

Memorial



For Deceased Homeless Persons

Adapted from Welcome House of Northern Kentucky

Notes on Using the Prayer Service

The services in this collection were designed for a variety of settings, and we encourage you to adapt them to your particular needs. The role of the leader can be shared by one or more persons. Some advance preparation such as handouts or candles may be desired. Suggested hymns are widely available

GATHERING HYMN *The Strife Is O'er* (tr. Francis Pott)

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done. Now is the Victor's triumph won.

O let the song of praise be sung, alleluia! (*Refrain*)

Death's might pow'rs have done their worst But Jesus has his foes dispersed.

Let shouts of praise and joy outburst, alleluia! (*Refrain*)

He closed the yawning gates of hell. The bars from heav'n's high portals fell.

Let hymns of praise his triumph tell, alleluia! (*Refrain*)

On the third morn he rose again, Glorious in majesty to reign.

O let us swell the joyful strain, alleluia! (*Refrain*)

GATHERING PRAYER

Leader: My brothers and sisters, we have come together to remember our friends who have gone before us. We believe that the bonds of friendship and affection that united us in life do not dissolve with death. Let us heed the word of the Lord, who challenges us to love one another, to offer friendship and consolation to those we meet. He points to the needs of the poor and homeless, saying "you do this to Me."

Response: Amen.

SCRIPTURE AND REFLECTIONS

First Reading: (*1 Cor 13:1-8a*) A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Spirit of Love, who moves among us, strengthen us, we pray.

Response: Come to our aid, Spirit of Love.

Leader: Spirit of Compassion, who transforms the face of the earth, turn our hearts to the needs of the poor, we pray.

Response: Come to our aid, Spirit of Compassion.

Leader: Spirit of the Living One, who rouses us from our sleep, impel us to act justly with sensitivity and with courage, we pray.

Response: Come to our aid, Spirit of the Living One.

Second Reading: (*Gal 6:2, 9*) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.... Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up.

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Leader: O God, who bears all the burdens of the world, we call on you for strength.

Response: Lord, help us carry each other's troubles.

Leader: O God, we give thanks for those who help us bear our burdens.

Response: Lord, help us carry each other's troubles.

Leader: O God, helps us reach out to carry the burdens of others.

Response: Lord, help us carry each other's troubles.

HYMN *Be Not Afraid* (Bob Dufford, S.J.)

READING OF THE NAMES

Leader: These are the names of homeless people who have died in the last year [or longer]. We pray that they may rest in peace. After each ten names I will say: "Let us pray." Please respond: *God of mercy, hear our prayer.*

Response: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

Third Reading: (*1 Pet 2:4–5*) A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Loving God, we long for a welcoming community.

Response: Lord, build us into a spiritual house.

Leader: Great architect of creation, make us living stones through Christ.

Response: Lord, build us into a spiritual house.

Leader: Loving God, make your dwelling place secure in us.

Response: Lord, build us into a spiritual house.

SHARED REMEMBRANCE

Leader: At this time we have an open microphone for anyone here who wishes to share a story of the lives of the individuals being remembered.

CLOSING PRAYER The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Secure in the certainty that we all are children of God, let us call on our Father as Jesus taught us.

Response: Our Father, who art in heaven.... Amen.

Leader: United in the promise of salvation, let us go in peace.

Response: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN *Amazing Grace* (John Newton)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

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