

A SERVICE OF MOURNING OUR LOSSES

Leader Blessed be the God of our salvation.
All ***Who bears our burdens and forgives all our sins.***

Leader Come now, turn aside for a while from your tasks;
All ***escape for a moment from the tumult of your thoughts.***

Leader Put aside your weighty cares, and let your burdensome distractions wait.

All ***Free yourself awhile for God and rest awhile in God's embrace.***

Leader Enter the inner chamber of your soul, shut out everything except God and that which can help you in seeking him.

All ***and when you have shut the door, seek him.***

Leader Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Leader Lord, open our lips
All ***And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.***

Leader Let us pray.
God of Mercy, hear our prayer for ourselves and our parishioners who live with painful experiences of loss. We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow and peace for the past. We ask these things in the name of Christ who entered the world to share our life in sorrow and joy, death and new birth, despair and promise.

All ***Amen.***

PSALM READING Psalm 22

ONE: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, so far from the words of my groaning?

ALL: ***O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer. And by night, but I find no rest.***

ONE: In You, our ancestors trusted. They trusted and You delivered them.

ALL: ***It was you who took me from the womb. You who kept me safe on my mother's breast. Since my mother bore me, you have been my God.***

ONE: Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

ALL: God does not despise the affliction of the afflicted. God does not hide from me. When I cry to God, God hears me. Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:28-29

Jesus said, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

A Litany of Mourning

Leader *Hear us, O Lord of life*
All **Heal us and make us whole.**

Leader Gracious God, we mourn those dear parishioners who have died in the past few months, especially: **John Bacher, Mary Lee Fricker, John Fricker.** It is difficult to imagine Good Shepherd without these good folks, whose presence and ministry was so vital and constant over 50 plus years. Their passing has been difficult for all of us, and we feel the weight of our loss.

We mourn the loss of others who have moved away from here this past year: Richard Taylor, Vicki Steele, Jeanne Fuller....

We mourn the loss of folks who drifted away during Covid and have not returned to our parish.

(Here I invite you to add names, either silently or aloud, of parishioners who have died, moved, or drifted away).....

Gracious God, the loss of all of these people in different ways has been painful. We bring all of our pain and sorrow to you as we pray:

Leader *Hear us, O Lord of life*
All **Heal us and make us whole.**

Leader O God, we now mourn the damage to our buildings – our offices, which seem beyond repair, and our beautiful historic Nave which has been severely damaged. We have not been able to worship in our Nave for over 5 months now. We do not know yet what the insurance company will or will not cover. We do not know yet how extensive the damage really is, or whether the building is repairable. We miss our sacred space with so much history and so many memories – the beautiful stained glass windows, the cross behind the altar, the organ, the side chapels with their votive candles. Dear God, this is a difficult loss. We bring all of our pain and sadness and frustration over our building damage to you.

(Here I invite you to offer your own prayers, silently or aloud).....

Leader *Hear us, O Lord of life*

All **Heal us and make us whole.**

Leader And God, there is more. All of us have had our own individual or family losses, some small, some terribly large. Here we offer to you our pain and suffering from the loss of friends, family members, and animals; our pain and suffering from sudden illness, surgeries, failing bodies, broken relationships. We mourn the evils of racism, sexism, and the discrimination against people because of gender identity or sexual orientation. We mourn the violence that infects this nation and the world.

(Here I invite you to offer your own prayers, silently or aloud).....

Leader God, who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart, bring us hope and courage. Bring us hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided. For your will is health and wholeness; you are God, and we need you.

Leader *Hear us, O Lord of life*

All **Heal us and make us whole.**

As we gather up the pain from all these losses, we offer it to you, O God, asking that into our open hands, you will place the gift of peace.

Leader *Hear us, O Lord of life*

All **Heal us and make us whole, in your peace which passes all understanding.**

Leader God of great compassion and love, listen to the prayers of these your people.
Grant to all, especially all who are bereaved and saddened, the blessing we ask in
the name of Christ who taught us to pray together saying

All ***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.***

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

All ***Thanks be to God.***

Officiant ✠ May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through
the power of the Holy Spirit.

All ***Amen.***