

In memory of Jean Burke (1926–2015)

May the Angels

Refrain based on *In Paradisum*

Gerard Chiusano

Verses based on the *Order of Christian Funerals*

♩ REFRAIN: (♩ = ca. 80) 1st time: Cantor, All repeat; thereafter: All

After verses 2, 3

Descant

Soprano Alto

Tenor Bass

Keyboard

May the an - gels

May the an - gels — lead you in - to par - a - dise, the

wel - come you, ho - ly

mar - tyrs come to — wel - come you, — and take you to the ho - ly

G/A D C/D G/D

Em A/C# D D/F#* G A/G

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Note: Refrain may be played once as an introduction.

*Begin at the asterisk for a shorter introduction.

Edition 30139511

1 *D.S.*
 cit - y, Je - ru - sa -

1 *D.S.*
 cit - y, the new Je - ru - sa - lem. May the

Bm F#m Em Asus4 A7 1 Dsus4 D G/A A G/A *D.S.*

2-4 *Final* *Fine*
 to Verses
 lem. lem.

2-4 *Final* *Fine*
 to Verses
 lem. lem.

2-4 *Final* *Fine*
 Dsus4 D to Verses Dsus4 D G/A D

VERSES: Cantor/Choir

1. Saints of God, come to his/her aid. Come to meet him/her, an - gels of the Lord.
 2. Choirs of an - gels bring you home, and with A - bra - ham may you find rest.
 3. May you see the face of God, and re - jice a - mong the saints in love.

C Am7 D C Am7 D

S
A
T
B

1-3. Re - ceive his/her soul, O ho - ly ones, and pre -

Bm G D/F#

1-3. sent him/her to God, Most High. May the

Em C G/B A sus4 A G/A D.S.

May the Angels

(Guitar/Vocal)

Refrain based on *In Paradisum*

Gerard Chiusano

Verses based on the *Order of Christian Funerals*

REFRAIN: (♩ = ca. 80) 1st time: Cantor, All repeat; thereafter: All

Guitar/Vocal notation for the Refrain. The music is in G major, 3/4 time. The lyrics are: "May the an - gels lead you in - to par - a - dise, the mar - tyrs come to wel - come you, and take you to the ho - ly cit - y, the new Je - ru - sa - lem. May the lem. lem." The notation includes guitar chords (G/A, D, C/D, G/D, Em, A/C#, D, D/F#, G, A/G, Bm, F#m, Em, Asus4, A7, Dsus4, D, G/A, A, G/A) and performance directions (D.S., Fine, to Verses).

VERSES: Cantor/Choir

Guitar/Vocal notation for the Verses. The music is in G major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "1. Saints of God, come to his/her aid. Come to meet him/her, an - gels of the Lord. 2. Choirs of an - gels bring you home, and with A - bra - ham may you find rest. 3. May you see the face of God, and re - joi - ce a - mong the saints in love. 1-3. Re - ceive his/her soul, O ho - ly ones, and pre - 1-3. sent him/her to God, Most High. May the" The notation includes guitar chords (C, Am7, D, C, Am7, D, Bm, G, D/F#, Em, C, G/B, Asus4, A, G/A) and performance directions (D.S.).

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Composer Notes

“May the Angels” was written for the funeral of my wife’s aunt, Jean Burke, and sung as the Song of Farewell. The Song of Farewell is the climax of the funeral journey, when we commend the soul of our loved one to the care and mercy of God, a true act of faith. The Song of Farewell is one of the few times in liturgy where the action accompanies the music, rather than the other way around. The song is required, while the incensing of the casket is optional, though it should always be done except for a serious reason.

It is best to use this selection in its entirety, especially if it is new to the repertoire of the gathered assembly. The repetition of the refrain (which I suggest singing in a responsorial style) will allow even the first-time assembly to embrace the text and melody, and sing their prayer to accompany the journey of their loved one into the arms of God. With a strong cantor or choir it is also possible to have the assembly sing the second half of each verse because of its repetition, asking the saints of God to receive this loved one and present them to God.

Finally, I find it effective use of this piece to have the cantor intone the refrain, inviting the assembly to repeat, and then going through two verses and refrains, then underscoring the Prayer of Commendation with soft music to bridge into the final procession with a repeat of the refrain, the last verse, and a double refrain, so that the assembly can process with the casket singing “May the angels be your guide...” Other forms may be devised as well, according to pastoral situation and need.

May God be praised in everything we do.

—Gerard Chiusano

May the Angels

SOLO INSTRUMENT I & II in C

Gerard Chiusano

REFRAIN (♩ = ca. 80)

Tacet 1st time

I

II

1

D.S.

2-4

to Verses

Final

Fine

VERSES 1-3: Tacet Verse 1

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Note: Refrain may be played once as an introduction (in which case, play intro then tacet while cantor sings).

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Assembly Edition

MAY THE ANGELS

Gerard Chiusano

Refrain



May the an - gels lead you in - to par - a - dise, the
mar - tyrs come to wel - come you, and take you to the ho - ly
cit - y, the new Je - ru - sa - lem.

Verses



1. Saints of God, come to his/her aid. Come to
2. Choirs of an - gels bring you home, and with
3. May you see the face of God, and re -



1. meet him/her, an - gels of the Lord. }
2. A - bra - ham may you find rest. } Re - ceive his/her
3. joyce a - mong the saints in love. }

to Refrain



1-3. soul, O ho - ly ones, and pre - sent him/her to God, Most High.

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