06/12/2021

His Holiness Patriarch Kirill prays the Office of the Dead on the 13th anniversary of the demise of His Holiness Patriarch Alexy II



On December 5, 2021, the 13th anniversary of the demise of His Holiness Alexy II, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia prayed the Office of the Dead for his predecessor of eternal memory.

The service was held at the church of the Holy Prince Alexander Nevsky at the skete of the same name near Peredelkino.

After the service for the repose of the soul, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill said, “Today we mark another anniversary of the demise of His Holiness Patriarch Alexy II of eternal memory. I remember well that day. Nobody expected what might happen but it happened and shocked us all, especially those who worked side by side with His Holiness the Patriarch. Because, despite some infirmities he suffered as one in a very venerable age, nothing anticipated or foretold this death.

I came at Peredelkino, saw His Holiness and certainly a deep grief visited all of us. Because the name of His Holiness Patriarch Alexy was associated with very important transformations in the life of our Church. As the political situation and power changed, the Church began finding freedom – the freedom to worship not only inside churches, which was not prohibited during the times of persecutions, but also outside, fully devoting her spiritual potential to the needs of her people. His Holiness Patriarch Alexy is associated with this historic change in the history of our Church.

I happened to work with him side by side. His Holiness Alexy quite often invited me for long conversations, and we could discuss not only what happened beyond the boundary of the Church – for which I was responsible as chairman of the Department for External Church Relations – but also other issues, often concerning the personnel. His Holiness considered it possible to discuss with me some of these topics.

I keep in my memory that period of my life with gratitude to the late His Holiness for his work, for his kind attitude to me and, of course, for the contribution he made to the life of our Church. May the Lord give rest to the soul of His servant, His Holiness Patriarch Alexy of blessed memory, in His heavenly dwelling and make eternal the prayerful memory of him in our hearts. Amen!”

Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow and All Russia died on the 5th of December 2008, at the age of 80.

mospat.ru