

sample outline for a shiva evening service from  
Kol Haneshamah: Prayers for a House of Mourning

open the space: words, silence, niggun, song (Oseh Shalom, Esa Einai, Eili Eili, etc.)

optional: opening reading (5-7, 94-99, 104-107)

13 – v’Hu Rachum → Barchu

14/15/16 – Asher Bidvaro (Hebrew or English)

17/18/19 – Ahavat Olam (Hebrew or English)

21 – Sh’ma + V’ahavta (can continue on following pages out loud or silently)

35 – Mi Chamocha

36/37 – Hashkiveinu (Hebrew or English)

optional: intro to the amidah (39-42)

silent amidah (44-75 or 76-81)

75 – Oseh Shalom

89-93 – Aleinu

invite family members and others to share reflections (confirm before service with families)

103 – Kaddish

closing song (see above)

if Saturday evening, continue with havdalah (129-133)

to keep in mind:

- confirm if family would like to share reflections about their loved one ahead of Kaddish
- make sure books and yarmulkes are accessible
- take time before the service to ascertain which way is east
- if space is tight, ask people present to move in making space at the door for latecomers
- if Saturday night, confirm if family has supplies for Havdalah or bring yourself
- you may want to note Reconstructionist liturgical changes ahead of Aleinu
- you may want to check with family about balance of Hebrew and English for their service
- if no minyan present, you may wish to share reflections and have mourners recite Psalm 23 (116) instead of Kaddish
- if elderly relatives present, be sure to invite people to rise ‘if they can do so comfortably’