

On Sunday, August 16, 2020 this nation marked the deaths of over 170,000 of our loved ones and neighbors from the Covid-19 virus. The numbers of those who have died are exponentially increasing to staggering proportions.

On June 1, during a National Day of Mourning, we honored and prayed for the 100,000 souls who have died from Covid-19 since February. We continue to lament the needless deaths of all the Departed. We fervently pray that this nation will faithfully adapt to this pandemic in ways which build up the dignity and wellness of every human being.

Join with us as we toll our church bell at St. Columbas for those who have died and pray with their bereaved friends and families. For the Glory of God, it is up to each of us to stop the spread of this deadly new virus.

<iframe title="vimeo-player" src="https://player.vimeo.com/video/424668651" width="640" height="360" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>God of

Consolation: Prayers from the Jewish Community

<https://sojo.net/day-of-lament/prayers>

God of consolation,
Surely you count in heaven,
Just as we count here on earth,
In shock and in sorrow,
The souls sent back to You,
One-by-one,
The dead from the COVID pandemic,
As the ones become tens,
The tens become hundreds,
The hundreds become thousands,
The thousands become ten-thousands
And then hundred-thousands,
Each soul, a heartbreak,
Each soul, a life denied.

God of wisdom,
Surely in the halls of divine justice
You are assembling the courts,
Calling witnesses to testify,
To proclaim
The compassion of some
And the callousness of others
As we've struggled to cope.
The souls taken too soon,
Whose funerals were lonely,
Who didn't need to die,
Who died alone,
Will tell their stories
When You judge
Our triumphs
And our failures
In these hours of need. (continued on next page)

God of healing, an end to this pandemic,
And all illness and disease.
Bless those who stand in service to humanity.
Bless those who grieve.
Bless the dead,
So that their souls are bound up in the bond of life eternal.
And grant those still afflicted
With disease or trauma
A completed and lasting healing,
One-by-one,
Until suffering ceases,
And we can stop counting the dead,
In heaven And on earth.

The prayer above is written by Alden Solovy, a liturgist, poet, and teacher. He's the author of Jewish Prayers of Hope and Healing. © 2020 Alden Solovy and www.tobendlight.com. Reproduced with permission.