

Service for the departed

Getting to know the New Apostolic Church

The New Apostolic Church is an international Christian church. The basis of its teachings is Holy Scripture. In 1863 it emerged from the Catholic Apostolic Church and is led by Apostles, just like the early Christian congregations.

The core of the New Apostolic doctrine is the return of Christ to take home those who have been prepared for this event. The New Apostolic Church places great value on the personal responsibility of its members. The individual is accountable to God for his conduct. The gospel of Christ and the system of values resulting from the Ten Commandments provide clear orientation for this.

The New Apostolic Church is fully independent and politically neutral. It is financed by the voluntary contributions of its members.

At present, over ten million Christians around the world profess the New Apostolic faith.



New Apostolic Church
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Welcome!

Dear guest, we extend a warm welcome to you.

Today you will experience a service for the departed in the New Apostolic Church.

Perhaps this is your first time with us as a guest. For this reason we would like to briefly introduce you to the New Apostolic Church and explain our belief in the afterlife as well as the sequence of this divine service.

We wish you a blessed Sunday. You are always warmly welcome to join us.

What is our belief concerning the afterlife and what is our hope for the future?

For New Apostolic Christians, belief in the afterlife and hope for the future are inseparably linked to belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The miracle of the resurrection and the promise of His return are core elements of the gospel.

At His return, those human beings who have died in Christ will resurrect. In addition, some among the living, namely those who have aligned their lives by His example, will be transformed and caught up to God. Together they will live in eternal unity with God. Our hope for the future is based upon this understanding. Closely related to this is the belief in a life after death. New Apostolic Christians pray for the departed both in their daily prayers and in the divine services.

Since all authority has been given to Jesus in heaven and on earth, New Apostolic Christians possess the conviction of faith that Jesus not only imparts salvation on earth, but also in the beyond. Something special, which was already practised by the early Christians, happens in three designated Sunday divine services each year: living individuals are baptised for the dead (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:29). In our day, Apostles dispense the sacraments of Holy Baptism with water, Holy Sealing, and Holy Communion for the departed. These sacraments are taken on their behalf by two ministers.

In those divine services that are not conducted by Apostles on these occasions, a special prayer is spoken for the departed.

Divine service

Sequence

- Congregational hymn
- Invocation of the triune God
- Prayer of the minister at the altar
- Reading of the Bible text for the sermon
- Musical selection
- Sermon by one or more ministers
- Congregational hymn (hymn of repentance)
- Congregation joins in the Lord's Prayer
- Proclamation of the forgiveness of sins and prayer
- Celebration of Holy Communion*
- Preparation of the congregation for the prayer on behalf of the departed
- Prayer for the departed
- Musical selection
- Closing prayer and benediction

General information

We happily invite you to our divine services. You can find the divine service times of the congregation nearest you at www.nak.org.

* All baptised individuals who profess Jesus Christ as their Lord, and who profess His death, resurrection, and return, are invited to participate as guests.