

Liturgy: Starting Over Every Week

Here I Am, Lord

Der vorghormia. Lord have mercy...

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

All-holy Trinity, grant peace to the world, healing to the sick, and the kingdom to those who passed away. Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Jesus Savior, have mercy on us.



Free to Say Yes....and No

Everyone knows stories from the Bible about people who said 'yes' to God: Moses who followed the directions God gave him from the burning bush. Noah who built and filled the ark exactly as God instructed. And then there was Abraham who was even willing to sacrifice his own son at God's request. And Mary who said 'yes' even though she did not fully understand what God was asking of her.

But no one ever said yes as completely and with as much personal pain as Jesus. His willingness to obey his Father's will and suffer and die on the cross fulfilled God's plan of salvation for all humanity. His suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension not only saved us from sin...but gave us new life!

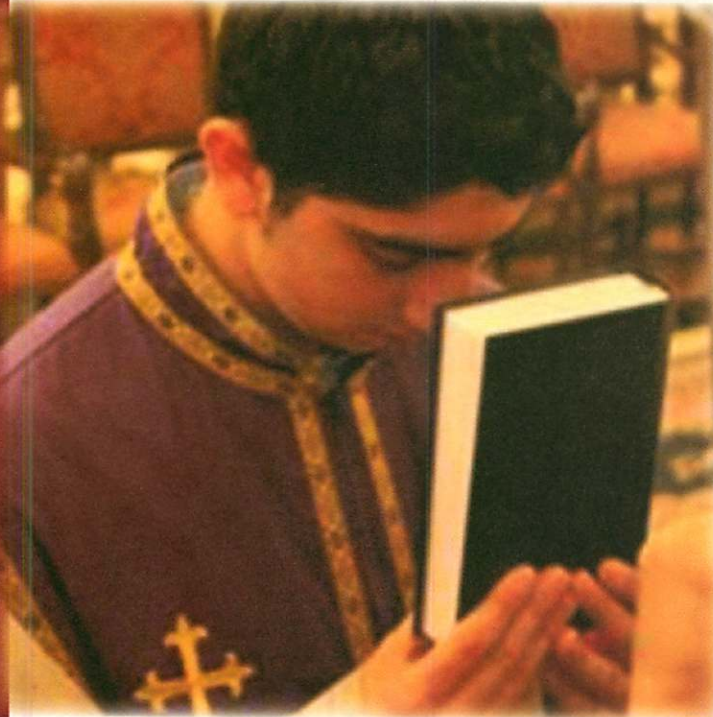
When we are baptized we are grafted onto the Body of Christ -- the family of believers -- and also given the grace to live in a way that is pleasing to God. In past lessons we learned how this grace fills us with the power we need to serve as God's ambassadors.

But grace does not take away our free will. God's greatest gift to us is our ability to make our own choices. Our human nature makes us subject to error and inclined to sin. The good news is that every day we have the opportunity to start over! Every week during the Divine Liturgy we have the opportunity to kneel in God's presence, to ask for forgiveness and to be absolved of our sins. Every week our slate is cleaned and we can start over again.



When We Have Missed the Mark

Even before we approach the altar to kneel and confess before Holy Communion, we could reflect on those things that we might have done or not done that hurt our relationships with parents, siblings, friends, teachers and God. This can help us to be ready to confess them as we receive God's forgiveness through the priest's intercession.



Let's look at the Confession Prayer together – it covers every possible sin that we humans can commit! You will recognize the prayer...but perhaps not completely understand what the words mean.

I ask for forgiveness for the sins that I have committed in thought, word and deed willingly and unwillingly. Knowingly and unknowingly...

When video games are more important than....
When I have been untruthful and made up excuses rather than

When I have said something that hurts another, instead of....
When I have been insensitive to the feelings and needs of....

Megha Asdoodzo...I have sinned against God

When I have been disobedient or misbehaved through pride, anger, laziness, covetousness, gluttony and lust...

Whenever I was unable to admit I was wrong, like when...
Whenever I have argued too easily with....
When I slept in instead of helping with ...
When I was greedy and...
When I overeat or stuff myself with....
For failing to be a sign of peace and friendship to...
Megha Asdoodzo...I have sinned against God

When I have sinned against all the commandments by either not doing what I should or by doing what I shouldn't...

When I failed to put my relationship with God before....
When I act like movie stars and sports celebrities
When I was asked to pray for and I never did.
When I missed church because....
When I am disobedient and rude to....
When I lied about...
When I took ..., which I knew did not belong to me.
When I betrayed my friend by...
Megha Asdoodzo...I have sinned against God

When I have purposely kept away from good deeds...

When I could have been a peacemaker but ...
When I could have helped my mom or dad with the chores but ...
When I have been unwilling to forgive ...
Because I continue to be selfish with my time and talent and did not...

Megha Asdoodzo...God I have sinned against you. Help me to recognize the generosity of your forgiveness and love. Help me also to have the strength and courage to follow the ways of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Megha Asdoodozo

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Top Stories Luke 22:1-38

Forgiveness is at the heart of the life and teachings of Jesus. As God forgives us, Jesus asks us to extend the same generosity to others. To forgive and accept forgiveness is an important part of the Christian way of life.

Look up the following scripture passages about forgiveness. Answer the question. Choose a headline that matches each story. Write the headline next to the story

1. Luke 22:1-6:

Q. What were the chief priests and the scribes looking to do with the help of one of Jesus' disciples?
A.

2. Luke 22:7-13:

Q. Where did Jesus instruct Peter and John to go to prepare for the Passover celebration?
A.

3. Luke 22:20:

Q. What did Jesus say his blood was?
A.

4. Luke 22:19:

Q. After Jesus gave thanks, what did he say the bread was and what was it for?
A.



5. Luke 22:26:

Q. Jesus said that the greatest among you would do what?
A.

6. Luke 22:34:

Q. What did Jesus say that Peter would do?
A.

7. Luke 22:35:

Q. What three things did Jesus say he sent his disciples out with?
A.

HEADLINE

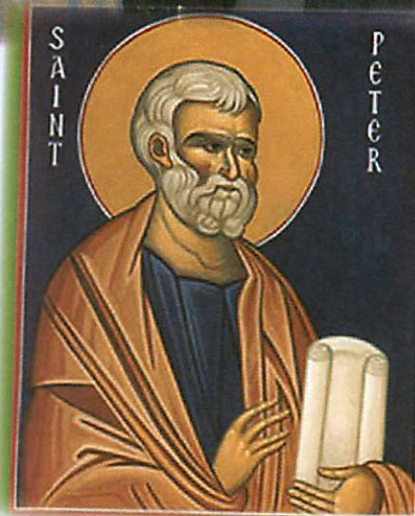
1. He Provides Everything For The Trip!
2. A Contract Signed In Blood!
3. Wonder Bread... True Soul Food!
4. Servants Take The Lead!
5. One Of The Twelve Accepts A Bribe!
6. As The Cock Strikes Three!
7. A Room For The Party!

Our Armenian Way

It Happens Every Sunday....Confession ...Communion...
Conversion...Reconciled... Rescued...Renewed

Our Divine Liturgy provides us an opportunity every Sunday to start the week with a fresh slate. In the Armenian Church, it's by means of a group confession, in the presence of the community. And as we saw above, it's a chance as well to think concretely and specifically of just how we each might have missed the mark. It's hard to be perfect; we know that "the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:41)

Peter' denial of Christ is a perfect example. He truly wanted to be there for Christ, his beloved friend and teacher, but fear overcame him and he deserted the Lord when he needed him most! The Scripture tells us that when Peter recognized his failure he wept bitterly. But he understood God's love, and repented and went on to be a passionate witness for Christ.



Life Issue

Why do I need forgiveness—a fresh new start?

God thinks of everything. Liturgy is everything we need! Every Sunday, right before we receive Holy Communion, we receive the sacrament of penance/confession as a community. Through the sacrament of confession, the Lord has promised a way for sinners to be reconciled to God and to the Church community ...and there are other benefits we receive ...

- Reconciliation with God
- Reconciliation with the Church
- Peace of mind and conscience
- Spiritual comfort
- Strengthening our spiritual "muscles"

Closing Prayer

Again in peace let us pray to the Lord: Lord have mercy! Amen.