

Anglicans have continued to pray for the departed since the Reformation but the celebration of All Souls became fixed in popular practice only after the Great War (1914-18). Anglicanism looks to the practice of the Early Church and the edited article below from *Aleteia.org* describes some of the practice of the Early Church.



Prayer for the Dead in the Early Church from *Aleteia.org*

Aside from the New Testament itself and some of the early letters of the Church Fathers, the catacombs are the oldest witness to the Christian faith. The oldest of them, the Catacombs of Domitilla, whose uncle was the Emperor Domitian, dates back to the 2nd century. According to some scholars, the last book to be written in the New Testament—the Gospel of John—was composed during Domitian’s reign. Those years also coincide with one of the earliest Fathers, Clement, a pope whose epistle dates back to this period. The inscriptions and art in the catacombs thus offer a window into the mind and heart of the very early Church, showing how the faith that was preached in the gospels and epistles was lived out by the first Christians.

The catacombs are replete with inscriptions that offer abbreviated prayers known as acclamations for the dead. Here are some of them:

- Pax tibi | Peace to you.*
- Aeterna lux tibi | Eternal light for you.*
- Pax tibi cum angelis | Peace for you with the angels.*
- Pax tibi cum sanctis | Peace for you with the saints.*
- Deus tibi refrigeret | May God refresh you.*

Some of the inscriptions are more explicit in asking for prayers for the dead:

- Ut quisquis de fratribus legerit, roget Deum ut sancto et innocenti spiritu ad Deum suscipiatur.*
- If any of the brethren reads this, let him ask that this holy and innocent soul may be received by God.*

How sure can we be that early Christians really prayed for the dead? Are these short invocations enough? Fortunately there is testimony outside of the catacombs that validates their message. One is Tertullian, who lived from around 155 to 240. In *On Monogamy*, he writes the following in reference to widows:

Indeed, she prays for his soul, and requests refreshment for him meanwhile, and fellowship with him in the first resurrection; and she offers her sacrifice on the anniversaries of his falling asleep...

In his *Confessions*, St. Augustine also records his mother Monica asking him to pray for her after her death. And one inscription in the Cemetery of Praetextatus directly asks for the intercession of the deceased when he meets Christ the judge at the moment of his death:

Succurrite cum iudicabit. | Help us when you come to the judge.

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St George’s Paris

All Souls : 2nd November 2023

A warm welcome to St George’s worship this week—online or in person. Everything you need for today’s service you’ll find in this pamphlet. Today the choir sings the **Requiem a cuatro voces**, printed in 1592, by Tomas Luis de Victoria (1548-1611).

Sunday 29th	0830 1030	The Last after Trinity (Proper 25) Holy Communion (1662 BCP) Solemn Eucharist	Cel : MO Cel : JJ	Pr : MO
Monday 30th	1800/1830	<i>Feria</i> Evensong / Eucharist		
Tuesday 31st	0915 1800/1830	<i>Martin Luther, reformer</i> Morning Prayer Evensong / Eucharist		
Wednesday 1st	1030	All Saints’ Day Solemn Eucharist		
Thursday 2nd	0915 1930	<i>All Souls—Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed</i> Morning Prayer Solemn Mass of Requiem		
Friday 3rd	1800/1830	<i>Richard Hooker, Teacher</i> Evensong / Eucharist		
Saturday 4th	1200 1800	<i>Of Our Lady</i> Eucharist Eucharistie en français	Cel : JJ	
Sunday 5th	0830 1030	4th Sunday before Advent Holy Communion (1662 BCP) Solemn Eucharist	Cel : MO Cel : JJ	Pr : MO

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The Gathering

Please stand when the bell rings. The Choir will sing the **Introitus** of the Mass.

<i>Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine.</i>	<i>Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord</i>
<i>Et lux perpetua luceat eis.</i>	<i>And let perpetual light shine upon them</i>
<i>Te decet hymnus, Deus, in Sion,</i>	<i>A hymn, O God, becometh Thee in Zion</i>
<i>Et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem</i>	<i>And a vow shall be paid to thee in Jerusalem</i>
<i>Exaudi orationem meam</i>	<i>Hear my prayer</i>
<i>Ad te omnis caro veniet.</i>	<i>All flesh shall come before you.</i>

Greeting

+ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen.

The celebration is introduced and we are invited to remember and confess our sins in preparation for our celebration together. The choir then sing the Kyries which is the ancient hymn asking God's mercy.

Penitential Rite

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison Christe eleison, Christe eleison Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.

Collect

Eternal God, our maker and redeemer, grant us, with all the faithful departed, the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion and glorious resurrection that, in the last day, when you gather up all things in Christ, we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading: Wisdom 3:1-9

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt-offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them for ever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

Please remain seated for the choir to sing the psalm for the day (Psalm 23).

*The Lord is my shepherd * therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture * and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. He shall convert my soul * and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil * for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me. Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me * thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full. But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life * and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

Second Reading: I Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has



The Place of Meeting by Thomas Noyes-Lewis,

A popular print shortly after WWI it depicts a Requiem for the Dead with statues of the soldier saints, George & Joan with the Communion of Saints, many in military uniform.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, dona eis requiem sempiternam. Grant them eternal rest.

Invitation to Communion

I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, Alleluia!
The Lord our God has entered into his kingdom.

Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion if you do so in your own church. If you would prefer, please come forward and bow your head for a blessing. **Please do not intinct—it is forbidden by our bishops and dangerous for coeliacs.** Please follow the directions of the Sides-people. If you are watching online or don't want to receive Holy Communion, you may like to use the following prayer:*

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament,
I love you above all things and I desire you in my soul.
Since I cannot receive you now sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my soul.
As though you were already there I embrace you and unite myself
wholly to you; permit not that I should ever be separated from you. Amen.*

Post Communion Prayer

God of love, may the death and resurrection of Christ which we have celebrated in this eucharist bring us, with all the faithful departed, into the peace of your eternal home. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our rock and our salvation, to whom be glory for time and for eternity. **Amen.**

After the Blessing and Dismissal the choir sings the Libera Mei whilst the clergy and servers leave the sanctuary. You are invited to remain in your seats for this final act of worship.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

+ May they rest in peace.
Amen.

Libera Mei

*Libera me, Domine,
de morte aeterna
in die illa tremenda
quando coeli movendi sunt et terra
dum veneris judicare saeculum
per ignem.*

*Tremens factus sum ego et timeo,
dum discussio venerit
atque ventura ira.*

*Dies irae, dies illa,
calamitatis et miseriae,
dies magna et amara valde.*

*Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*

*Deliver me, O Lord,
from eternal death,
on that fearful day
when the heavens are moved and the earth
when you will come to judge the world
through fire.*

*I am made to tremble, and I fear,
when the desolation shall come,
and also the coming wrath.*

*That day, the day of wrath,
calamity, and misery,
that terrible and exceedingly bitter day.*

*Rest eternal grant them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine on them.
Lord have mercy, Christ, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy*

given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Please stand for the gradual hymn (NEH 396).

**Let saints on earth in concert sing
With those whose work is done;
For all the servants of our King
In earth and heaven are one.**

**One family, we dwell in him,
One church, above, beneath;
Though now divided by the stream,
The narrow stream of death.**

**One army of the living God,
To his command we bow:
Part of the host have crossed the flood,
And part are crossing now.**

**E'en now to their eternal home
There pass some spirits blest;
While others to the margin come,
Waiting their call to rest.**

**Jesu, be thou our constant guide;
Then, when the word is given,
Bid Jordan's narrow stream divide,
And bring us safe to heaven.**

Holy Gospel: John 6:37-40

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

Intercessions

There are a lot of names—if you need to sit please do so. At the end of the names we stand to say:

**Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with the saints:
where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**
You only are immortal, the creator and maker of all:
and we are mortal, formed from the dust of the earth,

and unto earth shall we return.
 For so you ordained when you created me; saying:
 'Dust you are and to dust you shall return.'
 All of us go down to the dust,
 yet weeping at the grave, we make our song:
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with the saints:
 where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

*After the reading of the names of those whom we love but see no longer and all for whom we are bidden to pray by the Lord's command to 'love one another' the Choir will sing **Lux Aeterna.***

*Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine,
 cum sanctis tuis in aeternum,
 quia pius es.
 Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine,
 et lux perpetua luceat eis,
 quia pius es.*

*Let everlasting light shine upon them, Lord,
 with Thy saints for ever,
 for Thou art merciful.
 Grant them eternal rest, Lord,
 and let perpetual light shine upon them,
 for Thou art merciful.*

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The peace of the Lord be with you
and also with you.

Please stand for the hymn. The hymn at the Preparation of the Table is sung (NEH 329).

**Jesus, Son of Mary,
 Fount of life alone,
 Here we hail thee present
 On thine altar- throne.
 Humbly we adore thee,
 Lord of endless might,
 In the mystic symbols
 Veiled from earthly sight.**

**Think, O Lord, in mercy
 On the souls of those
 Who, in faith gone from us,
 Now in death repose.
 Here 'mid stress and conflict
 Toils can never cease;
 There, the warfare ended,
 Bid them rest in peace.**

**Often were they wounded
 In the deadly strife;
 Heal them, good Physician,
 With the balm of life.
 Every taint of evil,
 Frailty and decay,**

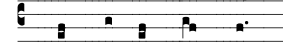
Peace

**Good and gracious Saviour,
 Cleanse and purge away.**

**Rest eternal grant unto them,
 After weary fight;
 Shed on them the radiance
 Of thy heavenly light.
 Lead them onward, upward,
 To the holy place,
 Where thy saints made perfect
 Gaze upon thy face.**

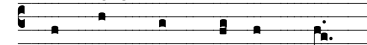
Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you



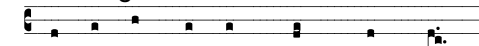
and al-so with you.

Lift up your hearts.



We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

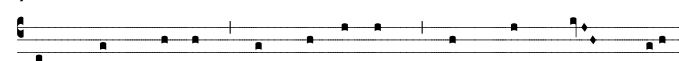


It is right to give thanks and praise.

*The celebrant praises God for his mighty acts in the Preface and the choirs sing the **Sanctus.***

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The prayer continues until the Proclamation of Faith



Christ has died. Christ is ri-sen. Christ will come again.

*At the end of the prayer we all respond **Amen.** We remain standing to pray together*

**Our Father, who art 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
 against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For
 thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
 because we all share in one bread.**

*As we prepare for Holy Communion the choir sings the **Agnus Dei.***

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis pecatta mundi, O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
 dona eis requiem. Grant them rest.*