**Prayer and blessing after miscarriage or stillbirth**

Since human life begins at conception, the loss of a child during pregnancy can be a real source of grief for parents and other family and friends. This rite is intended to bring God’s comfort to those who have who had a miscarriage or stillbirth.

*If a lit candle was used at the rite for pregnancy, it may be placed on a table with a small vase of flowers, and lit. A second unlit candle, with matches or lighter, may be placed there as well. The candles should be used in this rite only if the parents wish to use them.*

*The mother (and father) may choose the Scripture reading and/or a hymn, with the help of the pastoral carer, and they or a friend or family member may read the passage of Scripture.*

**GREETING**

\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_, God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

**Amen.**

**INTRODUCTION**

We are here to share the sorrow of *\_\_\_\_\_\_* and *\_\_\_\_\_\_* in the loss of *\_\_\_\_\_\_*/their child, and to commit them to God’s keeping.

**WORD OF GOD**

Hear the word of the Lord as it is written in Isaiah chapter 49.

Before I was born, the Lord chose me and appointed me to be his servant. [The Lord says:] Can a woman forget her own baby and not love the child she bore? Even if a mother should forget her child, I will never forget you. I have written your name on the palms of my hands*.*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CANDLE**

The earthly life that the Lord gave to *\_\_\_\_\_\_ /*this child is now over.

*The parents or another person extinguish(es) the first candle.*

*The second candle is lit.*

Jesus says: My sheep listen to my voice. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no-one can snatch them out of my hand.

**HYMN/SONG**

*A hymn or hymn verse or song may be sung or said.*

**PRAYER**

Let us pray.

*A prayer is said by the mother and/or father, or by the leader. The mother and father may kneel. The following prayer may be adapted.*

Father in heaven, in your loving kindness draw near to *\_\_\_\_\_\_* and *\_\_\_\_\_\_* in their sad loss. You know with what joy they looked forward to the birth of their child, and with what deep sorrow they now face his/her death.

Take them into your tender care, and support them in their grieving. Reassure them that, as *\_\_\_\_\_\_* /their little one was committed to your care, you have gathered him/her into your everlasting arms. Good shepherd, lead N and N by the hand, give them courage and strength to face the future, and provide for their needs.

Amen.

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours**

**now and forever. Amen.**

**ENTRUSTMENT TO GOD**

Lord God, heavenly Father, we entrust *\_\_\_\_\_\_* to you and place him/her into your everlasting arms. (Take him/her into your loving care. May light eternal shine on him/her.)

Amen.

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you/us and keep you/us. The Lord make his face shine on you/us and be gracious to you/us. The Lord look upon you/us with favour (†), and give you/us peace.

Amen.

*The mother and father leave. If candles have been used, they take the second candle and the flowers with them. They may use this candle to commemorate anniversaries of their child’s death.*

*This rite has been adapted from that in ‘Rites and Resources for Pastoral Care’ prepared by the Commission of Worship of the Lutheran Church of Australia, and distributed by Australian Church Resources.*