazing Grace*

*Celebrant:* Blessed, praised and adored be Jesus Christ on his throne in heaven, in the most holy sacrament of the altar, and in the hearts and minds of his people. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**People: May light perpetual shine upon them. Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

*Deacon:* Bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**