

Come, Let Us Worship!

Here I Am, Lord

A Glimpse of Glory

Lord Jesus,

*I need you to lead me up the mountain
because it is so easy for me to get discouraged.*

*Let me see your shining presence
because it is so easy for me to get distracted.*

*Help me focus on what your love requires of me
because it is so easy to want to keep things easy.*

*Lead me back down the mountain to everyday life with you by my side and help
me do what God asks me to do in the world.*



Divine Liturgy Soorp Badarak Մուրբ Պատարագ

How Do We Worship?

A. Liturgy Opinion Poll

Before we explore the unique way Armenians as Orthodox Christians worship let's take a Liturgy Opinion Poll. You'll be using an imaginary line at the front of the classroom to express your views.

Absolutely Agree

Sometimes Agree

Never Agree

1. I feel Badarak should be entertaining.
2. I feel that listening to the Good News of the Gospel helps me be a better person.
3. I believe that thanking God for all I have is very important.
4. I believe that celebrating Liturgy with my Armenian community is essential to my Christian life.
5. The hymns we sing during Badarak help me worship God.



B. What do you enjoy most about the Divine Liturgy?

- choir prayer sermon offering
- Scripture reading announcements singing Holy Communion
- other

Human beings do not need to be told to worship. It is our nature to do so... you might say we are 'wired' to worship. When we come to know and love God, we just naturally fall to our knees in awe and love (you'll read more about this today). But people who haven't come to know God can be caught up in "ignorant" worship, as we see in the story of Jesus and the Samaritan Woman. Or, we are misguided by evil impulses as the Devil tempted Jesus in the wilderness.



1. Read John 4:19-26. What does Jesus say to the Samaritan Woman in verses 22 - 24?

2. Read: Matthew 4:8-10. How did Jesus respond to Satan's offer of power in verse 10?

In Jesus' response to Satan he forever settled any discussion on the matter of who is to be the recipient of our worship. He said, "WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD."

The WOW Factor!

In Armenian one of the words we used for "worship" is *yergurbakootyoon* which literally means "kissing the ground." That says a great deal about what we as Armenians feel about what we do every Sunday morning... to kiss the ground you have to fall to your knees! How many of us truly feel that sense of awe and thanksgiving we should have for our God who not only created us, but came down from heaven and became human in a desire to be one with us?



Can you remember any other stories in the Bible where we read about people falling to their knees (or amazed, or filled with awe-inspired terror) when they encountered Jesus? Draw a line from each verse to the matching encounter.

WOW Stories

1. Mark 5: 25-34

2. Matthew 2: 1-2, 11

3. Luke 2:15-20

4. Matthew 8:2

5. Mark 7:25

6. Matthew 17:6

Who Was It?

a. The mother of the possessed child

b. Disciples (Peter, James and John)

c. The shepherds in the fields

d. A woman who Jesus healed

e. The magi -- visitors from the East

f. Man with dreaded skin disease



Our Armenian Way Sunday Morning Live!

Badarak is not a spectator sport! From its Greek root, the word "liturgy" literally means "work of the people." The very meaning of the word tell us that we need to *participate* in the service. That is why like all ancient Christian churches, the faithful of the Armenian Church worship not only in words, but also in gestures and rituals, beyond what we can ever say in words.

The word we use for our Sunday Liturgy is Badarak which means "sacrifice" -- a reference to the sacrifice that Christ made for us. We share in his body and blood in the form of the sacrament of *Soorp Haghortootoon* or Holy Communion. Upon the holy altar, simple bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ. This transformation of physical elements takes place by the power of the Holy Spirit as the priest prays the Eucharistic Prayer and we sing *Vortee Asdoodzo*. We can then approach the 'table' to share in the most important meal of the Christian family.

But, like any other great meal, there is planning, preparation, and conclusion. The Divine Liturgy is divided into two main parts. The first part is the "**Liturgy of the Word**" and the second, the "**Liturgy of the Eucharist**". Let us see how much we know about our *Badarak*.

Pretend that you are in charge of the announcement board at your parish. Your task is to help the parishioners know what happens during the two different parts of the Liturgy. You will find information in the box below; it's your job to put them in their proper place and, as much as possible, in the proper order.

What Happens When?



Parish Name _____

Liturgy of the Word

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

The deacon holds up the Gospel book

Kiss of Peace

Priest vests

Bread and wine become Body and Blood

Reading the Gospel

Havadamk (Creed)

Sing Soorp Asdvadz

Sing Hayr Mer

Holy Communion

Priest confesses his sins

Priest receives the chalice

Kiss the Gospel book

Confess our sins

Procession into the church to the altar

Worship is a gift from God, who thinks of everything. He set aside one day of the week for us to rest from our labors so we might spend extra time in God's presence and enjoy the world he made especially for us.

Life Issue

Why do I need to go to church? I don't get it!

Here are some points to consider to help you understand why the Divine Liturgy is so important. Attending *Badarak*...

1. Strengthens your relationship with the Lord
2. Grants forgiveness and renewal through Holy Communion
3. Helps you avoid the temptations of sins
4. Builds up the bonds of love among members of the church
5. Makes possible the happiness that God intended for you!

Our Church has thought of everything...not only does she give us the gift of worship, but she also invites us to participate with our gifts and talents. Many times when you are personally involved in something you take ownership and put your all into it. It is a perfect way for you to worship and give thanks to God, by giving back to him your talents for his glory!



Stepping Up

What roles can young people your age take in the liturgy at your parish? Check all the following that apply. Then circle the activities that you will try (talk with your pastor or parish council chairperson).

- > Sing in choir
- > Serve on the altar
- > Take the offering
- > Take Mahs to the ill and shut-ins in your community
- > Help organize the candle and flower donation
- > Pass the Kiss of Peace
- > Greet people as they arrive at church
- > Help make Mahs

Do you sometimes complain that you "*do not get anything out of Liturgy*"? Remember that the best way to find meaning in the liturgy is to understand it and to participate as fully as possible in whatever roles are open to you. If you have specific concerns about liturgy at your parish, talk seriously about them with your priest, parents, or Sunday school teachers. They will be glad to help you find ways to address your concerns.

We give thanks to you Lord, who has fed us at your table of eternal life;
you shared your body and blood to save the world and to give our souls life.

Kohanamk uzken Der vor geragretser uzmez hanmahagan seghano ko.

Pashkhelev uzmarment yev zaryoont ee purgootyoon ashkharee.

yev gyank antzants merots.

*Kohanamk (We Give Thanks)
Armenian Badarak Hymn*

