

An Abrahamic Prayer, at a Time of Grieving*

Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu, Melekh ha-olam

Blessed are you, O Lord, our God, ruler of the universe...

...who has created us to be a blessing to others.

Remind us that we are both humble creatures and yet only a little lower than the angels, who have been entrusted with responsibility for your good creation and for one another. Open our ears to hear again your words, that we are indeed made in your image and according to your likeness, and your promise, that you have heard our cry and know our sufferings and have come to deliver us. And open our hearts to respond to your loving presence among us.

Our Father who art in heaven...

...you know how over the centuries our communities have come to speak of you in different ways.

In joy, and in tragedy, you have shown us again and again that beneath these differences is our shared love for you, our families, and our neighbors that gathers us at this time and leads us together to say thank you. Thank you for the blessings that were those family members and friends whom you gave to us to share each others' lives. Thank you for the ways we were able to show our love to them and for the ways they were able to show their love to us, even in what seemed to be only a brief moment in time. And thank you for the assurance that their memories will be eternal.

Bismillaah ar-Rahman ar-Raheem

In the name of God, the infinitely compassionate and merciful...

...we pray this prayer, believing that our loved ones now in heaven draw us to the source of our salvation.

We give you glory, honor and praise. Amen.

*Adapted from various interfaith prayer resources by:
Tony Kireopoulos, National Council of Churches