

## ***Prayers when Lighting the Yahrzeit Candle***

*There is no special prayer or blessing required by Jewish tradition when lighting the yahrzeit candle. It is appropriate to meditate briefly. It is often comforting to read psalms or to recite some meditations. You might find the following modern meditations meaningful.*

We thank You, O God of life and love,  
For the resurrecting gift of memory  
Which endows Your children, fashioned in Your image,  
With the God-like sovereign power  
To give immortality through love.  
Praised be You, O God,  
Who enables Your children to remember. *(Morris Adler)*

Eternal God, reverently I recall the life and death of my loved one, whose soul now abides with You.

Although feelings of loss and emptiness persist, with moments of longing for days that will not return, I am grateful, O God of healing, that the sharp pain which death inflicted has been softened by time. I am grateful, too, for the memories which enable me to treasure my beloved \_\_\_\_\_, and to cherish the times we shared in life.

While not every hour or experience was without difficulty, since none of Your creatures is without flaw and frailty, so much of what we shared enriched and enlarged my life.

As I am reminded of life's transience, may I be inspired to use each day wisely, to live with compassion, generosity, and integrity. Thus may I reflect honor upon our family, and make the memory of my departed a source of true blessing. *Amen.*

O God, Source of life and love,  
We turn to You at this time of remembering  
As we light this candle in memory of our departed.  
In Your keeping, the soul of our beloved still glows  
As brightly as the "heavenly firmament."  
Truly, "the human soul is the light of the Lord."  
By Your light, may we who lovingly remember see light;  
And may the memory of our departed abide with us  
As a lasting benediction.

From: *Likrat Shabbat Prayerbook*

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