

## Memorials/Funerals

Grant, Father, the peace of mind that assures those who sorrow in time of trouble. In the midst of our loss, give us eyes to see the eternal light of your goodness and the blessed security of your presence. We are your children and seek your care. Console us with the assurance of your grace and give strength to affirm our faith. Amen.\*\*

---

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today, \_\_\_\_\_. We thank you for \_\_\_\_\_ and the memory of shared experiences. In your boundless compassion, comfort all who mourn his/her death. Stand by each of us and help us to see death as the gate to eternal life. Assured of your divine provision, may we pursue our course on earth with confidence and hope. Grant us strength for the days ahead and renew our faith to walk humbly with you. Comfort and guide us that we might know the consolation of your love. Amen.\*\*

---

Almighty and eternal God, we ask you to be with the family of \_\_\_\_\_. Even as your Son was moved to weep over the death of his friend Lazarus, so we know you are touched by the tears of those who mourn the loss of \_\_\_\_\_. In your divine providence, fill the aching void in our hearts with your comforting presence and grant peace through the assurance of your love and care. Amen.\*\*

---

Almighty God, we ask that you fill this solemn moment with the majesty of your presence. Our hearts are saddened by the loss of these who have given their lives to sustain the freedom that we so richly enjoy. Bring your comforting Spirit to the families and friends of these courageous airmen. Grant, O God, your peace and love to them for you alone can fill their emptiness with hope. We trust them to your care. For those of us who live today, we pray that this Memorial Ceremony will inspire us to a greater commitment to you and all people everywhere. Help us to be creative that we might draw upon the limitless resources which you have provided. May we be brave so that enemies who would deprive us of our freedom will not succeed. Grant us wisdom to solve problems and enrich life. Fill us with compassion for those in need and inspire us to live by your word that oppression might cease, freedom might prevail, and dignity and honor might reign. Then we shall know that the heroes we honor today will not have died in vain. We offer our prayer in your holy name. Amen.\*\*

---

O Lord, the loss of a loved one or friend fills us with despair, loneliness, fear, anger, emptiness, and frustration. But, O God, despite our sadness, we have hope, for your Son gave us the promise of eternal life. His promise brings us assurance, encouragement and peace. As we honor the memory of \_\_\_\_\_ may we exemplify his/her love and joy, his/her courage and faith, his/her dedication both to you and his/her country. May the ideals which guided him/her inspire us as well. Comfort us in our grief and sustain us to serve you with purpose and commitment. Amen.\*\*

---

Our Father, today our grief walks alongside the deep sense of accomplishment in a life well lived. My prayer is not for the departed, now safely with you in eternal rest, but for these loved ones and friends now remaining. I pray that the consolation of your love will comfort the empty interior of grief; that the sorrow of this moment, and the many more that will follow, will be turned to joy; that heads and hearts will be lifted by the great resources of spiritual courage you give to us; and that just as surely as Jesus arose, we shall all take heart in this, the cornerstone of our faith. Therefore we draw strength from your promises, and commend ourselves to you, in the Savior's name. Amen.\*\*

---

Eternal God our Father, the death of \_\_\_\_\_ has filled this family's eyes with tears and their hearts with sorrow. We are distressed by the mysteries of your providence. As your child we want so much to say, "Not my will, but thine be done," but at times we find it difficult to do. Forgive us and help us. We pray by your Holy Spirit, to accept your ways as always best. Apply to these wounded hearts the healing touch of our precious promises, and let them soon experience its power. Teach us not to mourn as those who have no hope. Wipe away the tears from our eyes that we may be able to see through the mist, beyond death and grave, to the Resurrection and Life assured by the glorious victory of our Savior Jesus Christ over death and the grave. May the passing of \_\_\_\_\_ remind us that we, too, are but pilgrims and strangers on earth. Grant us the grace to love less and less the things that are material and temporal, and to love more and more the things that are spiritual and eternal. Teach us to number our days and to apply our heart to the wisdom taught by Jesus Christ, that He is the Way and the Truth and the Life, and that no one comes to you but by Him. In your Holy Name we pray. Amen.

---

Our gracious Father, we thank you for the ties of love that bind your children together and for the qualities of character, good works, and personal relationships that endeared \_\_\_\_\_ to us. As our God of comfort, look with compassion upon these who are bereaved, whose hearts are bowed down with grief. Give them understanding hearts that they may welcome your grace and comfort. You have promised grace sufficient for our every need, so we turn to you in this hour of sorrow for strength and courage. May the fellowship of loved ones and friends and the church strengthen and support these who mourn and bring assurance of your love and strength to them. We pray in your holy name. Amen.

---

O Lord of the living and the dead, the mantle of whose mercy is cast over all things so that nothing in all creation can separate us from your love which we have known in Jesus Christ our Lord: hear our prayers for all who fear death and whose lives are lived in that shadow. Quicken in them a lively hope and a free engagement in this life, its joys and sorrows, its tasks and rewards. May your perfect love come clear to them and cast out fear, as you have promised through your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

---

Hear our prayer, O God, who created us with glory and honor, and who has called us to live in freedom. We give thanks for your servant \_\_\_\_\_ and for that certain holy ambition that inhabited him/her and flowed out into the excellence and devotion of his/her work. By such as he/she, we have had our sense of the world enhanced. Gracious God, be our strength and our joy, that we too may apply ourselves to excellence in whatever we do, and by the refining of our gestures of work and play may capture something more of the promise of our humanity. We pray in the name of him who was among us to reveal us to ourselves and assure us of your love, even Jesus Christ. Amen.

---

We come here today to reverence and remember our fallen comrades who have given their lives in \_\_\_\_\_. As we recall the situation there, we are flooded, overwhelmed with a myriad of mixed emotions: anger, outrage, frustration, bitterness, revenge, confusion and sorrow. Our initial reaction was probably a numbness of shock, a sense of disbelief. We are torn by the inner tensions of an Old Testament "eye for an eye" and a New Testament "love your enemies." Jesus says: "Greater love than this no person has, but that life is given for others." We are a nation that believes in human rights, a nation which accepts the responsibility of being its brother's keeper, a nation that cares enough to risk a Lebanon, a Grenada, a \_\_\_\_\_. Based on these beliefs, we are a nation whose men and women respond at times with the ultimate sacrifice of laying down human life. We mourn their loss and the sorrow their loved ones now feel. We are fiercely proud of them, that in strange lands, befriended by few, assaulted by many, motivated by that sense of "greater love" they gave their lives in a cause of justice and freedom. Yes, we do reverence and remember them. Ones such as they make real the words that we are a "nation under God" striving for liberty and justice for all. May their names be boldly inscribed in the Book of Life and may their loved ones be comforted by the knowledge that they will not be forgotten and that they have not died in vain. Amen.

---

We thank you, O God our Father, for all who by brave commitment have given their lives for their country. We realize that none of us cherish the thought of having to pay the supreme price of death for our country which these young men and women have had to pay. Nevertheless, we still find young men and women like these who, each knowing the price they might have to pay, have been willing to put on the uniform of their country and go into battle. We are thankful for men and women of bravery like these who have been willing to even give their lives for the peace of the world and the freedom we enjoy here this morning. Look down with compassion upon these loved ones, O God, give them the comfort and understanding needed in this dark time. Help them to know that you love them and in the midst of their sorrow, they may find thy presence. We are thankful also for the men and women who were able to be with us to receive their honors. We are grateful for their dedicated service to their God, their country, and their fellowman. May your spirit of guidance go with them that they may continue to be a channel of service to others. Impress upon us all, as we depart from this place, the importance of the sacrificial giving of ourselves in service to our God, our country and our fellowman. Amen.

---

Our Father, at this time of profound grief, we do not know how to pray as we ought. But you, O God, who searches our hearts, can interpret our sighs which are too deep for words. We, as a

people, as a nation, invoke your healing presence, your comfort, your strength, and your wisdom. Amen.

---

Almighty God, in your keeping there is shelter from the storm, and in your mercy there is comfort for the sorrows of life. Hear now our prayer for those who mourn and are heavy laden. Give to them strength to bear and do your will. Lighten their darkness with your love. Enable them to see beyond the things of this mortal world the promise of the eternal. Help them to know that your care enfolds all your people, that you are our refuge and strength, and that underneath are your everlasting arms. Amen.

---

O Lord Almighty, remember those who died fighting to protect the dignity and the freedom of humanity. Let our spirits be proud of them. Let our hearts be compassionate and our minds be clear and determined in giving them honor and respect. Let us be dependent on the loving kindness of the Lord our God. As we remember the departed, let us be true airmen in war and in peace. Let us be courageous protectors and true guardians of freedom. Let us be the true masters of selfless love. O Lord, guide us in the way of moral responsibility; enlighten us - true believers in ethics and justice. Let this day be a day of commemoration and honor to those who sacrificed their lives in order to give us liberty and national security. Remember them, O Lord, in your mercy and have compassion on us. Make us a generation of wisdom, discipline, and good faith. Amen.

---

Heavenly Father, these past few days have been filled with so many emotions - anguish, pain, confusion, sorrow, and an overwhelming sense of loss. Though we live daily with the reality of death, we still fail to understand it and are never ready for it - especially as it has come to our friend and fellow airman, \_\_\_\_\_. We are simply devastated, stunned, hurt. Through the caring presence of your Holy Spirit, minister to our needs. Give comfort, strength, and resolution to the family. Cause them to know your sustaining grace, and keep all of us in the shadow of your care. Amen.

---

Dear Lord, we come to you with heavy hearts and many questions. Speak to our needs and to the needs of the family members of \_\_\_\_\_. We gather in \_\_\_\_\_'s memory and draw strength in our togetherness and your name. Guide our thoughts and help us to sort our feelings, that we might better handle life in these days ahead. Thank you for being near to us right now. In our Creator's name we pray. Amen.

---

Eternal God, the source and giver of life, the destiny toward whom all life flows, we have gathered in this memorial service to remember \_\_\_\_\_. Sanctify every good memory and cut short every vain attempt to treat his/her death lightly. In his/her death give us the honesty to appreciate him/her simply for who he/she was among us. In the awful waste of death for one so

young, we are dismayed how transient and fleeting life is. Give us the grace to give him/her the integrity of his/her death. Comfort those who knew him/her well and mourn his/her loss. Bring peace to the troubled spirits of all those who have the courage to face their own death. Let his/her death be a bond between us, as we are never far from death. Speak comfortably to us that we may never need to fear the terror of death nor flee from the rare privilege of life. Amen.

---

Lord, our God, how long will our young be devoured? How long will death spread its wings in peacetime as in war? We need your spirit with us to teach us how to live, how to treasure and preserve the life you have given us, and how to enjoy and uplift the few beautiful moments we share with others. We live haphazardly. We fail to understand the guidance you have given us. Please open our eyes and our hearts - fill us with foresight and wisdom - bless us all with many creative years of life, and may the memory of \_\_\_\_\_ enrich his/her friends and dear ones. May the fact of his/her tragic death inspire us all to greater awareness of the dangers we all face - and may you be with us and with \_\_\_\_\_'s spirit now and always. Amen.

---

Almighty God, we remember before you today your faithful servant \_\_\_\_\_; and we pray that, having opened to him/her the gates of larger life, you will receive him/her more and more into your joyful service, that, with all who have faithfully served you in the past, he/she may live and reign with you, for ever and ever. Amen.

---

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in whose hands are the living and the dead; we give you thanks for all those of your servants who have laid down their lives in the service of our country. Grant to them your mercy and the light of your presence, and the assurance of your peace. Amen.

---

May the Lord our God bless us all present here, to memorialize those who died to preserve liberty and freedom in our nation and in the world. And may the Lord our God remember all those whose sacrifice gave this nation its greatness, progress and richness. May our memory of them be an honorable one, full of thanksgiving to the Lord who accepted them into His kingdom. The Lord is for all, and in Him we believe, and to Him we pray may we remember all who died in the service of their country, whether in the air, or on land or in the sea. O Lord, be gracious and merciful unto them, and let your light shine upon them, for you are our God, and unto you we ascribe glory now and forever. Amen.

---

We pause now in the busy routine of this new day to pay our last respects to the memory of \_\_\_\_\_ who died \_\_\_\_\_. Be particularly close, O Lord, to those who loved him/her most in this their hour of greatest need. Help them survive and enable them to bear-up under the burden of their pain and loss. Be with us all. Amen.

---

O Lord Almighty, remember those who died fighting to protect the dignity and the freedom of mankind. Let our spirits be proud of them. Let our hearts be compassionate, and our minds clear and determined in giving them honor and respect. And let us be dependent on the loving kindness of the Lord our God. As we remember the departed, let us be true soldiers in war and in peace. Let us be courageous protectors and true guardians of freedom. Let us be the true masters of brotherly love. O Lord, guide us in the way of moral responsibility; enlighten us--true believers in ethics and justice. Let this day be a day of commemoration and honor to those who sacrificed their lives in order to give us liberty, and our nation security. Remember them, O Lord, in your mercy, and have compassion on us. Make us a generation of wisdom, discipline and good faith. Amen.

---

Eternal God, you commit to us the swift and solemn trust of life: since we know not what a day may bring forth, but only that the hour for serving you is always present, may we wake to the instant claims of your will upon our lives. In the face of questions without answers, of dreams unfulfilled, of the emptiness that will not go away, we are only compelled to thank you always for lives faithfully lived, for good memories and living hopes. We are reminded as we pray for family and friends who are touched with the feeling of sorrow, that we pray to one who does not let go unnoticed even the falling of a sparrow to earth. We pray to one who weeps for his world, and therefore we come trusting that in life or death, we may find rest and comfort in him. Amen

---

We give them back to you, dear Lord, who gravest them to us. Yet as thou didst not lose them in giving, so we have not lost them by their return. For what is thine is ours always, if we are thine. And life is eternal and love is immortal, and death is only a horizon, and a horizon is nothing more than the limit of our sight. Amen.

---

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother/sister \_\_\_\_\_, and we commit his/her body to the ground: earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless him/her and keep him/her, the Lord make his face to shine upon him/her and be gracious to him/her, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him/her and give him/her peace. Amen.

---

Heavenly Father, we come to you at this hour when we feel the anguish of our loss. Our hearts are heavy and our spirits are low. The separation is painful and we hurt at the deepest levels of our being. It is so comforting for us to realize that you know what we are experiencing. For you, too, have experienced the separation and the death of your beloved Son. May you fill the emptiness in our lives with your divine presence and bring us the assurance and peace that we need in order to face the reality of death and hope of eternal life. Amen.

---



Almighty God, we ask you to be with us this morning as we come together with heavy hearts and confused minds for this memorial service. We know we cannot think of life without measuring it between birth and death. Still, the death of loved ones and friends does bring grief. We ask you to bless and protect the families of \_\_\_\_\_, their friends and fellow airman. Comfort them, strengthen them at this time, and bless them by helping them to keep beautiful memories uppermost in their minds. Amen.

---

Heavenly Father, we dedicate this service to the memory of \_\_\_\_\_. We ask that you keep us alert these next few moments to the reality of our human frailty. Allow us to see beyond the passing pleasures of the day to the depths of life's meaning which you have prepared for us. Through your power and obedience, open in each of us a deeper appreciation of the gift of life and hope which you allow us to share together. Amen.

---

O Lord and Master, we know that you understand and are touched by our sorrow and heartbreak during this time, because the scripture says even you wept as you stood by the grave of your friend Lazarus. May your promise not to leave people comfortless be fulfilled as you reveal yourself to the spouse, children, relatives, and friends of the one we remember here today. Cause us to hear you say, "I am the resurrection and the life." Help us, O Lord, to turn to you with true discernment, and to abide in you through living faith, that finding now the comfort of your presence we may also have a sure confidence in you for all that is to come. Fill all our hearts with trust in you that, by night and day, at all times and in all seasons, we may, without fear, commit those who are dear to us and to your never failing love for this life and the life to come. Amen.

---

Almighty God, in gathering together to pay tribute to our fallen comrades, we wrestle with minds that are bewildered and hearts that grieve. These airmen have been called upon to pay the supreme sacrifice. Why it should be them or why it should be under these circumstances is known only to you. We rest these questions in your hands of providential care and mercy. We are eternally grateful for the hope of the Resurrection and the promise of eternal life. In time, that will become a comfort to the grieving family and friends. But immediately, there is anger, fear, despair, doubts, the loneliness, grief and hopelessness. Lord, may these be replaced by the miracle of love and care. May we all become instruments of that love and care. As airmen and members of a grateful nation, may we dedicate our lives to continued service as a tribute to our fallen comrades. For those of us who yet live, we are forced now to reflect upon the uncertainty of life. We thus commit our lives to redeeming every waking moment, to bring peace and happiness to our home and family, our nation, and our world. Amen.

---

O God of spirits and of all flesh, who hast trampled down death and overthrown the Devil, and given life to thy world: Do thou, the same Lord, give rest to the souls of thy departed servants in a place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all sickness, sighing, and sorrow have fled away. Pardon every transgression committed, whether by word or deed or thought. For thou art a good God and loves' all people. For thou art the Resurrection, the Life

and the Repose of thy servants who have fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and unto thee we ascribe glory, together with thy Father, who is from everlasting, and thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever unto ages of ages. Amen.

---

Almighty God, our Creator and Redeemer, you have given us our brother/sister \_\_\_\_\_, to know and to love in our pilgrimage on earth. Uphold us now as we entrust him/her to your boundless love and eternal care. Assure us that not even death can separate us from your infinite mercy. Deal graciously with us who mourn, that we may truly know your sure consolation and learn to live in confident hope of the resurrection; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.<sup>3</sup>

---

Lord our God, the death of our brother/sister \_\_\_\_\_ recalls our human condition and the brevity of our lives on earth. But for those who believe in your love death is not the end, nor does it destroy the bonds that you forge in our lives. We share the faith of your Son's disciples and the hope of the children of God. Bring the light of Christ's resurrection to this time of testing and pain as we pray for \_\_\_\_\_ and for those who love him/her, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

---

Gracious heavenly Father, hear our prayers for all who are bereaved by the loss of a loved one. Grant the light of thy presence and thy supporting love to them, O Lord, that their dark moments be not without some light, and their burdens be not intolerable. Strengthen our solidarity with them, both in compassion and in service, and make us instruments of thy tender pity for them and for all sufferers. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who promised that the mourners shall be comforted. Amen.

---

Father, we ask your blessing as we conclude this memorial service for \_\_\_\_\_. In love and concern, let us remember his/her family and friends in our prayers. Bless us with a realization of how precious life is and help us fill each day with beautiful memories of sharing with and assisting others, and of using the talents you have given us. This we ask with confidence in your Fatherly love. Amen.

---

O Lord help us to see that a time of grief is a time of love, a time of faith and a time of hope. Our faith in you, God, supports us as we suffer the loss of \_\_\_\_\_. Our hope is strengthened by trust when we don't understand. Our love for each other reaches a new high as we come together today to remember \_\_\_\_\_ and to give thanks that we have been privileged to share life together. Amen.

---

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for the American way of life we enjoy today. Let us not forget, O God, that the rights and privileges we enjoy have blood on them and



that every good gift was bought and paid for in human sacrifice. These men and women we honor this morning have had to pay the price and make the sacrifice with their lives. It is with humble and thankful hearts that we pay our tribute and offer our prayers for them this morning. You are a compassionate visitor in the time of sorrow. Therefore, in this hour and in the days to come, may your loving spirit console and sustain the families and friends here this morning who mourn the loss of their loved ones. May they look beyond the darkness of this hour for your will and purpose for all of life, not just in this part of life. We are grateful for the men and women that were able to be here to receive their rewards this morning. We are grateful for their lives and the sacrifices they have made in the fight for peace. May your blessing go with them in the days ahead that their lives may continue to be a source of blessing for others. Make us all aware, O God, of the responsibility that rests upon us to create peace in our own hearts, in our homes and in every association with our fellowman. Lead us, inspire us, make us your people to walk in your way, that this land may become in a new and deeper way, God's own country. In the name of the God of our Fathers, who is still our God, we pray. Amen.

---

Almighty God, gracious Lord and Father of us all, we bow before you in humble recognition of our dependence upon you. We give you praise and thanksgiving for your continuous love and abiding presence in our lives. We praise you for the lives of those we honor here this day who paid the supreme sacrifice that their brothers and sisters in this land and other lands might live in honor and human dignity. We thank you for the homes from which they came, for the love of home which sustained them, and for the love of God which upheld them. We pray for their families, friends, and loved one. We pray that thy love will continue to guide and strengthen them. We thank you for the lives of these other men and women we have honored here today. We are grateful for their dedicated service to God, country and their fellowman. Grant them, we pray, many years of opportunity ahead in which they may continue to be channels of blessing to humanity. Guide us all, we pray from moment to moment that in all things, at all times, we might remember that we are called to be men and women of God through serving our fellowman. Amen.

---

Do not stand at my grave and weep; I am not there. I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glints on snow. I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the gentle autumn's rain. When you awaken in the morning's hush I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight. I am the soft stars that shine at night. Do not stand at my grave and cry; I am not here, I did not die., Amen

---

Father God, we turn to you in trust and confidence in this time of sorrow. For only you give balance and meaning to our lives. It is so easy for us to see only injury and death at this time. Yet Paul reminds us that those who die with you also live with you. Help us to remember, Father, that we do not belong to ourselves but to you who created and restored us. We ask to be able to pray honestly and truly that your will be done, and that the sentiments of Job be ours also when he said that you gave and you took away. May your name be blessed. In that same light, we pray now for the injured and for those who died. And even though we walk in the dark valley, help us not to fear, for you are with us. And to you we give, honor and glory. Amen.

---

Lord Jesus Christ, you are our way, our truth, and our life. Look kindly on us today as we come together to bury our brother/sister \_\_\_\_\_. During the \_\_\_ years you gave him/her life on earth, he/she believed and trusted in your. He/she lived a life that gave evidence of his/her deep love for you and for God our Father. He/she loved his/her country as well, and served it with devotion and dedication for \_\_\_ years. He/she was a good parent. We pray that you console \_\_\_\_\_(spouse), now, and that you give strength to their children. Bless \_\_\_\_\_ today with a place in your Father's house. May he/she enjoy eternal life in paradise forever, and may he/she rest in peace. Amen.

---

God of us who are living and those who have preceded us in death, you whose we are whether we live or die, our hearts are overflowing with the gift of remembrance as we worship you this day. How great and humbling is our debt to the past and to those present with us now only in our memories. For the lives of those to whom this day we dedicate lasting memorials that will enhance the ministry of our church and for others near and dear to us who now from their labors rest, we give you thanks. For those who throughout the history of our nation have given their lives in behalf of freedom, justice, and peace, we express to you our gratitude. Guide and sustain us, O God, as we receive their inheritance, defend it, invest it, and share it with the world. Keep us faithful to the qualities of personhood and nationhood that are acceptable to you so that we, too, may leave for others a heritage that is imperishable and undefiled. Amen.

---

Almighty God, make us aware of your presence and of all those who have served our country with distinction. Deal graciously with their families and friends, giving them comfort and consolation. Finally, make us and all generations to follow, deeply grateful for their selfless sacrifice. Inspired by their example, may we set aside selfish ambition and dedicate ourselves to the noble cause of freedom and peace. Amen.

---

O Lord, our God, help us as we seek to raise our thoughts from this changeable life to the calm eternity in which you dwell and to those things which know no change. Lead us to the rock that is higher than where we stand. Lift us out of disappointed purposes and broken hopes into the peace of your holy and blessed will. We turn to you in humble trust. Amid the decay of the visible, things draw nigh to us. O God, our invisible comforter. As the changes of life leave us poorer and sadder, may we know more of the constancy of your love, and the unending riches of life, eternal. Reveal your love in comforting ways to each of us in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

---

Lord, thank you for your presence at this memorial service commemorating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Decommissioning of the Marine Air Warning Squadron Eight. We offer our thanks for the military members and families of this unit that served with distinction. Some even

gave their lives. Today we dedicate ourselves to the same ideals that we began with over fifty years ago. Some of us now believe in those ideals even more than we did many years ago. Bless us as we carry forth the dream of providing our children and grandchildren with a more secure world in which to live. Bring peace to our troubled world. May it begin with peace in our hearts, peace in our homes, peace in our communities, and peace in our nation. We've been around long enough to know such peace can come only as we have peace with God. Amen.

---

Lord, we feel a sense of common loss tonight--the loss of a co-worker. Bring healing and comfort to those who feel the deeper pain of this tragedy. Give us the ability to support and encourage our co-workers. Help all of us to keep looking forward and sustain us with your grace and presence. Keep your hand on those who stand guard and for those who sleep, give them quiet and refreshing rest. Amen.

---

Lord remember all those who have fallen asleep in the hope of resurrection and eternal life. Forgive all their sins committed in knowledge or ignorance. Let them enjoy your eternal blessings in the Light of your presence; grant them peace, refreshment, fellowship with your saints, and life that never ends. Have mercy on us, for you are full of grace and love mankind. Amen.

---

(Excerpt from The Book of Common Prayer, Seabury Press, NY)

O God, who gave us birth, you are ever more ready to hear than we are to pray. You know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Give to us now your grace, that as we shrink before the mystery of death, we may see the light of eternity. Speak to us once more your solemn message of life and of death. Help us to live as those who are prepared to die. And when our days here are accomplished, enable us to die as those who go forth to live, so that living or dying, our life may be in you, and that nothing in life or in death will be able to separate us from your great love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.<sup>3</sup>

---

Eternal God, we praise you for the great company of all those who have finished their course in faith and now rest from their labor. We praise you for those dear to us whom we name in our hearts before you. Especially we praise you for \_\_\_\_\_, whom you have graciously received into your presence. To all of these, grant your peace. Let perpetual light shine upon them; and help us so to believe where we have not seen, that your presence may lead us through our years, and bring us at last with them into the joy of your home not made with hands but eternal in the heavens; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.<sup>3</sup>

---

We thank you, Lord, that you are with us in all the moments of our lives. We need that reminder from you, Father, because there are times when life closes in around us, and we feel afraid, and

alone. We need to hear you say to us, as to your disciples of old, "...I am with you always." In this moment of memory we ask for that assurance of your presence:

-- Your presence with the one departed from us in whose name and memory we gather here for this occasion.

-- Your presence with his/her parents, moving on through life with confidence and faith, in the needs of their loss and pain.

-- Your presence with his/her school friends who in these past days have learned hard lessons about dealing with life and loss.

-- Your presence with each one of us gathered in warm and solemn recollection of the life of a friend.

May each of us see beyond the tragedy of a Good Friday to the victory of an Easter Sunday, in the name of the living Lord, we pray. Amen.