

Naming and Memorial Service

This Naming and Memorial Service may be celebrated in a hospital room or chapel or the family home or a parish Stillness and/or Eucharistic Chapel. This ceremony is simple and specific to the family who is grieving. A hymn may be added at the beginning or the end if the family desires. Personalize according to the circumstances and needs of the family.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Most Merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, graciously accept _____ in their grief. Surround them with Your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in Your goodness and strength to meet the days to come.

All: Amen.

Leader: Lord, we do want to praise You and acknowledge this child with a name as we lift up our prayer to you.

Question

Leader: What name do you give your child?

All: Her/his name shall be _____

Leader: Let her/his name be called _____.
_____ may you share your gifts of eternal life and peace with each one of us as we share our pains and struggles of life with you. May the Lord bless you and us.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 33:20-22 or

Psalm 34:17-18 or

Matthew 11:23-30 or

Matthew 19:13-15



Prayer Response

Leader: Help me, Lord, for I do not seek to understand the why of this mystery of death as much as I desire to accept it in a holy way and to be healed and once again made whole.

All: Support me, my God, and hold me in your gentle love as I attempt to carry this memory.

Reflection

Closing Prayer

All: God, we do not understand why You would give life only to take it again. We do not understand why You would let us anticipate a birth only to be pained by death. We ask You to help us to trust in Your goodness and wisdom at a time when our understanding and wisdom falls short. We ask courage and strength. Amen.

Blessing of the Parents

Leader: May the God of consolation be with you in your sorrow, and give you light and peace. May the God of hope be your encouragement. May you take firm hold of the hope that is held out to you. May the blessings of the God, Creator be with you now and forever.

All: Amen

This Naming and Memorial Service was created by Marcia Boehm, ACSW, and Sister Angele Hinkey, D.C. and published in Bitter Sweet...Hello Good Bye: A Resource in planning Farewell Rituals When a Baby Dies By Share, 1988