May 9, 2018

Dear Kevin,

I am mindful as we approach Mother's Day this Sunday that you will for the first time experience this as a memorial day *for* your mother rather than a celebratory day *with* your mother. I want to offer you a prayer from the Psalms and from our own *Book of Common Prayer*.

**Psalm 73:23-24**―*Book of Common Prayer,* p. 688

Yet I am always with you;

you hold me by my right hand.

You will guide me by your counsel,

and afterwards receive me with glory.

Initially, it sounds as if the Psalmist could be talking about a loving parent, holding him by the right hand and guiding him. And then we realize that he is praying to the God and Father of all, who also cares for our *parents,* holding, guiding and ultimately receiving them with glory into the company of saints in light.

The following prayer helps articulate the challenging but beautiful assurance we have of entrusting all who are dear to us into God's care. I have included it here as a fitting memorial prayer for us on this Sunday:

**A prayer for those we love**―*Book of Common Prayer,* p. 831

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lastly, I want to share a comment someone made in a note to me after my mother's death which is just as true and applicable for you. “The finest memorial to your mother is your presence among us.” We are the living, breathing result of their labor and love, even before we were born. And we can continue to be their finest memorials on days like Sunday when we give thanks and remember.

God bless you,

Furman +