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J.M.J.

FOUR PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED

—Written by Saint Gertrude
with the approval of our Lord.



When St. Gertrude was about to say these prayers together with the psalter, she asked our Lord whether they were acceptable to Him, and received this answer:

They are so acceptable to Me that whenever a soul is liberated from purgatory, it is to Me as though My own soul were delivered out of captivity, and I will surely reward them in due time, in the omnipotence of My boundless compassion. Wherefore, although you cannot recite the whole psalter, say at least these four most effectual prayers, and after each of them say:

**Hail, Jesus Christ,
Splendour of the Father;
Hail, Prince of Peace,
Gate of Heaven, Living Bread,
Offspring of the Virgin,
Vessel of the Godhead.**

**℣. Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord.**

**℟. And let perpetual light shine
upon them.**

Or, De profundis.

FIRST PRAYER.

I adore, salute, and bless Thee, O sweetest Lord Jesus Christ, and I praise Thee and give Thee thanks with the love of all Thy creatures for the vast love wherewith Thou didst condescend to be made man for us, to be born, to endure hunger and thirst, toils and sorrows, for thirty-three years, and to bestow on us Thyself in the most holy Sacrament; beseeching Thee that Thou wouldst vouchsafe to unite and blend with the merits of Thy most holy conversation and life this my prayer, which I make to Thee for the soul of **N.** departed [or, for the souls of all the faithful departed]; and to supply from the great abundance of those merits, and perfectly to complete whatsoever he has neglected in Thy worship and love, in thanksgiving and in prayer, in virtue and good works, and all the service due to Thee, in all that by Thy grace he might have done and has not done, or did from impure motives, or carelessly and imperfectly. Amen.

SECOND PRAYER.

I adore, salute, and bless Thee,
O sweetest Lord Jesus Christ,
and I give Thee thanks for that
love wherewith Thou,
the Creator of all things, didst
condescend for our redemption
to be seized and bound and
dragged away to judgment,
to be trampled upon, buffeted
and spit upon, to be scourged
and crowned with thorns,
to be condemned, to bear Thine
own cross, to be stripped and
nailed to the cross, to die a most
bitter death, and to be pierced
through with the lance. And in
union with that love I offer Thee
these my unworthy prayers,
beseeching Thee to blot out and
efface utterly through the merits
of Thy most Holy Passion and
Death whatsoever this soul for
which I pray has ever done
against Thy will, by evil
thoughts or words or deeds; and
that Thou wouldst vouchsafe to
offer to God the Father all the
sorrow and the anguish of Thy

torn Body and of Thy desolated
Soul, all Thy merits and all Thine
actions, for all that chastisement
which he has incurred at the
hands of Thy justice. Amen.

THIRD PRAYER.

I adore, salute, and bless Thee,
O sweetest Lord Jesus Christ,
and I give Thee thanks for all the
love and the faithfulness with
which Thou didst overcome
death and rise from the dead,
and glorify our flesh by
ascending in it to the right hand
of the Father; beseeching Thee
that Thou wouldst now
vouchsafe to render the soul for
which I pray partaker of Thy
triumph and of Thy glory. Amen.

FOURTH PRAYER.

I adore, salute, and bless Thee,
O sweetest Lord Jesus Christ,
and I render Thee thanks for all
the graces Thou hast ever
bestowed on Thy glorious
Mother and on all Thine elect, in
union with the gratitude with
which all Thy saints exult in the

bliss Thou hast obtained for
them through Thy holy
Incarnation, Passion, and
Resurrection; beseeching Thee
that thou wouldst vouchsafe
to supply to this soul from
the merits and prayers of the
same glorious Virgin
and all Thy saints, whatever
is lacking to his own. Amen.

PRAYER IN A BURIAL- GROUND.

Hail, all ye faithful souls
of Christ;
may He give you rest,
Who is Himself
the one true Rest.
May Jesus Christ,
the Son of the living God,
Who for our salvation
and for that of all mankind
was born of the Immaculate
Virgin, and redeemed you with
His precious Blood, bless you,
release you from your pain,
raise you up in the day of
judgment, and place you
with His holy angels.