

Prayer of St. Macrina, as she lay dying¹

Thou, O Lord, hast freed us from the fear of death.

Thou hast made the end of this life the beginning to us of true life.

Thou for a season retest our bodies in sleep and awake them again at the last trump.

Thou givest our earth, which Thou hast fashioned with Thy hands, to the earth to keep in safety.

One day Thou wilt take again what Thou hast given, transfiguring with immortality and grace our mortal and unsightly remains.

Thou hast saved us from the curse and from sin, having become both for our sakes.

Thou hast broken the heads of the dragon who had seized us with his jaws, in the yawning gulf of disobedience.

Thou hast shown us the way of resurrection, having broken the gates of hell, and brought to nought him who had the power of death -- the devil.

Thou hast given a sign to those that fear Thee in the symbol of the Holy Cross, to destroy the adversary and save our life.

O God eternal,

to Whom I have been attached from my mother's womb,

Whom my soul has loved with all its strength,

to Whom I have dedicated both my flesh and my soul from my youth up until now:

Do Thou give me an angel of light to conduct me to the place of refreshment, where is the water of rest, in the bosom of the holy Fathers.

Thou that didst break the flaming sword and didst restore to Paradise the man that was crucified with Thee and implored Thy mercies, remember me, too, in Thy kingdom; because I, too, was crucified with Thee, having nailed my flesh to the cross for fear of Thee, and of Thy judgments have I been afraid.

Let not the terrible chasm separate me from Thy elect.

Nor let the Slanderer stand against me in the way; nor let my sin be found before Thy eyes, if in anything I have sinned in word or deed or thought, led astray by the weakness of our nature.

O Thou Who hast power on earth to forgive sins, forgive me, that I may be refreshed and may be found before Thee when I put off my body, without defilement on my soul.

But may my soul be received into Thy hands spotless and undefiled, as an offering before Thee.

¹ My son +Daniel was not able to pray this prayer when he was translated (6/11/2017 ns). That is the nature of accidental, unexpected death. Such deaths are deeply mysterious, and painful to those who are left behind. We cannot understand much of life, and we understand even less of death, and, even though we have promises of the life to come, we understand it least of all. We do understand however, that to God all live, and that His mercy endureth forever, and that to God, a thousand years are as a single day. Therefore, we who have been reminded in a bitter way about the death of the body, can pray this prayer, for ourselves, and our loved ones, living in the body, and those translated yonder without their bodies, as we all await the general resurrection and the life to come. See <http://www.orthodox.net/daniel> to learn about Daniel, and to be put on “Daniel’s list”