

**REFLECTION:** I remember a time I lost someone close to me... I remember how hard it was... I remember... I remember...

**OUR FATHER**

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:  
**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.**  
**R. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

**SIGN OF PEACE**

Jesus, you said to your apostles: “I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live forever and ever. **Amen.**”  
  
The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**R. And with your spirit.**

**LAMB OF GOD**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **grant us peace.**  
This is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are we who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

**COMMUNION**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Let us pray:  
Merciful Father,  
Hear our prayers and console us. As we renew our faith in your Son, whom you raised from the dead, strengthen our hope that all our departed brothers and sisters will share in his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
  
We ask this through Jesus, our Savior. **R. Amen.**

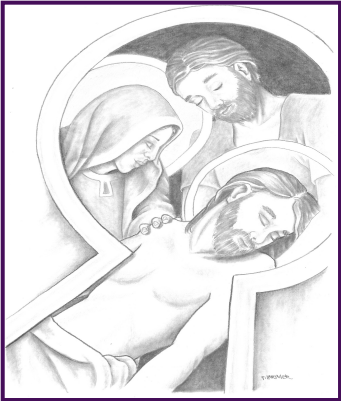
***The Souls of the Just  
are in the Hands of God***

**WISDOM FROM THE CELLS**

I remember the first time I experienced death was when I was 8 years old. I was already an orphan with no parents. My mother had died, and my dad had left me. My grandma took me in as a baby, and growing up, I thought she was my mom. I would call her mom; she loved me.  
One night when I was eight, she had a heart attack. I remember we were all in the same room in Mexico, so there was no way to call 911. When the doctor arrived, it was too late. I remember my uncle was angry at the doctor for not being able to help her. It was a really traumatic experience; my world was shattered. I remember being on my bunk bed crying, not understanding life and death. I pleaded with God to save her and to bring my mom back, but she was gone. How can someone experience so much death?  
After that, two of my brothers passed away. I was 13 years old when my brother took his last breath. His last words were, “I have made peace with God.” How can God take my family from me? I rebelled against God. I was angry at Him for taking everyone from me at such a young age. I became numbed to death. I never allowed myself to feel or cry for no one ever again, which led me to a life of crime.  
Today, I am working on putting my life in God’s hands. I still don’t understand His purpose for so much hurt, but I humbly ask Him to forgive me for my sins.

**- Victor, who is in a California State Prison.**

**The Commemoration of All  
the Faithful Departed (All Souls)  
November 2, 2025**



*Drawing by Travis*

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**  
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.  
**R. Amen.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray:  
God of the living,  
We believe that you are a God of a love that is stronger than death since your Son Jesus Christ, born as one of us, destroyed death for ever. Let all the faithful departed live in the security of your love. Let them enjoy peace, your peace, and give to us, too, the courage to face life and to live it in close union with your Son.  
  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**



# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## First Reading: Wisdom 3: 1-9

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. In the time of their visitation they shall shine, and shall dart about as sparks through stubble; they shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall be their King forever. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord.  
**R. Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5

**R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul.

**R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

He guides me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side  
with your rod and your staff  
that give me courage.

**R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

You spread the table before me  
in the sight of my foes;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

**R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

## Second Reading: Romans 6: 3-9

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord.  
**R. Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel: John 6: 37-40

Jesus said to the crowds: "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

# MEDITATION: WIDOW’S SON

the hill was steep  
the casket was heavy  
with the young life  
did not feel the weight  
of the box of a young boy

his mother's feet  
were bloodied  
did not matter  
her heart was broken  
by the death  
of her son joshua  
her only son  
the accident was sudden  
his body had been twisted  
torn

sarah held him  
in her arms  
for one last time  
before he was laid  
in this box  
her dress was bloodied  
her hands drenched  
she was now alone  
she had put such hope  
in this twelve-year-old life  
after her husband  
was killed

her life was brightened  
with joshua's presence  
it all ended  
in one minute  
no more boy  
playing in the fields

now carrying this box  
so many memories  
flowed through her  
the grief ripping  
at her heart

never could she imagine  
what it would be like  
to lose a child  
as her feet walked  
in the hot dust  
it was like  
she was falling down  
a dark hole  
deeper and deeper  
trying to catch  
her breath  
feeling as if she  
had fallen down  
to lose the one  
she had given birth to  
had given her milk to  
had held in her hands  
had watched walk  
had walked to the  
synagogue

now she was walking  
without him by her side  
the first morning  
she woke up  
felt an emptiness  
within her  
with the realization  
that joshua  
was not there  
sarah was waiting  
to hear his voice  
going to his room  
and no one there  
walking with this box  
she was only left  
with an ache  
in the heart  
reaching the top  
looking into  
the distance  
seeing a small group

coming up the hill  
jesus looking at sarah  
feeling saddened  
by experiencing  
such grief in another  
the group carrying the box  
stopped

jesus approaching  
embracing sarah  
expressing his sorrow  
how difficult to  
be a parent  
to lose your child  
jesus was offering  
her comfort

at first jesus could not  
say one thing

but as jesus  
embraced sarah  
the presence of joshua  
was so palpable  
she knew  
she could feel that  
her son was alive  
that his presence  
was there  
filling her heart  
giving her comfort  
knowing he was  
with god

jesus wanted  
all those to follow him  
down through the ages  
to know how  
we never really die  
jesus wanted to show  
all those present  
how close joshua

still was  
  
jesus asked them  
to lower the box  
bringing out joshua  
jesus kneeling down  
putting his hand  
over joshua's heart  
slowly breathing  
in new life

sarah knew that  
her son could  
never really die  
remembering  
jesus' words  
whoever believes in me  
will live forever  
forever  
do not fear  
live forever  
eternal life  
do you believe?

this eternal life  
giving her comfort

jesus did not want to  
see sarah hurt any more

joshua slowly sitting up  
after jesus touched him  
life  
eternal life  
a deep mystery  
surrounding  
a once mourning group  
eternal life

