

## The Departing Soul

Dear brother (sister), I commend you to almighty God, and I entrust you to Him who created you, so that, when by your dying you have paid the debt to which every man is subject, you may return to your Maker, to Him who formed you from the clay of earth. Then, when your soul goes forth from your body, may the radiant company of angels come to meet you. May the assembly of the apostles, our judges, welcome you. May the victorious army of white-robed martyrs meet you on your way. May the glittering throng of confessors, bright as lilies, gather about you. May the glorious choir of virgins receive you. May the patriarchs enfold you in the embrace of blessed peace. May St. Joseph, beloved patron of the dying, raise you high in hope, and may the Holy Mother of God, the Virgin Mary, lovingly turn her eyes toward you. And then, gentle and joyful, may Christ Jesus appear before you, to assign you a place forever among those who stand in His presence.

May Christ, who was crucified for your sake, free you from excruciating pain. May Christ, who died for you, free you from the death that never ends. May Christ, the Son of the living God, set you in the evergreen loveliness of his paradise, and may He, the true Shepherd, recognize you as one of his own. May He free you from all your sins and assign you a place at his right hand in the company of his elect. May you see your

Redeemer face to face and standing in his presence forever, may you see with joyful eyes Truth revealed in all its fullness.

And so, having taken your place in the ranks of the Blessed, may you enjoy the happiness of divine contemplation forever and ever. **Amen**

## Prayer

O Lord, receive your servant (name) into the place of salvation which he (she) is hoping to receive from your mercy. **Amen**

Deliver your servant, O Lord, from all the dangers of hell, from constraining punishments and from all distress. **Amen**

Deliver the soul of your servant, O Lord, as you delivered Enoch and Elias from the death that all in this world must die. **Amen**

