

Praying With Our Church Family: Liturgy



Pray Together

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyv Surpo, Amen.

Lord, bless those who bless you and sanctify those who put their trust in you.

Save your people and bless your inheritance.

Guard the fullness of your church and sanctify those who have greeted in love the beauty of your house. Amen.

Prayer of St. John Chrysostom, from the Divine Liturgy

Chapter Checkup

Answer the following questions by writing “true” or “false” in the space provided.

1. We should only pray in church. _____
2. “Adoration” is one of the four types of prayer. _____
3. A prayer of supplication is when we are thanking God for something. _____
4. “Lord, I’m sorry I broke that window,” is a prayer of confession. _____
5. In I Thessalonians 5:17, God tells us to pray continually _____.

Many Hearts and Minds....One Voice

Imagine that your school principal has made a decision that, in order for teachers to get home earlier, there will be no further after-school tutoring. You’d like to write a letter asking her to reconsider since you have felt the homework tutoring in math has been a big help. Your whole math class feels the same way and so instead of writing individual letters, you all write and sign one letter together.

How is this different from writing a letter from just yourself? You’ve said the same thing, expressed the same viewpoint, communicated with the same person. Or is it important that all of you – different people, different feelings – have been able to become one voice and present yourselves together?

Our life of prayer and worship is a bit like this example. When we pray alone, our prayers are certainly as important to Jesus as when we pray together in church. But God asks us to pray and worship



together for a specific reason. In Matthew 18:20 Jesus says, “for where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them.” In the Armenian Church we call our group worship the *Soorp Badarak* (Holy Sacrifice), or Divine Liturgy. We come together to remember Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross, to share in him through Holy Communion as consecrated by the priest and to express our love for God and our fellow worshippers. Each time we participate in the *Badarak*, we raise our voices in hymn and prayer as one unified body of believers. In a way, we can only be the Church when we are together!

Our Armenian Way

Soorp Badarak

The two main parts of the badark are “The Liturgy of the Word” and “The Liturgy of the Eucharist.” The entire Liturgy is preceded by a “Preparation” and then followed by a “Last Blessing and Dismissal.”

Preparation

- Deacon helps priest into his vestments
- Priest enters chancel
- Priest washes hands, prays, and confesses sins
- Priest and altar servers go up to the bema (raised platform on which the altar rests)
- Priest and altar servers close curtain and prepare the nushkhar and wine for Holy Communion



1. Synaxis (the “teaching” part)

- Priest and altar servers leave the bema, make a procession around the church to bless the people, and return to the bema



- Deacon brings Gospel and presents it to the congregation
- Bible passages from prophecy and an epistle are read from the chancel to the congregation
- The deacon, on the bema, reads to the congregation from the Gospel
- Everyone in the church recites the Havadamk (Nicene Creed)



2. Holy Eucharist

- Deacon presents chalice to the priest
- Priest makes sign of the cross over congregation and places chalice on the altar
- Deacon brings *Vokhchooyn* (Kiss of Peace) to the people, who then give the *Vokhchooyn* to each other
- Priest blesses nushkhar and wine and says, “Take, eat; this is my body,” then holds up the chalice and says, “Drink ye all of this, this is my blood of the new covenant.”



- Congregation sings Hayr Mer
- People come forward for confession and Holy Communion



Last Blessing and Dismissal

- Priest comes down from the chancel and there is a final gospel reading.
- Congregation sings, “I



will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall at all times be on my lips.”

- Congregation comes forward to kiss the Gospel and cross themselves, and they say to the priest, “May the Lord remember all your sacrifices and may your offerings be acceptable to the Lord.”
- The congregation receives mas and exits the church.



Explore the Badarak

Fill in the missing words from each clue, copy them on the next page, and find them in the word search.

1. The holy picture of Mary and Jesus, the chalice, the Gospel, and the priest’s Liturgy book are some of the things found on the _____.

2. The raised platform in the church on which the altar rests is called the _____.

3. The deacon presents the priest with a _____ which contains the Communion bread and wine.

4. The _____ is the part of the church where the altar, priest, and choir are located.

5. Before we receive Holy Communion, we kneel and say the _____.

6. Another word for Holy Communion is _____.

7. During the part of the Badarak known as the synaxis, the deacon brings out the _____ and presents it to the congregation.

8. The deacon brings the Vokhchooyn, or _____ to the congregation so they may give it to one another.

9. The Badarak is also called the Divine _____.

10. At the end of the synaxis part of the Badarak, everyone in the church recites the Havadamk, which is also called the _____ Creed.

11. The teaching part of the Liturgy is known as the _____.

Faith Word

Gospels

The first 4 books of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) which tell about Jesus’ life and teachings

R A T L A G H G I C U N K E X
 Z R F N O Q L S O U R I I C V
 N Q R S Q E E N Z B I C S I N
 T L P J C C F B T W L E S L R
 S E D N O E D P R G N N O A G
 L T A T S I R A H C U E F H N
 K H N S L I T U R G Y E P C M
 C S I E N U J C L V T N E J S
 O O Y W M I C R Y C X F A X Q
 N G J N V T A D I S M O C O R
 B T I J A Z S B O U S E E Q D
 X A Y A C X G E A E Y B O B A
 U W R U T A I J V M T E L M K
 O L A F W K U S N M E L S M R
 H R P Q T N V F P L R B W E E

Explore the Badarak

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

In today's session, your child learned about our Divine Liturgy. Your son or daughter read that we come together on Sundays to share in the salvation Jesus offers us through his sacrifice, to enjoy the fellowship of other believers, and to be the Church. An outline of the *Badarak* followed, after which the children completed a word search using terms from the *Badarak*. Finally each student illustrated a page of the key elements of the Liturgy.

Family Faith Activity

Worshipping together is an important part of our Christian walk. Try to perform one of the following activities with your family.

- a. Have each member of the family tell what their favorite part of the church service is.
- b. Read aloud a passage from one of the Gospels each day.
- c. If available, listen to a recording of the *Badarak* or our hymns.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ___ and tried at least one activity as a family___.

Signed _____