MEMORIAL POEMS

If tears could build a stairway,
and memories a lane.
I would walk right up to Heaven
and bring you back again.
No farewell words were spoken,
No time to say "Goodbye".
You were gone before I knew it,
and only God knows why.
My heart still aches with sadness,
and secret tears still flow.
What it meant to love you -
No one can ever know.
But now I know you want me
to mourn for you no more;
To remember all the happy times
life still has much in store.
Since you'll never be forgotten,
I pledge to you today,
A hollowed place within my heart
is where you'll always stay.

Away (He)

I cannot say and I will not say
That he is dead, he is just away.
With a cheery smile and a wave of hand
He has wandered into an unknown land;
And left us dreaming how very fair
Its needs must be, since he lingers there.
And you-oh you, who the wildest yearn
From the old-time step and the glad return-
Think of him faring on, as dear
In the love of there, as the love of here
Think of him still the same way, I say;
He is not dead, he is just away.

Beyond Life's Gateway

There's an open gate at the end of the road,
through which each must go alone.
And there in a light we cannot see,
Our Father claims His own.
Beyond the gate, your loved one
finds happiness and rest.
And there is comfort in the thought,
That a loving God knows best.

Those We Love

Those we love don't go away;
they walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard but always near.
Sill loved, still missed, and very dear.
Wishing us hope in the midst of sorrow,
offering comfort in the midst of pain,
both today and tomorrow.

The Day God Called You Home

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.

Dad's Love Remains

Those we love remain with us
For love itself lives on,
And cherished memories never fade
Because a loved one's gone.
Those we love can never be
More than a thought apart,
Far as long as there is memory,
They'll live on in the heart.

We'll always remember
That special smile,
That caring heart,
That warm embrace,
You always gave us.
You being there
For Mom and us
Through good and bad times,
No matter what.
We'll always remember
You Dad because
They'll never be another one
To replace you in our hearts,
And the love we will always
Have for you

~Unknown

I Thought of You

I thought of you with love today,
but that is nothing new.
I thought about you yesterday,
and days before that too.
I think of you in silence,
I often speak your name.
All I have are memories
and your picture in a frame.
Your memory is my keepsake
with which I'll never part.
God has you in His keeping,
I have you in my heart.

Away (She)

I cannot say and I will not say
That she is dead, she is just away.
With a cheery smile and a wave of hand
She has wandered into an unknown land;
And left us dreaming how very fair
Its needs must be, since she lingers there.
And you-oh you, who the wildest yearn
From the old-time step and the glad return-
Think of her faring on, as dear
In the love of there, as the love of here
Think of her still the same way, I say;
She is not dead, she is just away.

~James Whitcomb Riley

The Fisherman

Surely Jesus loves fishermen
for He chose them for His own,
To be with Him and learn from Him
and someday share His home.
It must have been their trust in God
and patience He found rare,
That keeps them very near His heart
and ever in His care.

Fisherman's Prayer

God grant that I may live to fish
until my dying day,
and when it comes to my last cast
I then must humbly pray.
When in the Lord's safe landing net
I'm peacefully asleep.
That in His mercy, I be judged
good enough to keep.

Worlds Best Papa..

You are as priceless as one can be,
The gift of love and care that you have given me.
A beacon of light in the darkest times, Is what I
still remember every time the wind chimes.

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.

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 must not tie yourself to me with tears;
Be happy that we had so many years.

I gave you my love—you can only guess
How much you gave to me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have shown,
But now it's time I traveled on alone.

So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It is only for a while that we must part,
So bless the memories within your heart.

I will not be far away—for life goes on.
So if you need me, call, and I will come.
Though you cannot see or touch me, I'll be near,
And if you listen with your heart, you will hear
All of my love around you, soft and clear.

And then, when you must come this way alone,
I will greet you with a smile and say,
"Welcome home."

I'm off to follow another trail
And you know how I love to roam.
But I know full well at the end of this trail
I'll find my eternal home.

By Kirby Haskell

Mama never forgets her birds,
Though in another tree—
She looks down just as often
And just as tenderly
As when her little mortal nest
With cunning care she wove—
If either of her "sparrows fall,"
She "notices," above.

- Emily Dickinson

On Eagle's Wings

And He will raise you up
on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His hand.

Life is just a stepping stone
to a much better place.
Where there's no pain or sorrow,
or tears on any face.
And though we miss the dear ones
who step beyond our sight,
we know God walks beside them
as He guides them toward the light.

Ascension

And if I go,
while you're still here...
Know that I live on,
vibrating to a different measure-
behind a thin veil you cannot see
through.
You will not see me,
so you must have faith.
I wait for the time when we can soar
together again,
-both aware of each other.
Until then, live your life to its fullest.
And when you need me,
just whisper my name in your heart,
...I will be there.

God Saw…

God saw that she was getting tired,
And a cure was not to be,
So He put His arms around her,
And whispered...
"Come with Me."

With tearful eyes we watched her suffer,
And saw her fade away.
Although we loved her dearly,
We could not make her stay.

A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands now rest;
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best.

The Broken Chain

We little knew that morning,
God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you.
You did not go alone.
for part of us went with you,
the day God called you home.

You left us beautiful memories.
Your love is still our guide.
And although we cannot see you,
you are always by our side.

Our family chain is broken,
and nothing seems the same,
but as God calls us one by one,
the chain will link again.

Gone But Not Forgotten

A precious one from us has gone,
A voice we loved is stilled,
A place is vacant in our home
Which never can be filled.
God in His wisdom has recalled,
The boon His love had given
And though the body slumbers here,
The soul is safe in Heaven.

The Rose Beyond the Wall

A rose once grew where all could see,
Sheltered beside a garden wall.
And, as the days passed swiftly by,
It spread its branches, straight and tall.

One day, a beam of light shone through
A crevice that had opened wide.
The rose bent gently toward its warmth
Then passed beyond to the other side.

Now, you who deeply feel its loss,
Be comforted - the rose blooms there.
Its beauty even greater now,
Nurtured by God's own loving care.

~A.L. Frank

The Garden of Promise

There is a place, I have been told,
Beyond an open gate
All have been invited
Where friends and loved ones wait

It holds eternal promise
Of everlasting peace
No pain or sorrow ever comes
And teardrops there have ceased

Abundant life is evident
Constant, fresh and new
A garden of provision
With eternity in view

The promise is awaiting
A place we can abide
Fulfilled for all who answer
The call to come inside

An Irish Blessing

May the road
rise to meet you.
May the wind
be always at your back.
May the sun shine
warm upon your face.
May the rains fall
soft upon your fields.
And until
we meet again,
may God hold you
in the palm of His hand

When I Have Gone

When I have gone, remember, I'm with Jesus.
Then do not grieve because I've passed away.
Life holds so many griefs and disappointments,
and, will you weep because I did not stay?
And when my Savior tells me you are coming,
I'll go with him and welcome you to Heaven.
Grieve not because the eyes that looked upon
you Shall never see your face on earth again.
Rejoice because they look upon the Savior,
Who gave His life to ransom sinful men.
Weep not because I walk no longer with you.
Remember, I am walking streets of gold.

The Life That Was Ours

It's four in the morning and I'm alone in my bed.
I woke from a deep sleep with these words in my head.
"I sure miss you, Honey, since you're not here with me,
But I know you're with God and that's where you should be"
I still love you and need you and know there'll be tears,
When I think of the good times we've shared all these years,
I can still hear your laughter, I can still see your smile.
And sometimes comes a memory, so you're here for awhile.
I'll never regret the time God allowed us to share.
You brought light to my darkness and made hope from despair.
I believe that one day we'll be united again,
Because on earth are the ending but in heaven are "begins".
Remember, Honey, I love you and although you're not here,
I will celebrate the life that was ours through the years.
In time I will see you, but until that day comes,
My life's a reflection of the times we were one.
"A soul united in love will never die.
It is an eternal bond of God's love"

Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time;
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
forever in the next.

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.
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!

Spring Days

"... I love my garden,
and I love working in it.
To potter with green, growing things,
watching each day to see the dear,
new sprouts come up,
is like taking a hand in creation, I think.
Just now my garden is like faith--
the substance of things hoped for..."

-Anne's House of Dreams
L.M. Montgomery

I Am With You Always

As you hold me close in memory,
Even though we are apart,
My spirit will live on—
There within your heart…

I am with you always.
When you lean on trusted friends
And their caring hugs enfold you,
Within their loving arms,
I'll be there to hold you…

I am with you always—
And beyond the far horizon,
When we'll finally be together,
Where love will be eternal
And life will last forever…

"Those we hold most dear
never truly leave us...
they live on in the kindness they showed,
the comfort they shared,
and the love they brought into our lives."

~ Isabelle Norton

Face to Face

All who believe in
God's mercy and grace
Will meet their loved ones
face to face
Where time is endless
and joy unbroken
And only the words
of God's love are spoken.

Forever Fragrant Garden

Forever fragrant garden
With beauty all around
Blossoms of the rarest kind
Can easily be found

Gentle breezes dancing
Through leaves that never fade
Clinging to the tree of life
Providing heaven's shade

No winter's chill now comes to me
No need to be disheartened
I'll rest here now, forevermore
In God's eternal garden.

Weep Not In Sorrow

Weep not in tears of sorrow
Because I've gone away,
But weep with tears of gladness
For the peace I have today.

I know your hearts are heavy
With sorrow that you bear,
But God has called me home,
My place is ready there.

My stay on earth is completed,
My final rest won;
I have received the richest blessing;
To dwell with God's own Son.

Should You Go First

Should you go first and I remain,
One thing I'd have you do -
Walk slowly down the path of death,
For soon I'll follow you.
I'll want to know each step you take
That I may walk the same,
For someday down that lonely road
You'll hear me call your name.

~ Jane Ardmore

Footprints

One night I had a dream.
I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.
Across the sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand:
one belonging to me, and the other to the Lord.
When the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.

I noticed that many times along the path of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest,
and saddest times of my life.
This really bothered me
and I questioned the Lord about it:
"Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you,
you'd walk with me all the way.
But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times
in my life there is only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why when I needed you most,
you would leave me."

The Lord replied:
"My precious child, I love you and I would never leave you.
During your times of trial and suffering,
when you see only one set of footprints,
it was then that I carried you."

To Those I love

When I die please don't cry for me
for I am in a better place...
just where I want to be...
no more sorrows...
no more pain...
just sunshine...
no more rain...

Ever Close in Mind and Heart

No further away than a picture
A smile or remembered phrase,
Our loved ones live in memory
So close in so many ways.

For how often does a sunset
Bring nostalgic thoughts to mind
Of moments
That our loved ones shared
In days now left behind!

How often has a flower,
Or a crystal autumn sky
Brought golden recollections
Of happy days gone by!

Memory has a magic way
Of keeping loved ones near
Ever close in mind and heart
Are the ones we hold most dear.

She is a Valiant Woman

She is a VALIANT woman;
her roots are firmly planted.
The kingdom is within;
her heart, treasure-filled.

She is a JOYFUL woman
for whom laughter is no stranger:
a song to sing, a smile to give,
a hand to clasp or embrace.

She is a STRONG woman
whose heart and arms
withstand the pressures and the worries
that each day unfolds.

She is a PATIENT woman
waiting through storm and night
for new life, new growth, rich harvest.

She is a LOVING woman
ever giving and forgiving,
ever caring and concerned.

She is a SHARING woman
who with arms outstretched
gives her gifts and treasures
to those both near and far.

Do Not Stand at My Grave

Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glint on the snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the mornings hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry...
I am not there. I did not die.

Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow
of smiles when life is done.

I'd like to leave an echo
whispering softly down the ways,
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 of happy memories
that I leave when life is done.

The Dash

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of his friend. He referred to the dates on his tombstone from the beginning...to the end. He noted that first came the date of his birth and spoke of the second with tears, but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years. For that dash represents all the time that he spent alive on earth. And now only those who loved him know what that little line is worth. For it matters not, how much we own; the cars, the house, the cash. What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash. So, think about this long and hard, are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left that can still be rearranged. If we could just slow down enough to consider what's true and what's real, and always try to understand the way other people feel. And...be less quick to anger, and show appreciation more and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.If we treat each other with respect, and more often wear a smile, remembering that this special dash might only last a little while. So, when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash...would you be proud of the things they have to say about how you spent your dash?

"She's in the sun, the wind, the rain,
she's in the air you breathe
with every breath you take.
She sings a song of hope and cheer,
there's no more pain, no more fear.
You'll see her in the clouds above,
hear her whisper words of love,
You'll be together before long,
until then listen for her song.

~ Christy Ann Martine

Epitaph of a Friend

The friend of man, the friend of truth,
The friend of age, and guide of youth:
Few hearts like his, with virtue warm'd,
Few heads with knowledge so inform'd;
If there's another world, he lives in bliss;
If there is none, he made the best of this.

~Robert Burns

There is a Place…

There is a place, I have been told,
Beyond an open gate.
All have been invited,
Where friends and loved ones wait.

It holds eternal promise,
Of everlasting peace.
No pain or sorrow ever comes,
And teardrops there have ceased.

Abundant life is evident,
Constant, fresh and new.
A garden of provision,
With eternity in view.

The promise is awaiting,
A place we can abide.
Fulfilled for all who answer,
The call to come inside.

Until We Meet Again

Those special memories of you
will always bring a smile,
if only I could have you back
for just a little while.
Then we could sit and talk again,
just like we used to do,
you always meant so very much,
and always will do too.
The fact that you're no longer here,
will always cause me pain,
but you're forever in my heart,
until we meet again.

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me 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've found my peace at the close of 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 savored much:
Good friends, good times,
a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seems 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.

God's Promise

God hath not promised
Skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways
All our lives through;
God hath not promised
Sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
Peace without pain.

But God hath promised
Strength for the day,
Rest for the labor,
Light for the way.
Grace for the trials,
Help from above,
Unfailing sympathy
Undying love.

I Am With You Always

As you hold me close in memory,
Even though we are apart,
My spirit will live on—
There within your heart…

I am with you always.
When you lean on trusted friends
And their caring hugs enfold you,
Within their loving arms,
I'll be there to hold you…

I am with you always—
And beyond the far horizon,
When we'll finally be together,
Where love will be eternal
And life will last forever…

There is a sacredness in tears.
They are not the mark of weakness,
but of power.
They speak more eloquently than ten
thousand tongues.
They are messengers of
overwhelming grief,
of deep contrition, and of
unspeakable love.

~ Washington Irving

Old Memories

These are those special memories
We cherish through the years,
The most of them are happy ones
A few are touched by tears.
They all become more beautiful
The older now they grow,
And with their age they take their place
As days of long ago.
They are the pictures of a past
For which we sometimes yearn,
But which we know so well is gone
And which cannot return.
They have no market value in
Our commerce of today,
They are not even anything
That we can give away.
And yet those memories can play
A most important part,
As they inspire or console
Or elsewise help the heart.

Life Is Sweet

Life is sweet just because of the friends
we have made and the things
which in common we share;
We want to live on not because of ourselves,
but because of the people who care;
It's giving and doing for somebody else-
on that all life's splendor depends,
And the joy of this world,
when you've summed it all up,
is found in the making of friends.

Edgar A. Guest's poem:
Making Of Friends

That Man is a Success

A man is a success
who has lived well,
laughed often and loved much;
who has gained the respect
of intelligent men
and the love of children;
who has met his goals
and accomplished his tasks;
who leaves the world better
than he found it,
who looked for the best in others
and gave the best he had.

Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night

Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.
Though wise men at their end know dark is right,
Because their words had forked no lightening
they do not go gentle into that good night.
Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.
Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,
Do not go gentle into that good night.
Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.
And you, my father, there on the sad height,
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.
Do not go gentle into that good night.
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

~ Dylan Thomas

Gone Fishin'

I've finished life's chores assigned to me,
So put me on a boat headed out to sea.
Please send along my fishing pole
For I've been invited to the fishin' hole.

Where every day is a day to fish,
To fill your heart with every wish.
Don't worry, or feel sad for me,
I'm fishin' with the Master of the sea.

We will miss each other for awhile,
But you will come and bring your smile.
That won't be long you will see,
Till we're together you and me.

To all of those that think of me,
Be happy as I go out to sea.
If others wonder why I'm missin'
Just tell 'em I've gone fishin'.

~ Delmar Pepper

When I Must Leave You

When I must leave you for a little while
Please do not grieve and shed wild 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 hold you near;
and never, never be afraid to die.
For I am waiting for you in the sky!

Her Journey's Just Begun

Don't think of her as gone away
her journey's just begun,
life holds so many facets-
this earth only one.

Just think of her as resting
from sorrows and the tears,
in a place of warmth and comfort
where there are no days and years.

Think how she must be wishing
that we could know today
how nothing but our sadness
can really pass away.

And think of her as living
in the hearts of those she touched,
for nothing loved is ever lost-
and she was loved so much.

Miss Me - But Let Me Go

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 we all must take
And each must go alone,
It's all a part of the Master's plan
A step on the road home.

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

A Mother's Love Poem

Of all the special joys in life,
The big ones and the small,
A mother's love and tenderness
Is the greatest of them all.

Crossing the Bar

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the
boundless deep turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.

~ Alfred Tennyson

Our Loving Father

"God took the strength of a mountain and
the majesty of a tree.
The warmth of a summer sun,
the calm of a quiet sea.
The generous soul of nature and
the comforting arm of night.
The wisdom of the ages and the power
of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring
and the faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity and
the depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it – 'dad!'"

If Flowers Grow in Heaven

If flowers grow in heaven,
Lord, then pick a bunch for me.
Then place them in my grandmother's
arms and tell her they're from me.

Tell her that I love and miss her
and when she turns to smile,
place a kiss upon her cheek
and hold her for awhile.

Because remembering her is easy,
I do it every day,
but there's an ache within my heart
that will never go away.

Peaceful Retreat

Down a narrow hidden path
Sought out by Wisdom's eye
A peaceful place of refuge calls
To come rest awhile beside

Listen to the waters
Falling over mountains steep
To gently flow for endless days
Through eternity's retreat

And on the far horizon
Of the never setting sun
The harvest of the whitened wheat
Is very nearly done

As work on earth comes to a close
Peace will be complete
Surrounded by the beauty
Of eternity's retreat

If I Should Go Tomorrow

If I should go tomorrow
It would never be goodbye,
For I have left my heart with you,
So don't you ever cry.
The love that's deep within me,
Shall reach you from the stars,
You'll feel it from the heavens,
And it will heal the scars.

If Flowers Grow in Heaven

If flowers grow in heaven,
Lord, then pick a bunch for me.
Then place them in my grandmother's
arms and tell her they're from me.

Tell her that I love and miss her
and when she turns to smile,
place a kiss upon her cheek
and hold her for awhile.

Because remembering her is easy,
I do it every day,
but there's an ache within my heart
that will never go away.

An Angel

An angel lived among us,
A gift from God above.
She showered us with kindness
And shared with us her love.
She cherished every moment
With the man who was her life;
Walking hand in hand together,
Facing life with all its strife.
She loved her children dearly,
Each one a different way,
Nestled close within her heart.
Though, now, she's far away.
She's gone to live with Jesus.
But, she's here with us, today,
Smiling down on every one of us,
And telling us she's O.K.

When I'm Gone

When I come to the end of my journey
And I travel my last weary mile
Just forget if you can, that I ever frowned
And remember only the smile

Forget unkind words I have spoken
Remember some good I have done
Forget that I ever had heartache
And remember I've had loads of fun

Forget that I've stumbled and blundered
And sometimes fell by the way
Remember I have fought some hard battles
And won, ere the close of the day

Then forget to grieve for my going
I would not have you sad for a day
But in summer just gather some flowers
And remember the place where I lay

And come in the shade of evening
When the sun paints the sky in the west
Stand for a few moments beside me
And remember only my best.

She is Gone (He)

You can shed tears that she is gone
Or you can smile because she has lived
You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all that she has left
Your heart can be empty because you can't see her
Or you can be full of the love that you shared
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday
You can remember her and only that she is gone
Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back
Or you can do what she would want: smile, open your eyes,
love and go on.

~ by David Harkins

He is Not Dead

I cannot say, and will not say
that he is dead. He is just away.
With a cheery smile, and a wave of the hand,
he has wandered into an unknown land.
And left us dreaming how very fair
It needs must be, since he lingers there.
Think of him still as the same, I'll say,
He is not dead - he is just away.

~James Whitcomb Riley

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 too many tears,
But be thankful we had so many good years.

I gave you my love, and you can only guess
How much you've given me in happiness.
I thank you for the love that you have shown,
But now it is time I traveled on alone.

So grieve for me a while, if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It is only for a while that we must part,
So treasure the memories within your heart.

I won't be far away for life goes on.
And if you need me, call and I will come.

Though you can't see or touch me, I will be near.
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear,
All my love around you soft and clear.

And then, when you come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and a 'Welcome Home'.

Gone From My Sight

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship, at my side,
spreads her white sails to the moving breeze and starts
for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength.
I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck
of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

Then, someone at my side says, "There, she is gone."

Gone where?

Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast,
hull and spar as she was when she left my side.
And, she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port.
Her diminished size is in me -- not in her.

And, just at the moment when someone says, "There, she is gone,"
there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices
ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!"

And that is dying...

~ Henry Van Dyke

SHORT TRIBUTES

There are some who bring light so great to the world that even after they have gone, their light remains.

Your laughter was a melody,
Your smile a beam of light—
You'll live within our hearts forever bright.

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand

"The man who has lived the longest
is not he who has spent the greatest number of years,
but he who has had the greatest sensibility of life."

~ Jean-Jacques Rousseau

"Think of him as living in the hearts of those he touched, for nothing loved is ever lost - and he was loved so much."

"Think of her as living in the hearts of those she touched, for nothing loved is ever lost- and she was loved so much."

Tiny hands and tiny feet,
A little heart so pure and sweet.
Though you've gone, your love remains,
A light that shines through joys and pains.

Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts.

Your life was a BLESSING…Your MEMORY a treasure. You are LOVED beyond words and MISSED beyond measure.

To Those I love

When I die please don't cry for me
for I am in a better place...
just where I want to be...
no more sorrows...
no more pain...
just sunshine...
no more rain...

This world was never meant for one as beautiful as you.
You were here, a moment, a flash, a star.
Now you're everywhere—in the wind,
the light, the song of our hearts.

~Anonymous

Safe in God's care…
until we meet again.

Little angel, soft and bright,
You filled our days with love and light.
Though you've left our arms too soon,
We feel your warmth beneath the moon.

To live in this world you must be able to do three things:
to love what is mortal; to hold it against your own bones
knowing your own life depends on it: and,
when the time comes to let it go, to let it go.
~ Mary Oliver

You danced through our lives for just a while,
And left behind your perfect smile.

"If tears could build a stairway, and memories a lane. I would walk right up to Heaven, and bring you back again."

A Mother's Love Poem

Of all the special joys in life,
The big ones and the small,
A mother's love and tenderness
Is the greatest of them all.

We were blessed to know your laugh,
To hold your hand, to kiss your cheek.
Though you are beyond our reach,
You live in every breath we take.
Amen.

Tiny angel, soft and sweet,
Your little heart made life complete.
Though you've left, your light will stay,
Forever bright in hearts each day.

"Those we hold most dear
never truly leave us...
they live on in the kindness they showed,
the comfort they shared,
and the love they brought into our lives."

~ Isabelle Norton

Your love lives on, a flame that will
not fade, Forever in our hearts, the
memories you made.

You brought us joy, you brought us light—
You'll always shine so bright.

Always remembered…forever in our hearts.

Those we love remain with us—
for love itself lives on, and
cherished memories never fade.

Gone from our sight…but forever present in
our hearts and memories.

A beautiful life lived…a great love once
shared…a legacy that time cannot erase.

What he/she gave in love, we now give
forward, keeping his/her memory alive for
eternity.

Tiny hands, a precious touch,
A love so big, we miss so much.

A beautiful soul…forever loved.

Those who die never truly leave us…
their memory becomes a lifelong
treasure.

A life well lived, a great love once shared
— forever remembered, deeply cared.

Where love lives…your memory remains.

Loved beyond words…remembered forever.

Rest peacefully good and faithful
servant…until we meet again.

BIBLICAL VERSES

Jesus said to her,
"I am the resurrection
and the life.
He who believes in Me,
though he may die,
he shall he live.
And whoever lives
and believes in Me
shall never die.
Do you believe this?"

~ John 11:25, 26 NKJV

Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of His saints.

~ Psalm 116:15

Let not your heart be troubled: ye
believe in God, believe also in me.
In my Father's house are many
mansions: if it were not so,
I would have told you.
I go to prepare a place for you.
And if I go and prepare a place for
you, I will come again,
and receive you unto myself;
that where I am, there ye may be also.
And whither I go ye know, and the
way ye know.

~ John 14:1-4 KJV

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures:
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul:
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for You are with me;
your rod and your staff
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies:
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

~ Psalm 23 ESV

I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.

~ 2 Timothy 4:7 NIV

Fear not, for I am with you;
Be not dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you,
Yes, I will help you,
I will uphold you with My righteous
right hand.'

~Isaiah 41:10

What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard,
and what no human
mind has conceived,
the things that God has prepared
for those who love him.

~ 1 Corinthians 2:9 NIV

He heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.
He counts the number of the stars;
He calls them all by name.
Great is our Lord,
and mighty in power;
His understanding is infinite.

~ Psalm 147:3-5 NKJV

The LORD is close to the
brokenhearted and saves those who
are crushed in spirit.
~Psalm 34:18

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to
me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom
of heaven belongs to such as these."
Matthew 19:14

So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I
will see you again and you will rejoice, and
no one will take away your joy.

~ John 16:22

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.

~ Psalm 23 KJV

Love is patient and kind;
love does not envy or boast;
it is not arrogant or rude.
It does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;
it does not rejoice at wrongdoing,
but rejoices with the truth.
Love bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.

~ 1 Corinthians. 13:4-7 ESV

I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.
Now there is in store for me the
crown of righteousness, which is
the Lord,
the righteous Judge,
will award to me on that day—
and not only to me, but also to all
who have longed for his
appearing.

~ 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful.
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God .
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God
Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

~ Matthew 5:1-10 NIV

"For God so Loved the world, that he
gave his only begotten son. Whosoever
believed in him shall not perish but have
everlasting life."

John 3:16

Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry
heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my
yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am
humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest
for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and
the burden I give you is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

Let love and faithfulness
never leave you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of
your heart.

~ Proverbs 3: 3 NIV

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Matthew 5:4

For none of us lives for ourselves
alone, and none of us dies for
ourselves alone. If we live, we live
for the Lord; and if we die, we die
for the Lord.
Romans 14:7-9

What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that
our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of
God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last
forever. But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret.
We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It
will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when
the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet
sounds, those who have died will be raised to live
forever. And we who are living will also be
transformed. For our dying bodies must be
transformed into bodies that will never die; our
mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal
bodies. Then, when our dying bodies have been
transformed into bodies that will never die, this
Scripture will be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in
victory. O death, where is your victory? O death,
where is your sting?"

1 Corinthians 15:50-55

To everything there is a season, and
a time to every purpose under Heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to pluck up that
which is planted;
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones, and a time to
gather stones together;
A time to embrace, and a time to refrain
from embracing;
A time to get, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate;
a time of war, and a time of peace.

~ Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 KJV

CATHOLIC PRAYERS

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the
fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.

Amen

St. Michael the Archangel
defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the
wickedness and snares of the devil,
may God rebuke him,
we humbly pray; and do thou,
O Prince of heavenly host,
by the power of God,
cast into hell Satan and all the
evil spirits who prowl
through the world seeking
the ruin of souls.

Amen

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
our life, our sweetness, and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of
Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn, then, O most gracious Advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this our exile show unto us the
blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet virgin Mary.
Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy
of the promises of Christ.

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of thy
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.

Amen

O my God! I ask of Thee for myself
and for those whom I hold dear, the
grace to fulfill perfectly Thy Holy Will,
to accept for love of Thee the joys and
sorrows of this passing life, so that we
may one day be united together in
heaven for all Eternity.

Amen.

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me,
Body of Christ, save me,
Blood of Christ, inebriate me,
Water from the side of Christ, wash me,
Passion of Christ, strengthen me,
O good Jesus, hear me.
Hide me within your wounds,
keep me close to you,
defend me from the evil enemy,
call me at the hour of my death,
and bid me to come to you,
to praise you with your saints,
forever and ever. Amen.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

Prayer to St. Joseph

O dearest St. Joseph, I consecrate
myself to thy honor and give myself to
thee, that thou mayest always be my
father, my protector, and my guide in
the way of salvation. Obtain for me a
great purity of heart and a fervent love
of the interior life.

Resurrection Prayer

Most merciful Father,
we commend our departed into your hands.
We are filled with the sure hope
that our departed 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
departed's earthly life.
O Father, in your great mercy,
accept our prayer that the Gates of
Paradise may be opened for your servant.
In our turn, may we be comforted by the
words of faith until we greet Christ in glory
and are united with you
and our departed.
Through Christ our Lord,

Amen

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are the meek,
for they shall possess the earth.
Blessed are they who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice,
for they shall be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.
Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when men reproach you, and persecute you,
and speaking falsely, say all manner of evil against you, for My sake.

Amen.

Guardian Angel Prayer

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide.

Amen.

"Good day... this is God speaking. I am going to take care of all your problems today... and there is nothing you can do to help me... so just relax and have a good day."
"Lord... help me to remember that nothing is going to happen today that you and I together can't handle."

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen

Holy Spirit Prayer of Saint Augustine

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
That I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,
To defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,
That I always may be holy.

Amen.

Eagle's Wings

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand

Prayer of Surrender

Lord Jesus Christ, take all my freedom, my understanding, and my will. All that I have and cherish you have given to me. I surrender it all to be guided by your will. Your love and your grace are wealth enough for me. Give me these, Lord Jesus, and I ask for nothing more.

Amen.

Memorare

Remember,
O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother!
To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.

Amen

Apostles Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come 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 life everlasting.

Amen.