



## November Liturgy to Remember those who have Died

### Introduction

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

We begin by blessing ourselves, **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 we light a **candle**, to represent the life of Christ, we ask you to bless our memories of our beloved dead and comfort us in our sadness. (light a candle and place in Sacred Space)

As we carry the **cross**, a symbol of death and resurrection, we ask you to heal our hearts and give us the strength to go forward with our lives. (place cross in Sacred Space)

As we carry forward **the basket of leaves** holding the names of our deceased, we ask that you welcome our loved ones with open arms into your ever-loving presence. (place leaves in Sacred Space)

### 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.

The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need.

He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water.....

He gives me new strength. He guides me in the right paths, as he has promised.

Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord, for you are with me.

Your shepherds rod and staff protect me.....

You prepare a banquet for me, where all my enemies can see me;  
you welcome me as an honoured guest and fill my cup to the brim.....

I know that your goodness and love will be with me all my life;  
and your house will be my home, as long as, I live.....

## **Litany of Remembrance**

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

Play the PowerPoint Presentation of Litany of Remembrance

**Together we pray the prayer that Jesus himself gave us. Our Father...**

## **Final Prayer**

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

**We say together** Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you, and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn his face towards you and give you 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.**

## **Optional:**

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)*