

2.

IN NATURE'S EBB AND FLOW, God's eternal law abides.
 When tears dim our vision or grief clouds our understanding,
 we often lose sight of God's eternal plan.
 Yet we know that growth and decay, life and death,
 all reveal a divine purpose.
 God who is our support in the struggles of life, is also our hope in death.
 We have set God before us and shall not despair.
 In God's hands are the souls of all the living and the spirits of all flesh.
 Under God's protection we abide, and by God's love are we comforted.
 O Life of our life, Soul of our soul, cause Your light to shine into our hearts,
 and fill our spirits with abiding trust in You.

3.

THE LIGHT OF LIFE is a finite flame.
 Like the Shabbat candles,
 life is kindled, it burns, it glows,
 it is radiant with warmth and beauty.
 But soon it fades, its substance is consumed,
 and it is no more.

In light we see;
 in light we are seen.
 The flames dance
 and our life burns down and gutters.
 There is an end to the flames.
 We see no more
 and are no more seen,
 yet we do not despair,
 for we are more than a memory
 slowly fading into the darkness.
 With our lives we give life.
 Something of us can never die:
 we move in the eternal cycle
 of darkness and death,
 of light and life.

קדיש יתום

KADDISH YATOM — MOURNER'S KADDISH

MEDITATIONS BEFORE KADDISH

1.

WHEN I DIE give what's left of me away
 to children and old men that wait to die.
 And if you need to cry,
 cry for your brother walking the street beside you.
 And when you need me, put your arms around anyone
 and give them what you need to give me.

I want to leave you something,
 something better than words or sounds.
 Look for me in the people I've known or loved,
 and if you cannot give me away,
 at least let me live in your eyes and not in your mind.

You can love me best by letting hands touch hands,
 and by letting go of children that need to be free.
 Love doesn't die, people do.
 So, when all that's left of me is love,
 give me away.

קדיש יתום *Kaddish Yatom* . . . Mourner's Kaddish . . . The *Kaddish* is a hymn of praise to God and a prayer for the speedy establishment of God's sovereignty on earth, recited at the conclusion of rabbinic study and exposition of Scripture. In its essence it is not a mourner's prayer, and various forms of the *Kaddish* are used to mark the conclusion of each part of the service. The custom of reciting *Kaddish* for a year (or eleven months) after the death of a parent and on the anniversary of that death (*Yahrzeit*) originated in the Rhineland during the Crusades (eleventh century).