**The Funeral of a Child**

*The readings and prayers provided below may be substituted in The Funeral Liturgy for the funeral of a child or young person.*

**Sentences**

*In addition to sentences on page 230, the following may be used.*

**Jesus said,**

**I am the good shepherd.**

**I know my own and my own know me . . .**

**He will feed his flock like a shepherd,**

**he will gather the lambs in his arms,** *John 10:14;*

and carry them in his bosom. *Isa. 40:11a.*

**As a father has compassion for his children,**

**so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.**

**As a mother comforts her child,** *Ps. 103:13;*

so I will comfort you, says the Lord. *Isa. 66:13*.

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation;**

**who comforts us in all our sorrows**

**so that we can comfort others in their sorrows**

**with the consolation**

**we ourselves have received from God.***Based on II Cor. 1:3-5*.

**Preface**

**We have come together to worship God**

**and to remember the life of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**It is to no uncaring or unfeeling God that we come,**

**but to the One who is also a parent,**

**who sent an only son into the world,**

**who knows the grief of losing a child.**

**This same Lord opens a heart of love to us in our need.**

**Believing in the everlasting love of God,**

**we come to release \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**into the keeping of**

**the Lord who is preparing a kingdom**

**where there is no sorrow or crying,**

**where there is joy and laughter,**

**in the presence of the Lord of Life.**

**Let us lift up our hearts to the Lord.**

**Let us pray.**

**Prayer**

**Merciful God,**

**you comfort the broken hearted**

**and bind up the wounds of the afflicted.**

**In faith we open our hearts to you.**

**Come to us now.**

**Put the arms of your love and mercy around us**

**and give peace to our troubled hearts**

**that we may find healing**

**and be set free from guilt and fear.**

**Almighty God,**

**in raising your son from the dead**

**you conquered death and**

**opened the gate to**

**everlasting life.**

**Renew our trust in you.**

**Assure us that we are**

**united forever with\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**and that whether on earth or in heaven**

**we are all together,**

**upheld by your Spirit.**

**Help us now to hear the Word you would speak to us**

**and to put our whole trust and confidence in you.**

**We ask this through Jesus Christ,**

**your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

**Scripture Readings**

*See the lessons suggested for use at the funeral of a child or young person beginning on page 251.*

**Prayer**

**Heavenly Father,**

**source of all mercy and giver of all comfort:**

**look upon us in our great need.**

**Let not what has been taken from us**

**cause us to forget what we have received.**

**Even as we mourn what might have been, we thank you:**

 **for the unique gift of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_'s life and the**

 **ways you have touched our lives through *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,***

 **for the new experience of love born in us
 by *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* birth and life and death;**

 **for the enlarged sense of family and friendship**

 **we have known because *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* lived among us;**

 **for the joy-filled memories *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* gave to us**

**which can never be erased.**

**Truly, Lord, we are different,**

**this world is different,**

**because *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* lived, and we are grateful.**

**[We thank you also for your church that**

 **received \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in baptism and**

 **nurtured *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* in your way.]**

**And now, gracious God,**

**whose beloved Son took children into his arms and**

**blessed them;**

**give us the grace, we pray,**

**to entrust \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**to your never-failing care and love,**

**and bring us all to your heavenly realm;**

**through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**OR**

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