

Great & everlasting God, Thou alone
hast immortality and dwellest
in a light, which no man cannot ap-
proach unto. Although we are but dust
and ashes, we venture at this mournful
occasion to draw nigh to Thy throne and
to implore Thee to look down upon thy
afflicted children and to pour the
balm of comfort into their wounded
souls. It has pleased Thee in Thy pro-
vidence to permit the power of death
to deprive us of a youthful friend, and
beloved fellow-traveller in the road
to eternity, to blast the hopes of his
parents and relations and to fill
their hearts with grief. How unsearch-
able are Thy judgments and thy ways
past finding out. Gross darkness would
forever ~~cover~~ ^{cover} Thy government of the
world, if thou in Thy infinite goodness
hast not ~~revealed~~ ^{revealed} to kindle a
ray in our minds, and to illuminate

us by the glorious light of the gospel.
we praise Thee O Father that even in
the doleful ^{miseries} which we at
present witness and the melancholy
searcement which we bewail, the
reflecting mind is permitted to discern
that the capacity of man is not limit-
ed to this terrestrial life, but that he
is designed for a higher and nobler
station. Thou art not a God of the
dead but of the living. The seeds which
Thou hast sown cannot be destroyed.
The flowers which Thou hast planted
can not perish without bringing
fruit, the talents which Thou hast
imparted and which under ^{thy} eye
are improved are not bestowed as
improved in vain. They must
increase and rise to continual
higher perfection. Of this Thy
infinite wisdom and goodness

are a sacred pledge. But we acknowledge
above all and with a dutiful sense of
gratitude, Thy kindness in present-
ing us, through Thy well-beloved
Son & Ch. with abundance of forti-
tude and solace in the vicissitudes
and trials of this life and in par-
ticular at the final separation
from our friends. Instructed by
him we know in whom we believe
we know that Thou art our Father
that without Thy will no hair can
fall from our heads; that the
ways of Thy providence are dictated
by wisdom and benevolence.
That, although according to Thy
pleasure we are obliged to pay the
tribute to nature and to return
unto dust, still we are not to re-
main in the grave, but we shall
rise and meet again in yonder
world never to be separated again.

May it please the Lord, deeply to impress ^{most}
these sacred truths in the minds of the
masses of the relations of the deceased
that with humble resignation they
may submit to the will of their sovereign
and father in heaven. We give the
thanks O Lord that thou hast endued
our departed friend with fortitude
in the season of sickness, and with
courage on his dying bed to encounter
the last foe without dismay and to
reign his spirit into the hands of
his heavenly father. And finally we
beseech thee O our gracious Lord
to make us more and more sensible
of our frailty and final destination.
Surrounded as we are with the arms
of death teach us to number our
days that we may apply our hearts
to wisdom. Remind us who are
advanced in life, that our remaining
time is short, and that every mom-
ent we may expect to be summoned

before thy throne. Permit not that
we should foolishly depend upon
his strength, but let him recollect
that, as the vigorous oak is often
prostrated by the sudden tempest
so he may also unexpectedly be laid
in the dust. Let the sprightly youth
learn from the present instance
that tomorrow he may be cut off
like the early blossom by the
venomous frost. Prepare us O Lord
for that awful moment, when we
are to give an account of our pre-
sent life before the bar of justice.
Teach ^{teach} us to watch and to pray
that, finally we may be admitted
to those mansions of glory, where
joy and happiness will be our
portion for ever. Hear us for
Christ's sake, in whose name
we pray etc.

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