

REQUIEM

[It is a venerable tradition in the Armenian Church for families to request special requiem prayers on the anniversary of the death of their loved ones. The celebrant mentions the names of the deceased during the prayers of the Divine Liturgy and a brief prayer service is conducted immediately following the Divine Liturgy.]

According to the teachings of the Armenian Church, those who have died enter into a period of rest while awaiting our Lord's glorious second coming at the end of time. But while separated from the Christian community, the souls that are at rest continue to be counted among the faithful, who "rest in the shadow of the church." We therefore pray for them, as we pray for all of our earthly cares. Essentially, our prayer for the dead is that they rest in peace, that the Lord forgive them all of their sins and find them worthy of eternal life in the Father's kingdom when Christ comes again.

Praying for the dead is a proclamation of our faith in Christ's second coming, and our hope in the resurrection of the dead. When the Armenian Church prays regularly for the dead we are reminded that this life is transient, and we are filled with hope because we believe that death is too.]

STAND

The Deacon:

**Again in peace let us beseech the Lord:
Receive us, save us, and have mercy on us.**

The Priest:

**Blessing and glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.**

The Choir:

**O God the Word who is, together with the Father, the creator of beings
out of nothing; grant forgiveness to your servants who have fallen asleep,
when you come to judge those whom you created with spotless hands.**

**O you who was sent from the Father and was incarnate of the holy
Virgin; grant forgiveness to your servants who have fallen asleep, when you
come to judge those whom you created with spotless hands.**

**O you who gave up the ghost on the cross and loosed the power of death;
grant forgiveness to your servants who have fallen asleep, when you come
to judge those whom you created with spotless hands.**

**O you who crowns your saints and distributes everlasting bounties;
grant forgiveness to your servants who have fallen asleep, when you come
to judge those whom you created with spotless hands.**

The Deacon:

Psalm 130

**Out of the depths I have cried to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice.
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my prayers.**

The Deacons:

Alleluia. Stand up.

The Priest:

Peace to all.

The Choir:

And with your spirit.

The Deacon:

Listen attentively.

The Priest:

To the holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to (Matthew).

The Choir:

Glory to you, O Lord our God.

The Deacon:

Be attentive.

The Choir:

God is speaking.

The Priest:

Mt 11: 25-30

Our Lord Jesus Christ:

**At that time Jesus answered and said: "I thank you, Father, Lord of
heaven and earth, because you have hid these things from the wise and
prudent and has revealed them to babes. Yea, Father, so it seemed good in
your sight.**

**All things have been delivered to me by my Father; and no one knows
the Son, but the Father; and no one knows the Father, except the Son, and
anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal him.**

**Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am meek and lowly in**

heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is pleasing and my burden is light.”

Mark 4: 26-34

Our Lord Jesus Christ:

“The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed upon the ground, and should sleep and rise night and day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he knows not how. The earth produces of itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.

And he said, With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.”

Luke 12: 32-40

Our Lord Jesus Christ:

“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms; provide yourselves with purses that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

“Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the marriage feast, so that they may open to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes; truly, I say to you, he will gird himself and have to sit at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third and finds them so, blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the householder had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

John 12: 24-26

Our Lord Jesus Christ:

“Truly truly I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If

any one serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if any one serves me, the Father will honor him.”

(Ka-ha-nayk)

The Choir:

We priests and people, entreat you, O merciful and good Lord,
With those who have fallen asleep in faith, receive us who have the same
hope,
Into the heavenly city, Jerusalem, in which the just are assembled,
To sing and glorify always the three persons of the Trinity.

(Ee-ve-reen)

In the supernal Jerusalem, in the dwellings of the angels,
Where Enoch and Elijah live old in age like doves,
Worthily glorified in the garden of Eden,
Merciful Lord, have mercy on the souls of those of us who have fallen
asleep.

The Priest:

O Christ God, grant rest and mercy to the souls of those who are at rest,
and to us, sinners, grant forgiveness of our transgressions.

The Deacon:

Again in peace let us beseech the Lord.
For the souls of those who are at rest, let us beseech Christ our Savior,
that he may reckon them with the just and may save us by the grace of his
mercy.
Almighty Lord our God, save us and have mercy on us.

The Priest:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
O Christ, Son of God, forbearing and compassionate, have compassion,
in your love as our creator, upon the souls of your servants who are at rest,
especially upon the soul(s) of your servant(s) (N. NN.) for whom we are
offering these prayers. Be mindful of them in the great day of the coming of
your kingdom. Make them worthy of mercy, of expiation and forgiveness of
sins. Glorify them and reckon them with the company of your saints at your
right hand.
For you are Lord and creator of all, judge of the living and of the dead.
And to you is befitting glory, dominion and honor, now and unto the ages of
ages. Amen.

The Deacon:

By the holy cross let us beseech the Lord, that through it he may deliver
us from our sins and save us by the grace of his mercy.
Almighty Lord, our God, save us and have mercy on us.

The Priest:

Guard us, O Christ our God, under the shadow of your holy and venerable cross in peace. Deliver us from the enemy visible and invisible. Make us worthy to give you thanks and to glorify you together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Blessed be our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who are 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

The Priest:

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory to ages. Amen.

The Deacon:

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall at all times be in my mouth.

The Priest:

**Be blessed by the grace of the Holy Spirit.
Depart in peace and the Lord be with you all. Amen.**