

VI: WHEN THE SOUL IS DEPARTING

The Apostles Creed - *Say repeatedly outloud for the dying person*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary, He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Three Blessings for the Dying - *Make the Sign of the Cross +*

First Blessing:

May God the + Father, Who has created all things and given thee thy body and soul, bless thee.

May God the +Son, thy Lord and Saviour, Who died on the cross for thee and Who has redeemed thee with His precious blood and bitter death, bless thee.

May God the +Holy Ghost, Who through His grace has sanctified thee in holy Baptism, bless thee, and preserve thee in His grace to the end of thy life.

The peace of + Our Lord Jesus be with thee. May His five sacred wounds with the blood that flowed therefrom be to thee an invincible wall against all temptations now and at the last moment of thy life. In the name of the + Father, and of the + Son, and of the + Holy Ghost. Amen.

Second Blessing:

Go forth Christian soul, in the name of the + Father, Who created thee after His own image and likeness; in the name of the + Son, Who redeemed thee with His precious blood; in the name of the + Holy Ghost Who sanctified thee.

Behold, the divine Saviour comes; go forth to meet Him. Go now Christian soul, in the name of the + Most Holy Trinity; the + Father, Whose omnipotence will protect thee, the + Son, Whose mercy will accompany thee; the + Holy Ghost, Whose sanctifying grace will not forsake thee.

May the cross of + Christ be thy shield against all the assaults of the wicked enemy. Go forth, in the name of Jesus, before Whom every knee must bow in heaven, on earth; in the name of Jesus, before Whom hell is trembling; in the name of Jesus, in Whom all find their salvation. May the wounds of Jesus be thy strength in the passage to eternity; the cross of Christ thy staff; the merits of Christ thy riches; the body of the Lord thy Viaticum; thy holy angel guardian the companion of thy journey, and Mary thy helper and mediator.

May the power of the + Father strengthen thee; the wisdom of the + Son govern thee; the comfort of the + Holy Ghost refresh thee. Depart then, Christian soul, in the name of the + Most Holy Trinity, the + Father, the + Son, and the + Most Holy Ghost. The blessing of the + Most Holy Trinity be with thee and remain with thee forever. Amen

Third Blessing:

Go forth in peace, Christian soul. May the blessing + of Our Lord Jesus Christ replenish + the power of His bitter suffering and death strengthen thee; the victorious sign of the holy cross shield thee; + the

protection of thee; the Immaculate Virgin cover thee; + the choir of the angels screen thee; St. Michael, the archangel, fight for thee.

The intercession of all the elect and saints assist thee. May the protection and blessing of God the Father, + Who created thee out of nothing, accompany thee; the power of Jesus Christ + Who shed all His blood for thee, preserve thee; may the Holy Ghost, Who made thee His sanctuary, replenish and + bless thee.

Go forth, Christian soul, to thy God and Father, Who, through love of thee, vouchsafed to send His Son down upon the earth. May Jesus be with thee and favor thee with His merits. May the Holy Ghost be with thee and enrich thee with His love. May God have mercy on thee and bless + thee. May the God of Israel send thee help from His holy dwelling- place.

May the Lord be gracious unto thee, pardon thee thy sins and heal thy wounds. Let Him bless thy going out of this world 4* and thy entrance into eternity + May the almighty, merciful God, the Father + and the Son + and the Holy Ghost + vouchsafe to grant thee this grace. Amen.

Recommendation of a Departing Soul

Go forth, O Christian soul, from this world, in the name of God the Father almighty, Who created thee; in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, Who suffered for thee; in the name of the Holy Ghost, Who was poured out upon thee; in the name of the angels and archangels; in the name of the thrones and dominations; in the name of the principalities and powers; in the name of the cherubim and seraphim; in the name of the patriarchs and prophets;

in the name of the holy apostles and evangelists; in the name of the holy martyrs and confessors; in the name of the holy monks and hermits; in the name of the holy virgins and of all the saints of God: may thy place be this day in peace, and thine abode in holy Sion. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

O God most merciful, O God most loving kind, O God Who, according to the multitude of Thy mercies, blot out the sins of the penitent, and graciously remit the guilt of their past offences; look favorably upon this Thy servant, [sick person] and in Thy mercy hear him begging, with the whole confession of his heart, for the remission of all his sins. Renew in him, O most loving Father, whatsoever hath been corrupted through human frailty, or violated through the deceit of the devil; and associate him, as a member of redemption, to the unity of the body of the Church. Have pity Lord, on his sighs; have pity on his tears; and admit him, whose only hope is in Thy mercy, to the sacrament of Thy reconciliation. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

I commend thee to almighty God, dearest brother, and commit thee to Him Whose creature thou art: that, when thou shalt have paid the debt of humanity by death, thou mayest return to thy Maker, Who formed thee of the dust of the earth. As thy soul go forth from the body, may the bright company of angels meet thee; may the judicial senate of apostles greet thee; may the triumphant army of white-robed martyrs come out to welcome thee; may the band of glowing confessors crowned with lilies, encircle thee; may the choir of virgins, singing jubilees, receive thee; and the embrace of a blessed repose fold thee in the bosom of the patriarchs: mild and festive may the aspect of Jesus Christ appear to thee, and may He award thee a place among them that stand before Him forever.

Mayest thou never know whatever is terrifying in darkness, dismal in the roaring of flames, or excruciating in torments. May foulest Satan, with his crew, give way before thee; may he tremble at thy coming among angels that attend thee, and flee away into the vast chaos of eternal night. Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered; let them also that hate Him flee before His face. Like as the smoke

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vanish, so let them fall away; and like as wax melt before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God; but let the just revel and exult before Him.

May, then, all the legions of hell be confounded and put to shame, and the ministers of Satan never dare to stop thy way. May Christ, Who was crucified for thee, deliver thee from torments. May Christ, Who vouchsafed to die for thee, deliver thee from everlasting death.

May Christ, the Son of the living God, place thee within the ever-verdant gardens of His paradise, and may He, the true Shepherd, acknowledge thee among His sheep. May He absolve thee from all thy sins and place thee at His right hand in the lot of His elect. May thou behold thy Redeemer face to face; and, standing always in His presence, gaze with blessed eyes on the open vision of truth. And set thus among the troops of the blessed, may thou enjoy the sweetness of divine contemplation forever. Amen.

Receive, O Lord, Thy servant into the place of salvation which he hath no hope but in thy mercy. Amen. Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant from all the dangers of hell, from the snares of torment and all tribulations. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou did deliver Enoch and Elias from the common death of the world. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou did deliver Noah from the flood. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou did deliver Abraham from Ur of the Chaldeans. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou did deliver Job from all his sufferings. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou did deliver Isaac from being sacrificed by the hand of his father Abraham. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou did deliver Lot from Sodom and the flame of fire. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou did deliver Moses from the hands of Pharaoh, King of the Egyptians. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou did deliver Daniel from the den of lions. Amen

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou did deliver the three children from the burning fiery furnace, and from the hands of the wicked king. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou did deliver Susanna from false accusation. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou did deliver David from the hand of King Saul and from the hand of Goliath. Amen.

Deliver, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, as Thou did deliver Peter and Paul out of prison. Amen.

And like as Thou did deliver Thy most blessed virgin and martyr, Thecla, from three most cruel torments, so vouchsafe to deliver the soul of this Thy servant and make it to rejoice with Thee in the delights of heaven. Amen.

We commend to Thee, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant, [sick person] and we beseech Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world, that Thou wouldst not refuse to receive into the bosom of Thy patriarchs, a soul for whose sake Thou did mercifully come down upon earth.

Acknowledge, O Lord, Thy creature, not made by strange gods but by Thee, the only living and true God: for there is no other God beside Thee, and none that doeth according to Thy works. Rejoice his soul, O Lord, with Thy presence, and remember not the iniquities and excesses which, through the violence of anger, or the heat of evil passion, he hath at any time committed. For although he hath sinned, he hath not denied the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, but hath believed, and hath had a zeal for God, and hath faithfully adored the Creator of all things.

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Remember not, O Lord, we beseech Thee, the sins of his youth, and his ignorance but, according to Thy great mercy, be mindful of him in the brightness of Thy glory. Let the heavens be opened to him, let the angels rejoice with him. Receive Thy servant, O Lord, into Thy kingdom.

Let St. Michael, the archangel of God, prince of the armies of heaven, receive him.
Let the holy angels of God come forth to meet him, and conduct him to the city of the heavenly Jerusalem.

Let the blessed Peter, the Apostle, to whom God gave the keys of the kingdom of heaven, receive him.

Let St. Paul, the Apostle, who was counted worthy to be a vessel of election, assist him.

Let St. John, chosen apostle of God, to whom were revealed the secrets of heaven, intercede for him.

Let all the holy apostles, to whom the Lord gave the power of binding and loosing, pray for him.

Let all the saints and elect of God, who in this world have suffered torments for the name of Christ, intercede for him, that, loosed from the bonds of the flesh, he may attain unto the glory of the heavenly kingdom, through the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth forever and ever. Amen

