

# KEEP IN MIND

PRAYERS AND PRACTICES FOR  
REMEMBERING THE DEAD  
DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER



## INTRODUCTION

In countless cultures around the world, traditions honor those who have died. This is particularly prevalent in the month of November. On November 1, Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of **All Saints** on which we honor all the holy ones who have gone before us. (Traditionally, October 31 is “All Hallows Eve”.) In some cultures this day is also known as “*el Dia de los innocentes*” or “the day of the children.”

On November 2, we celebrate **The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed** or All Souls Day. In some cultures, particularly in Mexico, the faithful celebrate the “Day of the Dead” or “*Día de los Muertos*” -- on this day, it is believed that the souls of the dead return to visit their living family members. In the Eastern Orthodox churches, the Dead are commemorated several times a year.

Throughout the last weeks of the Roman Catholic liturgical year, the Church reminds us of the “end times” with particular eschatological readings which refer to the coming of the Lord and the unpredictability of death.

This year, the world has been especially visited by death. At this writing, the coronavirus pandemic has taken over 1,154,068 lives worldwide – about 4000 per day. In the United States, we have reached over 224,339 deaths. These are not empty statistics; these are very real children of God who were loved and valued and will be missed by those who knew them.

Therefore, this year, let us be even more attentive to prayer. Let us be mindful of the power of the liturgy to transform the lives of those who participate in it. Let us draw from our rich treasury of orations and Scripture in order to give comfort to our people. Most of all, let us commend the Dead to the merciful embrace of almighty God.

The following pages have some resources to assist you. May these prayers increase our faith and console those who mourn. ■ RT

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Christ our Lord.  
In him the hope of blessed resurrection has dawned,  
that those saddened by the certainty of dying  
might be consoled by the promise of immortality to come.  
Indeed for your faithful, Lord,  
life is changed not ended,  
and when this earthly dwelling turns to dust,  
an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven...  
~ *Roman Missal, Preface I for the Dead*

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**ABOUT NOVEMBER 2**  
**THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**  
**(ALL SOULS DAY)**

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In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the Abbot of Cluny decreed that his monks should offer Masses for the dead and the practice soon spread to other Benedictine monasteries. By the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the practice was evident in Rome. In the fifteenth century, the Dominicans encouraged the practice of offering three Masses for the Dead. During World War I, when so many soldiers had died and so many churches had been destroyed, Pope Benedict XV extended this privilege universally to all priests.

Even with the reform of the Liturgical Calendar in 1969, the Church maintained November 2 as the day when we pray for all those who have died, particularly for those who may be temporarily in purgatory, in reparation for their sins. Our Mass texts reflect our pleas to God for his infinite mercy as well as our certain hope in the Resurrection.

Though the day is not officially designated as a solemnity, The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed has a rank of “two” on the “Table of Liturgical Days According to Their Order of Precedence” (cf. *Universal Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Universal Roman Calendar*, no. 59). As such, when it falls on a Sunday, it takes precedence over a Sunday in Ordinary Time. Ritual Masses may not be celebrated on this day.

#### **THE ROMAN MISSAL**

The Roman Missal provides three different Masses for this day and the presider has great latitude in his choice of texts. Each Mass has its own prayers –Entrance Antiphon, Collect, Prayer over the Gifts, Communion Antiphon, and the Prayer after Communion.

Five distinct Prefaces may be used: I) The hope of resurrection in Christ; II) Christ died so that we might live; III) Christ, the salvation and the life; IV) From earthly life to heavenly glory; and V) Our Resurrection through the victory of Christ.

Finally, the Missal provides a solemn blessing (#20) in celebrations for the Dead.

#### **THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS**

The Lectionary provides a wide variety of readings in the section entitled “Masses for the Dead.”

- 7 Old Testament (Lectionary Number 1011)
- 4 New Testament during the Easter Season (1012)
- 10 Responsorial Psalms (1013)
- 15 New Testament Readings (1014)
- 11 Alleluia verses and Verses before the Gospel (1015)
- 19 Gospels (1016)

The Lectionary also provides options for the funerals of children (nos. 1017-1026)

Please see a summary of Lectionary citations on the following page.

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## THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS: MASSES FOR THE DEAD (1011-1016)

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For the full texts, please visit <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/110220.cfm> or <https://bible.usccb.org/bible>

### OLD TESTAMENT

2 Maccabees 12:43-46	He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view
Job 19:1, 23-27a	I know that my vindicator lives.
Wisdom 3:1-9 [or 3:1-6, 9]	As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself
Wisdom 4:7-15	An unsullied life, the attainment of old age
Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9	He will destroy death forever.
Lamentations 3:17-26	It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord
Daniel 12:1-3	Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.

### NEW TESTAMENT DURING THE EASTER SEASON

Acts 10:34-43 [or 10:34-36,42-43]	He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.
Revelation 14:13	Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.
Revelation 20:11-21:1	The Dead were judged according to their deeds.
Revelation 21:1-5a,6b-7	There shall be no more death.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6	The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want. OR Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil for you are with me.
Ps 25:6 and 7b, 17-18, 20-21	To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. OR No one who waits for you, O Lord, will ever be put to shame.
Ps 27:1, 4, 7 and 8b and 9a, 13-14	The Lord is my light and my salvation. OR I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.
Ps 42:2, 3, 5cdef; 43:3, 4, 5	My soul is thirsting for the living God, when shall I see him face to face
Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9	My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, my God
Ps 103: 8 and 10, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18	The Lord is kind and merciful. OR The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.
Ps 116: 5, 6, 10-11, 15-16ac	I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. OR Alleluia.
Ps 122: 1-2, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9	I rejoiced when I heard them say: Let us go to the house of the Lord. OR Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.
Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8	Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord. OR I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.
Ps 143: 1-2, 5-6, 7ab and 8ab, 10	O Lord, hear my prayer.

### READING II FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 5:5-11	Since we are now justified by his blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath
Romans 5:17-21	Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.
Romans 6:3-9 [or 6:3-4, 8-9]	We too might live in newness of life
Romans 8:14-23	We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

Romans 8: 31b-35, 37-39  
Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12  
1 Cor 15:20-28 [or 15:20-23]  
1 Cor 15:51-57  
2 Cor 4:14-5:1  
2 Cor 5:1, 6-10  
Philippians 3:20-21  
1 Thess. 4:13-18  
2 Timothy 2:8-13  
1 John 3:1-2  
1 John 3:14-16

What will separate us from the love of Christ?  
Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.  
So too in Christ shall all be brought to life  
Death is swallowed up in victory.  
What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal  
We have a building from God, eternal in heaven  
He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory.  
Thus we shall always be with the Lord.  
If we have died with him, we shall always live with him  
We shall see him as he is.  
We know that we have passed from death to life  
because we love our brothers.

#### **ALLELUIA VERSE AND VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL**

See Matt 11:25  
Matt 25:34  
John 3:16  
John 6:39  
John 6:40  
John 6:51

John 11:25a, 26  
See Philippians 3:20  
2 Timothy 2:11-12a  
Revelation 1:5a, 6b  
Revelation 14:13



#### **GOSPEL**

Matthew 5:1-2a  
Matthew 11:25-30  
Matthew 25:1-13  
Matthew 25:31-46  
Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6  
[or 15:33-39]  
Luke 7:11-17  
Luke 12:35-40  
Luke 22:33, 39-43  
Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a  
[or 23:44-46, 50, 52-53]  
Luke 24:13-35 [or 24:13-16, 28-35]  
  
John 5:24-29  
John 6:37-40  
  
John 6:51-59  
  
John 11:17-27 [or 21-27]  
John 11:32-45  
John 12:23-28 [23-26]  
John 14:1-6  
John 17:24-26  
John 19:17-18, 25-39

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven  
Come to me and I will give you rest  
Behold the bridegroom, come out to him!  
Come, you who are blessed by my Father.  
Jesus gave out a loud cry and breathed his last.

Young man, I tell you, arise!  
You also must be prepared  
Today you will be with me in Paradise.  
Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?  
Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from death to life  
Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life and I shall raise him up on the last day.  
Whoever eats this bread will last forever  
and I will raise them up on the last day.  
I am the resurrection and the life.  
Lazarus, come out!  
If it dies, it produces much fruit.  
In my Father's house there are many dwellings  
I wish that where I am they also may be with me.  
And bowing his head he handed over his Spirit.

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## POPE FRANCIS EXTENDS INDULGENCES THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER 2020

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According to *The Enchiridion of Indulgences* – a list of official indulgences from the Apostolic Penitentiary at the Vatican – the faithful may gain an indulgence which can be applied to the souls in purgatory. The indulgence is plenary [entire, whole], under the usual conditions, each day from the first to the eighth of November. A partial indulgence is granted on any other days of the year.

"Visit to a Church or Oratory on All Souls Day. A plenary indulgence, applicable ONLY to the souls in purgatory, may be obtained by those who, on All Souls Day, piously visit a church, public oratory, or - for those entitled to use it, a semi-public oratory. It may be acquired either on the day designated as All Souls Day or, with the consent of the bishop, on the preceding or following Sunday or the feast of All Saints. On visiting the church or oratory it is required that one Our Father and the Creed be recited"(N.15).

But during 2020, as the pandemic has raged worldwide, many of the Church's bishops have requested an adaptation to the requirements to obtain the Plenary Indulgence for the deceased in the month of November. Thus, "by the special mandate of His Holiness Pope Francis", the Apostolic Penitentiary released some changes to the normal practice. The Decree containing these modifications was signed on 22 October, the liturgical memorial of Pope Saint John Paul II.

### **PLENARY INDULGENCE DURING MONTH OF NOVEMBER**

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and the need to avoid large groups, the Plenary Indulgence applicable to the deceased by those who visit a cemetery has been extended beyond the normal dates of November 1-8. This year, the indulgence can be obtained by anyone who visits a cemetery on any days, up to eight, in November, and devoutly prays for the faithful departed. "These days, freely chosen by the individual believers, may also be separate from one another" (translation of the decree on the Vatican website).

### **PLENARY INDULGENCE FOR FEAST OF ALL SOULS' DAY**

Regarding the Plenary Indulgence attached to All Souls' Day, this year, it can be obtained not only on the preceding or succeeding Sunday, or on November 2, but on another day of the month freely by the individual the faithful. In this case, the indulgence is obtained by "devoutly visiting a church or an oratory", along with the recitation of the Our Father and the Creed, and the other requirements associated with a Plenary Indulgence (sacramental confessions, Eucharistic communion, and prayer for the Holy Father's intentions).

### **THE HOMEBOUND**

For anyone who cannot leave their home for various reasons, including Covid restrictions, they too can obtain the Plenary Indulgence by "uniting themselves spiritually to other members of the faithful". In this case, the condition of being "completely detached from sin" and the intention of completing the other requirements for obtaining a Plenary Indulgence remain. These conditions are Sacramental Confession, reception of Holy Communion and a prayer for the Holy Father's intentions. The Decree suggests that such prayer take place before an "image of Jesus or the Blessed Virgin Mary". Among the various prayers that are recommended are "prayers for the deceased, Morning or Evening Prayer from the Office of the Dead, the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, meditating on various Gospel passages proposed for the liturgy of the Dead, or completing a work of mercy by offering to God the suffering and discomforts of one's own life."

Directing a word to priests, the Decree asks that they make the Sacrament of Confession generously available and that they make Holy Communion available to the sick. In addition, all priests are invited to offer three Masses on All Souls' Day. ■ [Adapted from an article by Sr. Bernadette Mary Reis, FSP for the Vatican News]

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## MASS IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

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On March 20, 2020, the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments promulgated new Mass texts entitled “Mass for Various Needs and Occasions: Mass in Time of Pandemic” (Prot. N. 156/20). In a rather unusual process, given the urgency of the worldwide pandemic, they released the texts in Latin, English, Spanish, German and other languages simultaneously.

This comes as a reminder that a presider may use this Mass text “for the duration of the pandemic.” It may be used any day except Solemnities; the Sundays or Advent, Lent, and Easter; days within the Octave of Easter; The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls); Ash Wednesday and the days of Holy Week.

You may find more information on this on the FDLC website. <https://fdlc.org/covid>

You may find the Mass texts in Latin, English, and Spanish on the USCCB website:

<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/votive-masses-and-various-needs/mass-in-time-of-pandemic>

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## PRAYING THE PSALMS

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During particularly difficult times, the Book of Psalms provides a bounty of prayers. These have wide variety of themes including lamentation, praise, etc. The following quotation is drawn from *Days of the Lord: The Liturgical Year*, page 268; Copyright 1994, Order of St. Benedict. Collegeville: Liturgical Press).

“There is really only one “prayerbook” that never wears out: the psalms. The fact alone that they have been used constantly down through so many centuries proves it. The Jewish faith has used them and so has the Church. We never tire of the psalms, and despite the fact that a little effort is needed to understand their literary genres, their particular poetic forms, their symbolism and imagery, the more one prays them, the more one gets out of them. In the Psalter, a collection of inspired prayers, we sometimes find ourselves drawn to small details no matter where we might be on our spiritual journey. This is because the psalms are cries from the human heart, speaking boldly to God with a sincerity and frankness that we might not otherwise permit ourselves if left to our own devices. But at the same time, even though the psalms speak for us just as we are and where we are, sometimes on the verge of despair or even close to rebellion against God, they are still full of faith and trust in the Lord. We are sometimes surprised at how much they can help us to get up again and rise above ourselves, to breathe again, with the breath of the Spirit.”

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# PRAYERS FROM THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

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Excerpts from the English translation of the *Ordo Exsequiarum*  
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## FOR SEVERAL PERSONS

O Lord, you gave life to N. and N.  
in the waters of baptism;  
show mercy to them now,  
and bring them to the happiness of life in your Kingdom.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

All powerful God,  
whose mercy is never withheld  
from those who call upon you in hope,  
look kindly on your servants N. and N.,  
who departed this life confessing your name,  
and number them among your saints for evermore.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## PRAYERS FOR MOURNERS

Father of mercies and God of all consolation,  
you pursue us with untiring love  
and dispel the shadow of death  
with the bright dawn of life.

[Comfort your family in their loss and sorrow.  
Be our refuge and our strength, O Lord,  
and lift us from the depths of grief  
into the peace and light of your presence.]

Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by dying has destroyed our death  
and by rising, restored our life.  
Enable us therefore to press on toward him,  
so that, after our earthly course is run,  
he may reunite us with those we love,  
when every tear will be wiped away.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord, Jesus, our Redeemer,  
you willingly gave yourself up to death,  
so that all might be saved and pass from death to life.  
We humbly ask you to comfort your servants in their grief  
and to receive [their loved ones]  
into the arms of your mercy.  
You alone are the Holy One,  
you are alone are mercy itself;  
by dying you unlocked the gates of life  
for those who believe in you.  
Forgive their sins,  
and grant them a place of happiness, light, and peace  
in the kingdom of your glory forever and ever. Amen.

God, all-compassionate,  
ruler of the living and the dead,  
you know beforehand  
those whose faithful lives reveal them as your own.  
We pray for those who belong to this present world  
and for those who have passed to the world to come:  
grant them pardon for all their sins.  
We ask you graciously to hear our prayer  
through the intercession of all the saints  
and for your mercy's sake.  
For you are God, forever and ever. Amen.

Lord, our God, the death of our brother/sister N.  
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 N. and for those who love him/her,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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## PARISH BEST PRACTICES: NOVEMBER 2020

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Many parishes have developed lovely traditions as they pray for the Dead each November. This year, with health restrictions that limit the size of assemblies and the use of materials, the parish team may want to discern alternative methods.

### NAMES OF THE DEAD

- ❖ Often, a parish will display a Book of the Dead and invite visitors to inscribe the names of their loved ones. With Covid restrictions, it may not be wise to have a single book which so many will touch. Collect the names via phone or e-mail, and create a book that will be placed on display. Or place individual cards in a basket.
- ❖ Consider a paper banner hanging on the wall of the church. It might be crafted of sturdy paper or fabric; written on with fine calligraphy, hung on a dowel, and draped with ribbon or black bunting. Consider adding the ages of each person to suggest the life experiences of each one.
- ❖ Place the names of the deceased prominently on the parish website.
- ❖ Create a downloadable prayer card which individuals may print at home and use in their daily prayers.
- ❖ List the names of those who have died this year in the paper worship aid which has been prepared for the weekend Masses (November 1 – 22).
- ❖ Of course, the names of the ceased may be entered into the worship aid for a special parish Mass which honors the Dead, usually between November 1 and 8.

### CANDLES AND PHOTOS

- ❖ At the annual parish celebration for the Dead, invite the family members to come forward to light a candle as their loved one's name is called (or have one volunteer light each one). Perhaps, strike a bell or chime as each name is read aloud.
- ❖ Consider placing one large candle in the middle of the display as a tribute to all those, worldwide, who have died from Covid-19.
- ❖ Have the family create a small, individual station with a photo and an enclosed candle.
- ❖ Create a single station for all remembrances. Add a collection of framed photos provided by the family. (They can drop them off during the week at the parish office, allowing each frame to be sanitized.)

### VISITS TO CEMETERIES

- ❖ Encourage parishioners to visit cemeteries, if only mentally. Call ahead to local cemeteries to ask if any restrictions are posted.
- ❖ Prepare prayer cards or suggest Scripture passages to enrich this visit and to remind them that "life is changed, not ended."



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## MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

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### HYMNODY

Amazing Grace	Newton	various
Be with Me, Lord	Joncas	OCP
Come to Me	Mt 11:28-30/Joncas	GIA
Daylight Fades	Luke 24:28-35/Scagnelli	GIA
Eye Has Not Seen	1 Cor 2:9-10/Haugen	GIA
Hosea	Weston Priory/Norbert	OCP
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say	Bonar/KINGSFOLD	GIA
I Know that My Redeemer Lives	Medley/Hatton	GIA
I Know that My Redeemer Lives	OCF/Hughes	GIA, various
I Will be With You	Moore	GIA
If I be Lifted Up	Weston Priory/Norbert	OCP
<i>In Paradisum/</i> May Choirs of Angels	<i>In Paradisum/</i> Proulx	GIA
Jesus, Lead the Way	Zinzendorf/Drese	GIA
Keep in Mind	2 Tim 2:8-12/ Deiss	GIA
Kindle a Flame to Lighten the Dark (crisis)	John Bell	GIA
May Saints and Angels Lead You On	<i>In Paradisum/</i> Tallis	GIA
My Shepherd Will Supply My Need	Ps 23/ Watts/Proulx	GIA
O Holy Spirit, by Whose Breath	<i>Veni Creator Spiritus/</i> Wojcik	GIA
On Eagle's Wings	Joncas	OCP
Precious Lord, Take My Hand	Dorsey	GIA
Rest in Peace	Green/Widmar	GIA
<i>Resucitó</i>	Argüello/Trupia	OCP
Shepherd Me, O God	Haugen	GIA
Sing to the Mountains	Ps 118/Dufford	GIA
Sing with all the Saints in Glory	1 Cor. 15:20/ Irons	GIA
Song of Farewell	Joncas	GIA
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	Ps 23/ Baker/ ST COLUMBA	GIA, Various
There is Balm in Gilead	Jer 8:22/A-A Spiritual	GIA
Unless a Grain of Wheat	Farrell	OCP
Within our Darkest Night	Taizé Community	GIA

### PSALMODY

Ps 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6	The Lord is my shepherd.
Ps 25:6 and 7b, 17-18, 20-21	To you, O Lord, I lift my soul
Ps 27:1, 4, 7 and 8b and 9a, 13-14	The Lord is my light and my salvation.
Ps 42:2, 3, 5cdef; 43:3, 4, 5	My soul is thirsting for the living God. When shall I see him face to face?
Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9	My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, my God.
Ps 103: 8 and 10, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18	The Lord is kind and merciful
Ps 116: 5, 6, 10-11, 15-16ac	I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.
Ps 122: 1-2, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9	Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.
Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8	Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.
Ps 143: 1-2, 5-6, 7ab and 8ab, 10	O Lord, hear my prayer.

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## PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED FROM COVID-19

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Merciful Lord,  
In your earthly life,  
you showed great compassion to the sick  
and by your own suffering and death,  
you won for us everlasting life.  
You know that the world is suffering from the coronavirus  
and that this dreaded virus has claimed countless victims –  
people of every age, of every nation, and of all faiths.

We come before you to commend the souls of our faithful departed  
who have died from the coronavirus.  
When they struggled to breathe,  
you were there as their Great Physician.  
When they were separated from their loved ones,  
you assured them with your abiding Spirit.  
When they died without family at their side,  
you were there as brother and friend.

May they know the joy of seeing your face  
and feel the warmth of your loving embrace.  
Welcome them into your heavenly kingdom,  
where you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

