

Liturgy: The Work of the People

Here I Am, Lord

Christ is revealed among us! He who is God is seated here. The voice of peace has resounded. A holy greeting is commanded. This church has now become one soul, the kiss is given to bind us completely together. Love is spread over us all; now, priests, lift up your voices, and give blessings together to the one God while the angels sing “holy, holy, holy!”



One Step Back...W O R S H I P!

1. The word Eucharist means

- a. sacrifice b. worship c. thanksgiving d. liturgy

2. In Armenian, the word *yergurbakootyoon* means

- a. thanksgiving b. sacrifice c. Holy Communion d. kissing the ground

3. The Divine Liturgy is divided into two parts. What is the first part called?.

- a. Liturgy of the Eucharist b. kiss of peace c. Liturgy of the Word d. procession

4. In what part of the liturgy do we sing the Hayr Mer?

- a. Liturgy of the Word b. Liturgy of the Eucharist

5. In what part of the liturgy do we pray the Havadamk?

- a. Liturgy of the Eucharist b. Liturgy of the Word

Worship in Action



Wow, tickets to a famous Broadway show in one of the city's most impressive theatres! You've been marking the days on your calendar for the past three months and now the big night is here. You've spent the entire day getting ready. You're ready to go an hour before it's time to leave; after all, you want to get there early so you can get a great seat! You walk down the center aisle and select a perfect center stage seat. You are in awe of the beauty of the theater...lush red velvet curtain, the orchestra ...this evening's performance would be one that you will remember for years to come. You settle comfortably in your seat and wait for the entertainment to begin.

You know, our churches sometimes resemble a theater: rows of pews, the curtain and the stage... It seems as though that is what some people expect when they attend Sunday Liturgy. They simply sit comfortably in their seat and wait to be entertained. But as we've already seen, liturgy is not at all a show -- it involves the effort and energy of the faithful. It involves our entire body and all of our senses. How are our senses engaged? What movements do we make in this "total spiritual workout"? Jot some answers down here:

Five times in the New Testament you will find reference to a 'holy kiss': Romans 16:16, I Corinthians 16:20, II Corinthians 13:12, I Thessalonians 5:26, I Peter 5:14 – "Greet one another with a kiss of love."

Christian Love... It's More Than Just A Kiss!

Last week we discovered that the Armenian word used for worship is *yergurbakootyoon* which literally means "kissing the ground." In an earlier session we talked about the "Kiss of Peace" which we share with one another during liturgy. Five times in the New Testament you will find reference to a 'holy kiss' and 'kiss of love' which was much more than a greeting. When we share this holy greeting with one another, we are literally saying that we forgive each other and also reconcile ourselves with God who is the truest example of forgiveness.

At the conclusion of Badarak we just don't leave, before we depart, we line up before the altar and one at a time, we kiss the Bible. This kiss is an affirmation of our relationship with God and his Word. Through this act each one of us is commissioned to **'go in peace to love and serve the world'**. Let us think about some attitudes and habits we can develop that will prepare us to reflect Christ to the world.



The Action Continues...

1. Matthew: 5:13
 2. Matthew 5:14
 3. 1 Peter 2:5
 4. 2 Corinthians 5:20
 5. 1 Peter 2:9
- a. ambassadors
 - b. chosen people
 - c. light
 - d. living stones
 - e. salt

1. What does it mean to be the salt of the earth?
2. How can you be a light for the world?
3. Name two things you can do to become living stones for God.
4. What is the job of an ambassador?
5. How can we be ambassadors for Christ?
6. What responsibilities do you have as a member of God's holy family?

SPECIAL • EYE WITNESS • REPORT



Seventh-Grader Serves at the Ararat Senior Home

Sevan Krikorian is a seventh-grader at Hovsepian Middle School. Like most boys his age, Sevan enjoys sports, video games and days off from school. But Sevan has found a way of spending his free time that is perhaps uncommon for a boy his age. Sevan spends his Saturday mornings at the Ararat Senior Home in West Hills California.

Sevan does not understand why 'hanging out' is such big news. He says, "Boys my age like to hang out. I've just found that I like to hang out here at the Ararat home. The residents are always so happy to see me, and appreciate the time that I spend with

them. They really like it when I get a bingo game going. Sometimes I bring my friend Ani, who plays the piano and gets a sing-along going. Really, I would recommend this for other kids...it's a great way to spend a Saturday morning."

Sevan says that he began coming to the nursing home when visiting his grandmother. But when his grandmother died last year, he just kept coming. Sevan insists that it is no big deal, but the staff and residents from the Ararat home who look forward to his weekly visits will tell a completely different story!

1. How are the residents of the Ararat Home benefiting from Sevan's volunteering?
2. What are the benefits *Sevan* experiences?
3. How do Sevan's visits take God's message to the world?
4. Name a way that you've lived God's message of love in your community.





Life Issue

What Does It Mean To Love The “Other?”

It is obvious by the amazing growth of the early Church that Christ’s followers demonstrated a lifestyle that caught people’s attention. People who observed this lifestyle were inspired by how Christ’s followers loved and cared for one another and for all those they came in contact with. These actions made them living witnesses of Christ and his mission; in other words they were living examples of Christ’s love.

Read Matthew 5: 23-24 and 43-48. What kind of love does Jesus ask of us in these verses?

Our Armenian Way

Kridsos ee mech mer haydnetsav—At every Armenian liturgy we declare that “Christ is revealed among us” but even more significantly *through* us! God wants to use each and every one of us to make a difference in the world. In the Gospel of Matthew 14:13-21 we hear the story of Jesus feeding a great multitude of people. Jesus was able to use one boy’s small lunch and feed thousands with it. In the same way, God can take whatever we have to offer him and bless it. Even though it does not look like anything, “little is much” when we offer it back to God for his blessing and glory!



The early Church built upon this concept of public worship as an expression of love. The word liturgy means: “the work of the people.” This work does not end when liturgy concludes. One of the goals of our worship is to actually become a life-giving source of love for the world which is what we pledge to do when we kiss the Gospel book at the end of Liturgy.

Closing Prayer

*Remind me, Lord
That I am the light of the world.
That a city set on a hill cannot be hidden.
A lamp is not lit and then put under a basket.
No, it's set on a stand*

*Where it gives light to all the house.
In the same way, let my light
Shine before all people
So that they may see goodness in what I do
And give praise to you, my heavenly Father.*

Inspired by Matthew 5:14-16