

Grace Killian: Good morning.

Congregation: Good morning.

Grace Killian: Our responsive Psalm this morning is Psalm 18. Please stand. I adore you. Oh Lord, my strength.

Congregation: Oh, Lord my, my crag, my fortress, my rescuer, my God.

Grace Killian: My rock in whom I seek refuge, my shield, my mighty champion, my haven.

Congregation: Ropes of death encompassed me, torrents of Belial terrified me.

Grace Killian: Ropes of steel and circled me. Snares of death confronted me.

Congregation: IN my distress I called on the Lord, cried out to my God; in his temple he heard my voice; my cry to him reached his ears.

Grace Killian: You have given me the shield of your protection. Your right hand has sustained me. Your care has made me great.

Congregation: You have let me stride on freely; my feet have not slipped.

Grace Killian: For this, I sing your praise among the nations Lord and him your name.

Congregation: He accords great victories to his king, keeps faith with his anointed, with David and his offspring forever.

Choir: (singing)

Amitai Abouzaglo: Shalom Aleichem, Peace be upon you all. Find some ease in your seats. We're going to be talking about some unsettling topics and I hope we can sanctify the moment even in the conversation about despairing parts of this world.

Amitai Abouzaglo: October 27th, 2018 the 18th day of the Jewish month of Cheshvan. Joyce Feinberg, Rich Gottfried, Rose Malingar, Jerry Rabinowitz, Cecil Rosenthal, David Rosenthal, Bernice Simon, Sylvan Simon, Daniel Stein, Melvin Wax, Irving Younger, may their memories be for a blessing and may the blessed one be he grant in a sense to each of their souls. After reading the names of the martyrs, human beings, fathers, daughters, sons, brothers, I want to shout a line in our daily liturgy.

Amitai Abouzaglo: I'll read it in English. All of them are beloved. All are pure, all are mighty, all are Holy. All carry out the will of their creator with dread and awe. All of them open their mouth in holiness and purity with song and music and bless, praise, glorify, sanctify, and ascribe kingship to the name of the Almighty. But for a year now

we have not been able to hear their words. For a year now we have not been able to learn their insights on the weekly Torah portion. We've not been able to follow their ethical example. For a year now, we have not been able to sit by their side and be nourished by their fervor for Judaism and their devotion to God in a distinctly and proudly Jewish fashion.

Amitai Abouzaglo: For a year now the collectivity of the Jewish people has had to find ways to live up to our traditions insistence that even after death, the memory of the deceased can be for a blessing and this is what we have tried to do since the beginnings of our roamings across the diaspora to sanctify the memory of those who have been murdered, who have died, sanctifying God's name. This charge that the memory of the deceased can be for a blessing. My opinion is not primarily about allowing the deceased to live on, rather the charge to sanctify the memory of our martyrs is a charge to cultivate ourselves to the memory of Holy people in mystical terms, to reach for the crown that was created through each of the Holy acts that in their lives was placed right beside the heavenly throne.

Amitai Abouzaglo: It is the starkest reminder, this call to make the memory of the deceased a blessing. It is the starkest reminder of the sheerly overpowering command in Leviticus. "You shall be Holy to me." Be Holy to me as a response to our deepest encounter with the fragility of life. We are still processing and I am not here to offer final words. I want to let everyone ruminate on the possibility, the charge to make the deceased's memory a blessing. I do want to share one final note.

Amitai Abouzaglo: Baai Shem Tov, father of classism taught that every single Jew, when we are a part of the collectivity of the Jewish people, we form a Torah scroll and that every letter, every sacred letter inscribed on the Torah scroll through that letter, each Jew exists and this is the same Torah scroll that on numerous occasions extols remembrance as the channel for virtue, as the channel for piety. I recently read that in the past year 11 members of one of the congregations that shares this space with The Tree Of Life, The New Light congregation, 11 members began learning to read Hebrew. I believe that by virtue of the merit of their study, of our cherished and sacred language, the 11 letters of the Kiddush Hashem of the martyrs become a blessing. Of the Torah we sing, "It is a tree of life to all grasp it and whoever holds onto it is happy. Its ways are ways of pleasantness and all its paths are peace." Last thing that I want to say is today is the 24th anniversary of another Jewish martyr Yitzhak Rabin, late Israeli prime minister. It is appropriate to bring into our hearts that call to make the memory of the deceased a blessing. Thank you.

Grace Killian: And now let us join in the Lord's prayer together as it is written on the reverse of your order of worship.

Congregation: 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. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Grace Killian: Our hymn this morning is hymn number 288, Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive found in your crimson hymnal. Please stand.

Congregation: (singing).

Grace Killian: And now made the peace of the Lord go with you wherever who may send you. Amen.

Congregation: Amen.