

A bud the Gardener gave us
a pure and lovely child.
He gave him to our keeping
to cherish undefiled.
But just as it was opening,
to the glory of the day down came
the Heavenly
Gardener
and took our bud away.
May God now take
this precious bud
and add him
to His garden.
Let rainbow colors
be sign he blooms safely
in His heaven.



Your gentle face and patient smile
with sadness we recall.
You had a kindly word for each
and died much loved by all.
Your voice is mute
and stilled your heart
that loved us
well and true.
How bitter is the task to part
from one so good as you.
You are, o loved one,
not forgotten
nor will you ever be.
As long as life and memory last
we will remember thee.

I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one.

I'd like to leave
an afterglow of smiles
when day is done.

I'd like to leave an echo
that whispers softly down
your way of happy times
and laughing times
and bright and sunny days.

I'd like the tears
of those who grieve,
to dry before the sun.

Remember happy memories of me
when sun is set and day is done.

Most merciful Father,
we commend our loved one
into Your hands.

We are filled with the sure hope
that our loved one will rise again
on the Last Day with all
who have died in Christ.

We thank You for all the good things
You have given during
our loved one's earthly Life.
O Father, accept our prayer
that the Gates of Paradise
may be opened to your servant,
our departed.

May we be comforted
by words of faith until we, too,
greet Christ in glory and are reunited
with You and our departed.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Safely Home

I am home in Heaven, dear ones;
Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
in this everlasting light.
All the pain and grief is over,
every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
safely home in Heaven at last.
Did you wonder I so calmly
trod the valley of the shade?
Oh! but Jesus' love illuminated
every dark and fearful glade.
And He came, Himself to meet me
in that way so hard to tread;
and with Jesus' arm to lean on,
could I have one doubt or dread?
Then you must not grieve so sorely,
for I love you dearly still:
try to look beyond earth's shadows,
pray to trust our Father's Will.
There is work still waiting for you,
so you must not idly stand;
do it now, while life remaineth -
you shall rest in Jesus' land.
When that work is all completed,
He will gently call you Home;
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,
Oh, the joy to see you come!

As I must leave you for a little while,

please do not grieve

and shed harsh tears

and hug your sorrow to you

through the years.

But start out bravely with a gallant smile;

and for my sake and in my name

live on and do all things the same.

Feed not your loneliness

on empty days,

but fill each waking hour in useful ways.

Reach out your hand

in comfort and in cheer

and I in turn will comfort you

and always hold you near;

and never, never be afraid to die

for I am waiting for you

in the sky!

Death is nothing at all
- I have only slipped into the next room.
Whatever we were to each other,
 that we are still.
Call me by my old familiar name,
 speak to me in the easy way
 which you always used.
Laugh as we always laughed
at the little jokes we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.
Let my name be the household word
 it always was.
Let it be spoken without effort.
Life means all that it ever meant.
 It is the same as it ever was;
there is absolutely unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of your mind
 because I am out of your sight?
I am but waiting for you, for an interval,
somewhere very near, just around the corner.
All is well. Nothing is past; nothing is lost.
One brief moment and all will be as before
- only better, infinitely happier, and forever
 we will all be one together with Christ.

We give him back to you, O Lord,
 who gave him to us.
 Yet as You did not lose him
in giving him to us, so we do not lose
 him by his return to You.
Not as the world gives, do You give.
What You give, You do not take away,
 but in an earthly way.
 In You, life is eternal
and death is only an horizon
 - and an horizon is nothing
 but the limit of our sight.
Lift us up that we may see further.
 Cleanse our eyes
 that we may see more clearly.
 Draw us closer to Yourself
 that we may feel ourselves nearer
to our loved one who is now with You.
And while You prepare a place for us,
 prepare our hearts for the perfect
and happy place that we also hope
 to share with You forevermore.

God saw you were getting tired,
and a cure was not to be.
So He put His arms around you
and whispered,
"Come to Me."
With tearful eyes we watched you,
and saw you pass away.
Although we loved you dearly,
we could not make you stay.
Your loving heart stopped beating,
hard working hands at rest.
Our broken hearts and sorrow tell
God's taken of His best.

You gave her to us, Lord,
to be the joy in our eyes,
the sunshine in our life.
Mysteriously,
you take her back today
and we bow without understanding.
May your holy will be done.
Come to her, Lord's Angels,
receive her soul a
nd lead her before the Almighty.
Loved ones,
pray God for me.

Farewell, dear relatives and friends,
I am resigned to the will of God
and face death
with the calm and courage
given by faith.

We loved him in life,
let us not forget him in our prayers.

Receive, O Lord,
the soul of our dear departed
into Your arms.

I beg of St. Joseph to bless my family
and take them under his protection.

Merciful Jesus, have pity
on us.

A prayer, a communion
will be dear to me.

Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make me an instrument
of Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon,

Where there is doubt, faith,

Where there is despair, hope,

Where there is darkness, light,

and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled, as to console;

to be understood, as to understand;

to be loved, as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive

-it is in pardoning that we are

pardoned;

and it is in dying

that we are born to eternal life.

Prayer of Saint Theresa

O Lord,
who hast said:
"Unless you become as little children,
you shall not enter
into the kingdom of heaven";
grant us, we beseech Thee,
so to walk
in the footsteps
of thy blessed Virgin Theresa
with a humble and single heart,
that we may attain
to everlasting rewards:
who livest and reignest world
without end.

Amen.

I die but my friendship stays with you,

I shall love you in Heaven

as I loved you on earth.

O God, the Creator and Redeemer
of all the faithful, grant to the soul
of Thy servant departed, eternal rest,
and let perpetual light
shine upon her.

We beg you, O Lord,
not to separate in Heaven,
those you had so tightly united
in this world.

"O Thou from whom I parted so soon,
do not weep over my grave.

When you feel too sad,
think of Heaven so beautiful."

May the soul of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want. He maketh me to lie
down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
He leadeth me in the paths
of righteousness for His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through
the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me;
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the
days of my life: and I will dwell
in the house of the Lord forever.

O Lord, in Thy infinite mercy,
we humbly beseech Thee
to receive the soul of thy servant,
whom Thou has commanded
to pass from this world.
Blessed Virgin Mary,
intercede for her
to Your Son, Our Lord,
that she may not know the darkness
but be brought to everlasting light.
May her soul
and all the souls
of the faithful departed
through the mercy of God
rest in peace,
Amen.

Farewell, dear wife,
children, relatives, whom I have loved.
Alas! my departure was too soon.
God wanted it this way,
so be patient and courageous,
and we shall meet in Heaven.
He has left us what was most valuable,
his life example,
his advice and the hope to meet
in the kingdom of God.
You who loved me dearly,
stay united.
A prayer, a communion
will be dear to me.
O Lord, bless my family
and forever be their protector.
Sweet Heart of Jesus, make me love
Thee more and more.
Merciful Jesus, give him eternal rest.

My children, I must leave you,
my pilgrimage is over.
I have resigned myself
to the will of God.
Since you loved me,
you will remain united together.
You will pray
and go to communion for me.
I bless you and ask God
to protect you and to lead you
toward the heavenly home
where I hope to go.
God and kind Mother,
have pity on those
I leave on earth.
Protect them and save them.

God's Garden

God looked around His garden
and found an empty place.
He then looked down upon the earth
and saw your tired face.
He put His arms around you
and lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.
He knew that you were suffering
He knew you were in pain
He knew that you would never
get well on earth again.
He saw the road was getting rough,
and the hills were hard to climb.
So He closed your weary eyelids
and whispered "Peace be thine".
It broke our hearts to lose you
but you didn't go alone
for part of us went with you
the day God called you home.

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done.

On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom
and the power and the glory forever.
Amen

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive
those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Death is nothing at all
- I have only slipped into the next room.
Whatever we were to each other,
 that we are still.
Call me by my old familiar name,
 speak to me in the easy way
 which you always used.
Laugh as we always laughed
at the little jokes we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.
Let my name be the household word
 it always was.
Let it be spoken without effort.
Life means all that it ever meant.
 It is the same as it ever was;
there is absolutely unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of your mind because
 I am out of your sight?
I am but waiting for you, for an interval,
 somewhere very near,
 just around the corner.
All is well. Nothing is past;
 nothing is lost.
 One brief moment
and all will be as before - only better,
infinitely happier, and forever we will
 all be one together with Christ.

I needed the quiet,
so He drew me aside into the shadows
 where we could confide,
away from the bustle where all the day
 long I hurried and worried
 when active and strong.
I needed the quiet, tho at first I rebelled
 but gently, so gently, my cross
He upheld and whispered so sweetly
 of spiritual things.
Tho weakened in body, my spirit took
wings to heights never dreamed of when
 active and gay.
He loved me so greatly,
He drew me away. I needed the quiet.
 No prison my bed.
 But a beautiful valley
 of blessings instead.
A place to grow richer and in Jesus abide.
I needed the quiet so He drew me aside.

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free.
I'm following the path God laid for me,
I took His hand when I heard him call,
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day
to laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I found that place at the end of the day.
If my parting has left a void,
then fill it with remembered joy,
a friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah, yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I've savored much,
good friend, good times,
a loved ones touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief;
don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now,
He set me free.

Author Unknown

The Day God Took You Home

In tears we saw you sinking,
and watched you pass away.
Our hearts were almost broken,
we wanted you to stay.
But when we saw you sleeping,
so peaceful, free from pain,
how could we wish you back
with us, to suffer that again.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
but you did not go alone,
for part of us went with you,
the day God took you home.

When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me
I want no rites in a gloom filled room
Why cry for a soul set free

Miss me a little - but not too long
And not with your head bowed low
Remember the love that we once shared
Miss me - but let me go

For this is a journey that we must all take
And each must go alone
It's all a part of the Master's plan
A step on the road to home

When you are lonely, and miss me so,
Go to the friends we know
And bury your sorrows
in doing good deeds
Miss me - but let me go

Whispers from Heaven
When I left this world without you
I know it made you blue.
Your tears fell so freely, I watched;
I know this is true.

While you were weeping,
days after I passed away
- while all was silent within me,

I saw you kneel to pray.
From this wonderful place called
heaven where all my pain is gone,
I send a gently breeze to whisper,
«My loved ones, please go on.»
The peace that I have found here
goes far beyond compare...
No rain, no clouds, no suffering
— just LOVE from everywhere.
You need not be troubled,
just stay close to GOD in prayer.

Someday we'll be reunited.
My love, HIS love surrounds
you always,
EVERWHERE!

To Those I Love and Those Who Love Me

When I am gone, release me — let me go.
I have so many things to see and do.
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears.
Be happy that we had
so many beautiful years.
I gave to you my love.
You can only guess how much
you gave to me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you have shown
but now it's time I traveled on alone.
So grieve awhile for me, if grieve you must,
then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for awhile that we must part,
so bless the memories within your heart.
I won't be far away, for life goes on.
So if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me,
I'll be near.
And if you listen with your heart,
you'll hear all my love around you
soft and clear.
And then, when you must come
this way alone —
I'll greet you with a smile and say,
«WELCOME HOME».

As a tiny pink bud,
God sent us _____;
"planting" her in a loving milieu.
He nourished and graced each step
of her way, protected by love
of family and friends.
Petal by petal, with grace she unfurled;
revealing her gifts and talents outstanding.
Hold _____ before you, look closely
and see, upon each of her petals,
her success you can read.
We can't understand why God
chose to pluck His masterpiece yet
unfinished - a future untouched.
So, when all seems bleak,
when all seems hopeless, and a rainbow
in the sky does appear; know for sure
it comes forth as an arc in the sky,
to dispel the clouds of your grief.
Let the rainbow colors be assurance
for you, that she alights on your shoulder
and whispers so softly:
"Quiet your hearts, my earthly loved ones.
Thank you for the journey we shared.
I dance now amongst the stars up in
Heaven, where the heather's sweet scent
fills the air!"