

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

### (YIZKOR)

#### *Meditation*

O Lord, let me know my end, the number of days that I have left; let me know how short-lived I am. Thou hast made my days no longer than a span; my lifetime is as nothing in thy sight. Every man, at his best, is an empty breath. Man walks about as a mere shadow, making much ado about vanity; he heaps up riches and knows not who will possess them.

What then can I expect, O Lord? My hope is in thee! Save me from all my sins; let me not become an object of reproach. I am unable to speak, I do not open my mouth, for it is thou who hast done it to me. Relieve me from thy stroke, for I may waste underneath thy blows.

Hear my prayer, O Lord, listen to my cry, answer thou my tears; for I am but a guest of thine, a sojourner, like all my forefathers. Have mercy upon me that I may recover my strength before I depart to be no more.<sup>1</sup>

#### *Responsively*

O Lord, thou hast been our shelter in every generation.

From eternity to eternity thou art God.

Thou turnest man to dust, saying: Return, O man.

A thousand years to thee are like a day that passes.

Thou sleepest men away, and they sleep.

They are like grass that grows in the morning.

It flourishes in the morning, and withers in the evening.

The length of our life is seventy years, or eighty.

Our life, filled with sorrow, is soon over and we flit away.

O teach us how to make the most of each day, how to be wise.

May thy favor, Lord our God, rest upon us and direct our deeds.

I lift my eyes to the hills; whence will my help come?

<sup>1</sup>*Psalm 39:5–14.*