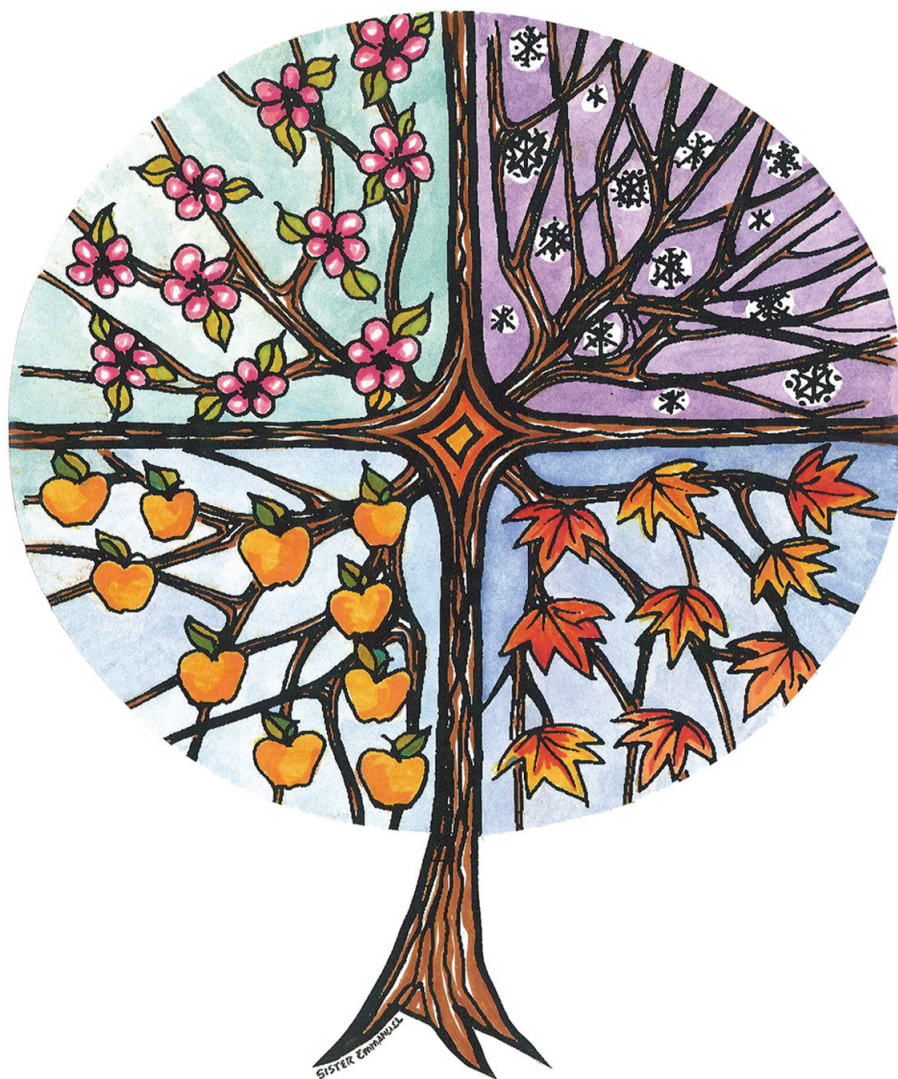


Memorial

For
The



Loss Of A Child

Adapted from Diocese of Covington Catholic Social Services

Notes on Using the Prayer Service

The services in this collection were designed for a variety of settings, and we encourage you to adapt them to your particular needs. The role of the leader can be shared by one or more persons. Some advance preparation such as handouts or candles may be required. Suggested hymns are widely available.

GATHERING HYMN *You Are Mine* (David Haas)

GATHERING PRAYER

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Response: Amen.

Leader: Gracious God and Giver of Life, you bring us together in faith, united in Christ, that we may be your people. Increase our faith in Jesus the Lord. Inspire us anew in our efforts to revere and protect every gift of human life. Give us new hope. Create a new heart in each of us that your name may be glorified in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Response: Amen.

SCRIPTURE

First Reading: (Is 49:13–16a) A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Sing out, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth,
break forth into song, you mountains.
For the LORD comforts his people
and shows mercy to his afflicted.
But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me;
my Lord has forgotten me."
Can a mother forget her infant,
be without tenderness for the child of her womb?
Even should she forget,
I will never forget you.
See, upon the palms of my hands I have written your name....
The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Pause for silent reflection.

HYMN *I Have Loved You* (Michael Joncas)

Gospel Reading: (*Mark 10:13–16*) A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Pause for silent reflection.

ACT OF OFFERING

Leader: [Invites participants to come forward, light their tapers from the Paschal candle in memory of their children, and place them in the receptacle.]

HYMN *How Beautiful* (Twila Paris)

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: In faith and hope, let us place our petitions before the Lord.

Please respond: *Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.*

Response: Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.

Leader:

That we always remember you hear and answer our prayers, we pray to the Lord. *(Response)*

That we feel your Spirit when we are brokenhearted and our spirits have been crushed, we pray to the Lord. *(Response)*

That we allow you to comfort us in our troubles, and strengthen us to comfort others in need, we pray to the Lord. *(Response)*

That we may unite our sufferings with those of your beloved son, Jesus Christ, we pray to the Lord. *(Response)*

That even in the shadow of darkness we may trust you to deliver us from evil and fear, we pray to the Lord. *(Response)*

PRAYER *The Lord's Prayer*

Leader: As children secure in their parent's love, we have the confidence to pray.

Response: Our Father, who art in heaven.... Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: Gracious God, you know all of our needs and you care for us daily. Be with us who are in great need of your presence. We have lighted these candles and dedicate them in loving memory of our children. As we hold their memories dear, may your light surround us. May your love support us. May we feel your love flow through us, as you wrap our beloved children in your gentle embrace. We ask this in the name of your most precious child, Jesus Christ.

Response: Amen.

Leader: Go now in the peace and light of Christ.

Response: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *Isaiah 49 (Carey Landry)*

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