

Memorial Service for Deceased Members
Of the Garden City High School Class of 1968
Garden City Bird Sanctuary
September 22, 2018

Greeting

Welcome to the memorial service for the deceased members of the Garden City High School Class of 1968. This service includes readings borrowed from old scripture and contemporaneous essays, each meant to kindle long held memories and to heal the heaviest of hearts caused by the inexplicable loss of especially precious friends. We are glad you are here.

Opening Benediction

Dear Lord, how well we know the moments of our lives are defined by the choices we make and the people we allow into our hearts.

Dear Lord, thank you for the moments we remember, for the people who have chosen to join us today, and for those who remain forever in our hearts, but could not be here.

Dear Lord, we have come here today to honor those precious souls we remember dearly, who have been called to rest eternally and sleep, now, endlessly and peacefully. May we, all those who are here, live in the precious present with gentle kindness, joyful gratitude, compassion and shared equanimity for each other always.

First Reading: a translation of John 14

Let not your heart be troubled. In the Kingdom of the Lord, there are many mansions. If you chose a path intent upon revealing the sanctity of the human spirit and the universality of inviolable truths, you will reach a place in the fullness of time where rewards of a good life well-lived will come to you. Should you, in turn, share the profusion of your blessings with our neediest sisters and brothers, a place in heaven shall await you where loved ones who have gone before assemble in triumphant celebration.

Second Reading: a translation of Lamentations 3: 22-26 & 31-33

The Creator's love for us never ceases, so the Creator's mercies never come to an end. It is good for us to wait with patience for the reunion of Souls, for the Lord will not disown us. Although the death of loved ones causes us grief, the Lord's compassion is of such enduring abundance the Lord will not let us grieve forever.

Third Reading

Reflections

People pass through our lives each and every day. Some linger. Some move on. We keep in touch with some, while others are a faint memory. These interactions, whether fleeting or long-lasting, affect us. These people have impact on our lives. Sometimes we are lucky enough to realize that when they are with us. Other times it is not until later, with age and experience, that we can truly value that relationship. So it is with our classmates, those here and those who have passed.

We are here today to remember those classmates who have left us too soon. Some we've known since kindergarten, some just in high school. They were a big part of our lives. We may have shared a class, worked on a project, competed together on a team, or played in the band or acted in a play with them. We might have walked to school or biked to the pool with them. We tested our independence with them, maybe got into trouble with them, while we tried to figure out who we were and who we wanted to be. We may have admired them, secretly crushed on them, aspired to be like them, or just passed them in the hall. For some, maybe we just didn't understand them. For those with whom we were close, we've seen each other at our best and at our worst.

Whatever the experience, these people were a part of what made us who we are today.

Our youth was a fascinating and complex time. We grew up together with the simplicity, innocence and optimism of the 50's and both the exhilarating freedom and the painful societal issues of the 60's. That collective experience will always be with us. So while we may miss our classmates, we should remember them, celebrate what we shared, and be grateful for their part in helping us become who we are.

by Kerry Durr Roscoe

Fourth Reading

These are the classmates, honored here today, for whom we pray:

Mae Ann Babenzien Leary
David Blody
Dave Capreol
Lisa Cenzoprano Glorioso
Michael Crilly
Nina (Dale) Demuth
Diane Flaherty
Art Friedmann
Janice Hague
Peter Heyden
Andrew Jamascia
Colleen Keegan Kaich
John Kirchofer
Christopher LeSavage
Nancy McEwen
Margaret Malloy Price
Gerry Melis
Thomas Morrow
Martha Norris
Todd O'Hara
John Parisse
Karen Pidal
Kathy Reilly
Peter Rundlett
Mary Jane Scully Bauer
Randy Sheets
Kathleen Springer
Marilyn Vinson Kielkowski
Richard Walsh
Jane Zack Jakielo

Barbara Blankley Guttery
Peter Braseth
Phillip Casa
James Corey
Mary Lou Cummins Groody
John Eastburn
Patricia Fox Townsend
Joan Hadden
William Hanna
Ann Horstmann
Wayne Johnston
Karen Kirby
Sandy Klemenger Stillwell
David Lenihan
Paul McGuinness
Joseph Marino, Jr
Harry (Nick) Moore
Cheryl Nolan Drinkwater
Mary Ann Odell
Pamela Paillard LeMardeley
Norman Parrott
Peter Platt
Dean Rogers
Charles Schroeder
Arthur Seale
James Shields
Lee Van Slyke
Susan Vogler Voss
Jeffrey Willets
Jane Zeller Strange

Fifth Reading

Remembering Our Friends

Classmates so good, with hearts so strong and true,
it was as if they were somehow imbued
with each shade life had, in joy and sorrow.
Now they precede us on to tomorrow.

They gave of what they were so selflessly
to their good fellows, friends and families.
They slew fierce dragons with both wit and smile,
the essence of grace, people of such style.

We honor each for all he or she was.
We are so much better somehow because
they walked among us, skilled stars even then.
Someday, we will smile remembering when.

by Carol Anderson

Closing Benediction: a translation of 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13

Finally, brothers and sisters, let us say farewell to our friends.
Listen to my appeal. Put your house and heart in order. Greet one another in an
encouraging embrace. Agree with one another. Live a life of peace and charity. The
grace and the love of God and the blessings of the Lord's children will be with you always.

Thank you for coming!

