

**LEADER:** O Christ Acquainted  
with All Our Griefs,

**PEOPLE:** **prepare our hearts to enter now  
this space of grieving.**

O God of All Comfort,  
**Lead us humbly into this place of heartbreak.**

O Spirit Who Moves  
in the Midst of Our Sorrows,  
**Fill us with a right compassion.**

Fill us with a right compassion that  
we would not cross this threshold  
armed with easy answers,  
but would enter instead  
bearing the balm of a divine tenderness  
best expressed in honest affirmations  
and small acts of service.

**Teach us even in this hour, O Lord,  
how better to mourn  
with those who mourn,  
that their burden  
might in some way  
be made more bearable  
by our sharing in it.**

O Lord, in this place of holy sorrows make us  
quick to listen, and slow to speak,  
reminding us how the only true comfort  
Job received from his friends  
came not from their many words  
but from a willingness to sit with him  
in a silent sympathy of weeping.

**So let any spoken comforts we offer  
be the fruits of a real and costly fellowship  
with those who grieve.**

A LITURGY BEFORE

# Mourning with Those Who Mourn

FROM THE BOOK  
*EVERY MOMENT HOLY,  
VOL 2: DEATH, GRIEF,  
& HOPE*  
COPYRIGHT © 2020  
DOUGLAS MCKELVEY

The sharing of such sorrows is indeed  
a good and holy work, O Lord.

For you also, Jesus, willingly entered  
the wounds of this world and wept  
with your creatures in their brokenness.

**And you have promised us  
that wherever your children gather  
in your name, you will be present as well.**

So be present with us now  
in this wounded space,  
O Spirit of God.

Let our presence be sensed as a token  
of your presence.

Let our concern bear unspoken witness  
to the redemption your love  
will one day work, even unto  
the utter and unimaginably glorious  
reversal of this loss.

**Now speak, act, and comfort, O Christ.  
Shepherd us into the sharing  
of this sorrow.**

May our hearts be as your heart here,  
**our voices as your voice,**  
our hands as your hands,  
**our tears as your tears.**

**Amen.**