

Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Martyr, c. 115

(Remembered on October 17)

Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch in Syria, who was caught in a persecution of the Church around the year 115 and condemned to suffer death in the public arena. The authorities decided to send him all the way to Rome for execution of this sentence. He was put in the custody of ten soldiers and escorted along a route which led through cities with large Christian congregations. There was a lengthy stop-over at Smyrna, on the coast of Asia Minor, and Ignatius took the opportunity to write letters to the four churches that he had just passed through. There was another stop-over at Philippi in Macedonia, where Ignatius wrote another three letters, two back to churches in Asia Minor and one forward to the church at Rome. Taken together, these seven letters were Ignatius's last testament. He exhorted each church to gather in unity under its bishop, most especially at the eucharist; and he urged the churches to reject certain heresies about the person of Christ. Above all, Ignatius urged the churches to rejoice with him in the prospect of his own martyrdom for the sake of Christ. He embraced his fate passionately, even with a joy that we may find hard to fathom. Ignatius wrote in his letter to the church at Rome: "I am God's wheat: let me be ground by the teeth of wild beasts, that I may be found pure bread for Christ."



Ignatius Compline

Bishop of Antioch, Martyr, c. 115 (October 17)

I have been crucified with Christ;
it is no longer I who lives, but it is Christ who lives in me.

Almighty God,
we praise your Name
for your bishop and martyr Ignatius of Antioch,
who offered himself as grain to be ground
that he might present to you the pure bread of sacrifice.
Accept, we pray,
the willing tribute of our lives
and give us a share in the pure and spotless offering
of your Son Jesus Christ;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We have this treasure in jars of clay
**to show that this all-surpassing power is from God
and not from us.**
We are hard pressed on every side,
but not crushed;
perplexed,
but not in despair;
persecuted,
but not abandoned;
struck down,
but not destroyed.
God has said, "Let light shine out of darkness!"
He makes his light shine in our hearts
to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory,
alive in the face of Christ.

Apostles Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism as we say,

I believe in God,

**The Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Prayers

We thank you for the good things you give us each day...

We bring to you our burdens, fears, and challenges...

We lift up to you the people in our world and in our lives
who are hurting and need your help...

We bring to you the people who lead our schools, churches,
and places of work...

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

Prayer of John Chrysostom

Almighty God,

**you have given us grace at this time with one accord
to make our common supplications unto you;
and you have promised through your well-beloved Son
that when two or three are gathered together in his Name
you will be in the midst of them:**

**Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions
as may be best for us; granting us in this world
knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come
life everlasting. Amen.**

Glory to God,

**whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.**

**Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
forever and ever. Amen.**