**A Short Prayer Service**

This can be prayed alone or with others who share your loss.

**Preparation:** Place a candle (unlit), a crucifix, photo of the person who has died on a prayer table in the school oratory or another appropriate place. Before the funeral, ask everyone who wishes to write a brief memory or prayer for the person who died.

**Opening Hymn:**

**Opening Prayer:**

God, we come for comfort in our grief.

The absence of [name] creates within our lives an emptiness that hurts.

The darkness of grief clouds our vision and hides your light.

Come to us. Hold us, heal us and strengthen our weak spirits with sure faith in the Resurrection.

**Scripture:**

Matthew 11:28-30

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Light the candle and those present to remember the person who has died in silence for a few minutes.

**Closing Prayer:**

May the choirs of angels come to greet you. May they speed you to paradise. May the Lord enfold you in his mercy. May you find eternal life. Amen.