

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,  
EVERYWHERE!



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!"