CELEBRATING AT HOME

COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS

Giving thanks with grateful hearts (Luke 7:11-17)

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Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord is here, present among us.
We are gathered with the whole Church in this moment of prayer.

Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus,
you came to set us free.

Lord Jesus,
you grant us the fullness of life.

Lord Jesus,
you bring the Good News of salvation

Scripture Reading *(Luke 7:11-17)*

Jesus went to a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a great number of people. When he was near the gate of the town it happened that a dead man was being carried out for burial, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a considerable number of the townspeople were with her. When the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her. 'Do not cry' he said. Then he went up and put his hand on the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said, 'Young man, I tell you to get up.' And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Everyone was filled with awe and praised God saying, 'A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.' And this opinion of him spread throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.

Reflection - *Giving thanks with grateful hearts*

This weekend we celebrate those who are now in God's care.

We pray for them with faith and hope.

As St Paul says, what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners, and by his death we have been made righteous in the eyes of God (Romans 5:8-10). God does not wait for us to be perfect before reaching out to us in love.

We thank God for the presence of our departed sisters and brothers in our lives. We recognise them as a gift and blessing to us. Even in the midst of our sadness we are aware of God's graciousness in sharing them with us and we pray for them with grateful hearts. Our prayer for them expresses our Christian hope that death is not the end of life, and that we will meet each other again in God's kingdom.

Giving thanks to God is a fundamental character of our liturgy. The word Eucharist means 'to give thanks'. The word liturgy means 'to do one's public duty'. When we talk about the Liturgy of the Eucharist we are talking about the time we spend at mass doing our public work of giving thanks to God.

The Gospel for our commemoration today is both emotional and touching. Jesus meets the funeral procession of a young man. He is deeply moved with compassion for the young man's mother and the young man himself.

The Gospel tells us that the mother is a widow and the young man who has died is her only son. In the times in which Jesus lived that meant that the mother, in addition to being grief-stricken, was now extremely vulnerable - having no male to act on her behalf in legal or financial matters and no bread-winner now to look after her.

In restoring her son's life Jesus has also restored her life. It's a double restoration, a double blessing and a double sign of God's goodness and compassion.

Today, we join with the whole Church in praying that God welcome our departed sisters and brothers fully into the Divine embrace.

Prayers of Intercession

Show yourself to the dying and comfort all who mourn.
May we support them by our ministry of love.

COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS

Give courage and strength,
to all who fear death

Raise up all who have died,
and bring them to the fullness of life.

Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus,
we pray:

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.

Closing Prayer

O God,
our birth is the fruit of your love,
our redemption, the fruit of your mercy.
May our lives reveal your goodness and care
for the whole human family.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

May the blessing of God be among us,
and remain with us for ever. Amen.

This resource is presented by the Carmelites for use by individuals, families and small groups as a prayerful celebration of the Word of God to help prepare us to celebrate the Eucharist with our worshipping communities. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. We are also conscious of the many people who, for various reasons including sickness and infirmity, cannot physically attend the Eucharist. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family.

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