

ALL STANDING AS ABLE, WITH EMPTY HANDS CUPPED.

LEADER: We willingly carry this ache.

PEOPLE: We carry it, O Father, to you.

PARTICIPANTS NOW SIT OR KNEEL IN A CIRCLE.

You created our hearts for unbroken fellowship.
Yet the constraints of time and place, and the
stuttering rhythms of life in a fallen world
dictate that all fellowships in these days
will at times be broken or incomplete.

**And so we find ourselves in this season,
bearing the sorrow of our separation from**

_____.

SPEAK THE NAME OF THE ABSENT PERSON HERE.

We acknowledge, O Lord, that it is
a right and a good thing to miss deeply
those whom we love but with whom
we cannot be physically present.

**Grant us, therefore, courage to love well
even in this time of absence.**

Grant us courage to shrink neither from
the aches nor from the joys that love brings,
for each, willingly received, will accomplish
the good works you have appointed them to do.

**Therefore we praise you even for our sadness,
knowing that the sorrows we steward in this life
will in time be redeemed.**

We praise you also knowing that these glad aches
are a true measure of the bonds
you have wrought between our hearts.

**Now use our sorrows as tools in your hand,
O Lord, shaping our hearts into a truer
imitation of the affections of Christ.**

A LITURGY FOR

Missing Someone

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FOR THOUGH I AM
ABSENT IN BODY, YET I
AM WITH YOU IN SPIRIT,
REJOICING TO SEE YOUR
GOOD ORDER AND
THE FIRMNESS OF YOUR
FAITH IN CHRIST.
COLOSSIANS 2:5

Use even this sadness to carve out spaces
in our souls where still greater repositories of holy affection might be held,
unto the end that we might better love, in times of absence and in times of
presence alike.

We now entrust all to your keeping.

May our reunion be joyous, whether in this life
or in the life to come.

**How we look forward, O Lord, to the day
when all our fellowships will be restored,
eternal and unbroken.**

Amen.

SO ALSO YOU HAVE
SORROW NOW, BUT I
WILL SEE YOU AGAIN,
AND YOUR HEARTS WILL
REJOICE, AND NO ONE
WILL TAKE YOUR JOY
FROM YOU.
JOHN 16:22