

MEMORIAL
SERVICE FOR
All Souls

November 2, 2023

ABOUT THE SERVICE

This service blends a traditional All Souls Day service with the familiar custom of hosting a hymn-sing in memory of departed loved ones. A traditional All Souls Day liturgy would be a Requiem service of Holy Communion, followed by a rite called the “Absolution of the Dead.” We will observe this rite at the end of this service, praying for God’s mercy on our departed brothers and sisters, as we prayed for them during their lives.

In front of the altar, a “catafalque” has been set up. As a symbolic coffin, it represents all the departed. It is covered with a purple cloth to represent mourning, and it is surrounded by candles, one of which is the Paschal candle, which represents the light of Christ which shines even in the darkness of death.

During the Absolution of the Dead, the catafalque will be sprinkled with holy water, as a reminder of baptism. The Paschal candle is also a symbol of baptism. At Easter, it is dipped into the baptismal font while the water is blessed for the renewal of baptismal vows. All Souls Day and funerals are rich with baptismal imagery because they emphasize how we are united to Christ in his death, which is the grace of baptism.

¶ Please STAND. The Priest greets the congregation:



HE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

℞ *And also with you.*

¶ The Priest addresses the congregation:



EAR friends in Christ, we are gathered this evening to remember before God those of our brothers and sisters who have departed this life in faith, whom we entrust by prayer to the mercy of God.

In the death of Christ we perceive with special clarity the merciful purposes of God. Holy scripture teaches that death came into the world through our first parents, whose disobedience separated them from God, the source of life. But in the fullness of time, God sent his only Son to live and die among us, so that those who die with him might also live with him in the glory of his resurrection. Membership in Christ, in his death and in his triumph over death, is the mystery wrought in us by Holy Baptism.

Therefore in Christ we are members of one body with those who have fallen asleep, and it is fitting for us to pray for them, in their death as we did in their life. Knowing in ourselves human frailty and wickedness, through which we fall into sin, and understanding that

the way is narrow which leads to life, it is especially necessary that we pray for the departed what we pray also for ourselves: the forgiveness of sins, and welcome into the loving arms of our merciful Saviour.

Let us pray.



MOST merciful Father, you have been pleased to take to yourself our departed brothers and sisters: Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who still walk by faith, that having served you faithfully in this world, we may, with all faithful Christian souls, be joined hereafter to the company of your blessed saints in glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

HYMNS (ROBERT MACKAY)

“Faith of our Fathers” in memory of *Joyce & Harry Rhodenizer, and
Geneva & Aubrey Mahaney.*

Faith of our fathers! living still
In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword,
O how our hearts beat high with joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious word:

Refrain:

Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.

Our fathers, chained in prisons dark,
Were still in heart and conscience free;
How sweet would be their children's faith,
If they, like them, could die for thee! [*Refrain*]

Faith of our fathers! we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife:
And preach thee, too, as love knows how,
By kindly words and virtuous life: [*Refrain*]

“Rock of Ages” (522) in memory of *George Spurr*.

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
save from wrath and make me pure.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

“In the Garden” in memory of *all family members*.

I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

Refrain:

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing. [*Refrain*]

I'd stay in the garden with Him
Tho' the night around me be falling;
But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling. [*Refrain*]

“The River” in memory of *Donnie Shortliffe*.

To the river, I am going,
bringing sins I cannot bear.
Come and cleanse me, come forgive me,
Lord I need to meet you there.

Refrain:

Precious Jesus, I am ready, to surrender every care.
Take my hand now, lead me closer,
Lord I need to meet you there.

In these waters, healing mercy,
flows with freedom from despair.
I am going, to that river,
Lord I need to meet you there. [*Refrain*]

Come and join us, in the river,
Come find life beyond compare.
He is calling, He is waiting,
Jesus longs to meet you there. [*Refrain*]

“The Old Rugged Cross” in memory of *the McMullen & MacKenzie families.*

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary. [*Refrain*]

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share. [*Refrain*]

PRAYER



ORD Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death. Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness, for your tender mercies' sake. *Amen.*

HYMNS (FR. BENJAMIN)

“On Eagle’s Wings” (531) in memory of *Marie & Doug MacDougall*.

You who dwell in the shelter of our God,
who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: My refuge, my Rock in whom I trust!

Refrain:

And I will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear:
under God’s wings your refuge,
God’s faithfulness your shield. [*Refrain*]

You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come. [*Refrain*]

“O When the Saints” in memory of *Evelyn Hartley*.

O when the saints go marching in,
O when the saints go marching in,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
when the saints go marching in.

O when the sun refused to shine,
O when the sun refused to shine,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
when the sun refused to shine.

O when they crown him Lord of all,
O when they crown him Lord of all,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
when they crown him Lord of all.

O when the saints go marching in,
O when the saints go marching in,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
when the saints go marching in.

“In the Bulb There is a Flower” in memory of
family members of Marg Bower.

In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there’s a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

PRAYER



FATHER of all, we pray to you for those we
love but see no longer. Grant them your
peace; let light perpetual shine upon them;
and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work
in them the good purpose of your perfect will, through
Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HYMNS (MEI JENNINGS)

“How Great Thou Art” (423) in memory of *Horace & Elaine Bowness*.

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hands hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; [*Refrain*]

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim: “My God, how great thou art!”
[*Refrain*]

“Blest Be the Tie that Binds” (507) in memory of *Lois & Maxwell
Parks, and Ruth & Mack MacLachlan.*

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

Before our Father’s throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin, we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.

“What a Friend” (532) in memory of *Joyce MacKay*.

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit,

O what needless pain we bear,

all because we do not carry

everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged;

take it to the Lord in prayer!

Can we find a friend so faithful

who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness;

take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden,

cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge—

take it to the Lord in prayer!

Do your friends despise, forsake you?

Take it to the Lord in prayer!

In his arms he'll take and shield you;

you will find a solace there.

“Just as I am” (615) in memory of *Grant Redding*.

Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd’st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

ABSOLUTION OF THE DEAD

Let us pray.



LORD, do not enter into judgement with your servants, for in your sight shall no one living be justified, unless you grant the forgiveness of sin. We therefore beseech you, do not let the sentence of judgement press hard upon them, whom we commend to you by this, the reasonable prayer of your faithful Christian people; but grant that, by the assistance of your grace, they who while living were sealed with the sign of the Holy Trinity may be counted worthy to escape your avenging judgement; for you live and reign, ever one God, now and forever.

I know that my Redeemer lives, *and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and in my flesh shall I see God my Saviour.*

Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another; *and in my flesh shall I see God my Saviour.*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and in my flesh shall I see God my Saviour.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

¶ All say the *Lord's Prayer*. During the prayer, the Priest sprinkles the catafalque with holy water.



UR 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.

From the gate of death:

Deliver their souls, O Lord.

May they rest in peace.

Amen.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

And let our cry come before you.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Into your hands, O merciful Saviour, we commend your servants _____.

Then the list of the departed (those buried by the church in the past seven years) is read.

Acknowledge, we pray, the sheep of your own fold, the lambs of your own flock, the sinners of your own redeeming. Receive them into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. *Amen.*

HYMN (MEI JENNINGS)

“Amazing Grace” (352) in memory of *Howard & Edith Bennett,*
Charlie & Berniece Bowness.

I Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found:
was blind, but now I see.

‘Twas grace first taught my heart to fear
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Let us bless the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*