

Requiem: Grant Rest and Mercy

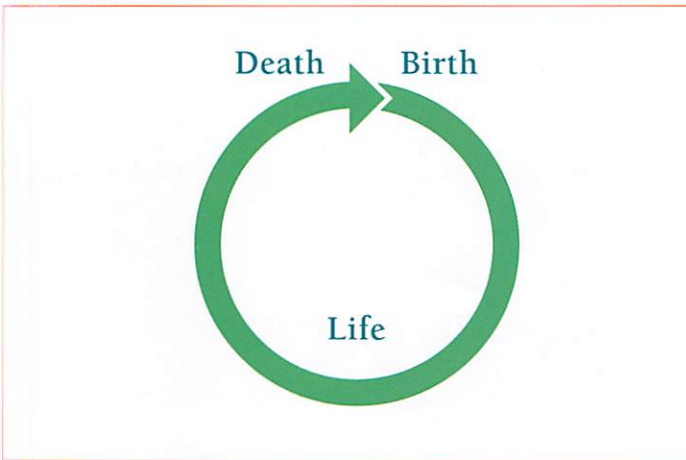
Dear Lord: You, who breathed your last on the cross and dissolved the power of death, grant forgiveness to your servants who have fallen asleep, when you come to judge those whom you created with spotless hands.

From the requiem hymn "Vor haneyitz"

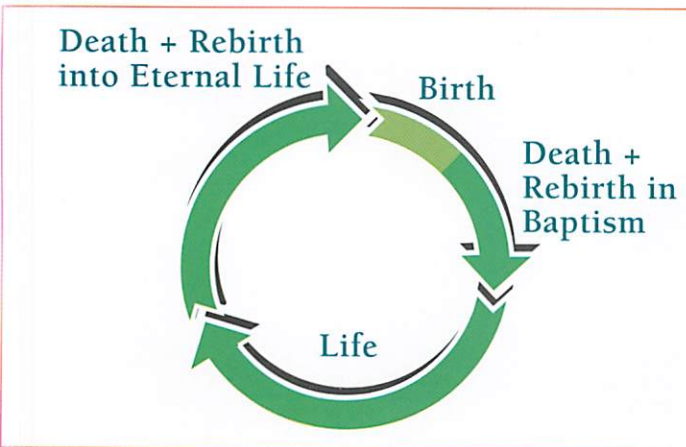
Death: The End AND The Beginning

Isn't this what the cycle of life normally looks like?

Birth.....life.....death



As Christians, however, it's a whole different story. The "life graph" looks more like this.



Birth.....Death.....Life.....Rebirth

How can that be? Think about it. We're all born, of course. There was, indeed, that blessed moment when all of a sudden you simply WERE in the world. From fetus to infant in the flash of an eye (or nine months invisible to all but the ultrasound monitor)! But something amazing happened shortly after that. From the joy of the delivery room you were later delivered to another place by your parents and godparents, even more joyfully – the baptismal font of the church, where you experienced an extraordinary thing – death! For in that triple immersion in the baptismal water, you shared in the death of Jesus, who was in the tomb for three days and then rose to eternal life. You "died" to being a slave to sin, to being a transient being who lives for a time and then is gone. You began life anew as a Christian, a child of God, and, therefore, an heir to all the "good and perfect gifts from above.." including eternal life.

But that comes later.

First there's the life you are gifted, "life abundant" as a child of God, living as he intended you to, which is what you learn as you grow in faith with all the tools he has given you – the Bible, the Church, prayer, and the lives of others who witness to life's meaning through their faith and good works.

Up Close and Personal



My Eulogy

What would you want to be remembered for at the end of your life? How would you want to be described? What would you want your life to have been about? Write 3-4 sentences about yourself that you would like to hear at your own funeral. Don't be silly about this. Pretend your best friend is saying these few words

The Armenian Angle



During the *Badarak* as well as the special requested requiem, we pray for all those who have fallen asleep in Christ (the church term for those who have died). Did you know that the living *and* the death constitute the Church? Those who have passed away in Christ are called "the Church Triumphant." And those of us still here on earth are known as "the Church Militant" (still fighting the good fight!).

The Armenian Hokehankisd (Requiem) Hymns

Review the words of the three Requiem Service hymns on pp 56, 59, and 60 of the Divine Liturgy book. Paraphrase them into simpler, clearer sentences.

1. *Vor Haneyeets Sdeghdzogh* Որ չանէից ստեղծող
(You Who Created Out of Nothing) (56)
2. *Kahanayk Քահանայք* (We priests) (59)
3. *Ee vereenun Yeroosaghem* Ի վերինն Երուսաղէմ
(In Heavenly Jerusalem) (60)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Who's Who

Enoch and Elijah

Enoch and Elijah were the only two human beings in all of Scripture who were taken up into God's presence without literally dying. You can read about Enoch, the father of the ancient Methuselah, in Genesis 5:24. After a brilliant and fascinating life as a great prophet, Elijah was also taken up into heaven (2 Kings:2).

? What Do I Do...

If there's a hokehankisd (requiem), can't I just leave?

The short requiem service at the end of liturgy is conducted by special request from a parishioner or parishioners for the church to pray for their deceased loved ones. And since everyone present is part of the church, that means you! So, even though you might not even *know* whom you're praying for, it doesn't matter. They are part of the same Christian family you are and request your prayers. So pray sincerely for God's mercy upon the souls of the individuals named, sing, and listen to the Bible reading in this short, post-liturgy prayer service.

The Least You Need to Know

- ✓ The Church consists of both the living and the dead – the Church “Militant” and the Church “Triumphant.”
- ✓ Both during the liturgy as well as in a special requiem service after its conclusion, we pray for those who have fallen asleep in Christ.
- ✓ Praying for the rest and forgiveness of those who have passed on is a declaration of faith and hope in eternal life and Christ's judgment upon his return.