

The Cross is a Special Sign



WE PRAY TOGETHER



Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyn Srpo.

Dear Holy Father, the cross reminds us of your promise that you will be with us always. Amen.



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Silva and her family were going to visit her grandparents. As they neared the town where her grandparents lived, Silva noticed a very large cross on the steeple of a church. It was so big! She wondered how it stayed up there. She turned to her sister, Mary, and said, "Look at that cross!"

They passed two more churches before arriving at their grandparents' home.

One of the churches had a round roof with a cross on top. It reminded Silva of her church. "That is an Armenian Church," she said to her sister.

Their grandparents were outside waiting for them. "Medz Mama, Medz Baba, on our way, we saw three churches. One was different than the others."

The girls had a lot to tell their grandparents.

Grandpa explained, "The one that you describe is an Armenian Church. I am glad you recognized that it was different from the others. That round thing is called a dome. Armenian churches have that with the Armenian cross on top. Girls, how was that cross different than the two others you saw?"



GOD'S WORD TO US

Jesus was carrying a heavy cross to a hill. He stumbled a few times and could not carry the cross any more. The soldiers saw a man in the crowd called Simon of Cyrene. They put the cross on his back so he could carry it the rest of the way. The soldiers were under orders to take Jesus to the hill, called Golgotha, and to place him on the cross. Two other men were also being taken to the hill.



A large crowd was following Jesus. They were crying for him. "Do not cry for me," he told them.

Luke 23:26-43

WE LEARN ABOUT GOD



A man named Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus down from the cross, wrapped Jesus' body in a white linen cloth and placed him in a tomb cut out of rock. A large stone was placed in front of the opening.

A day later, a few women came to the tomb and found the stone had been rolled away, and there was no one inside the tomb. What had happened? They did not know what to think. Two angels in shining white clothes appeared to tell the women that Jesus was in heaven.

We believe that Jesus is in heaven. We believe that Jesus loves us very much.

OUR ARMENIAN WAY



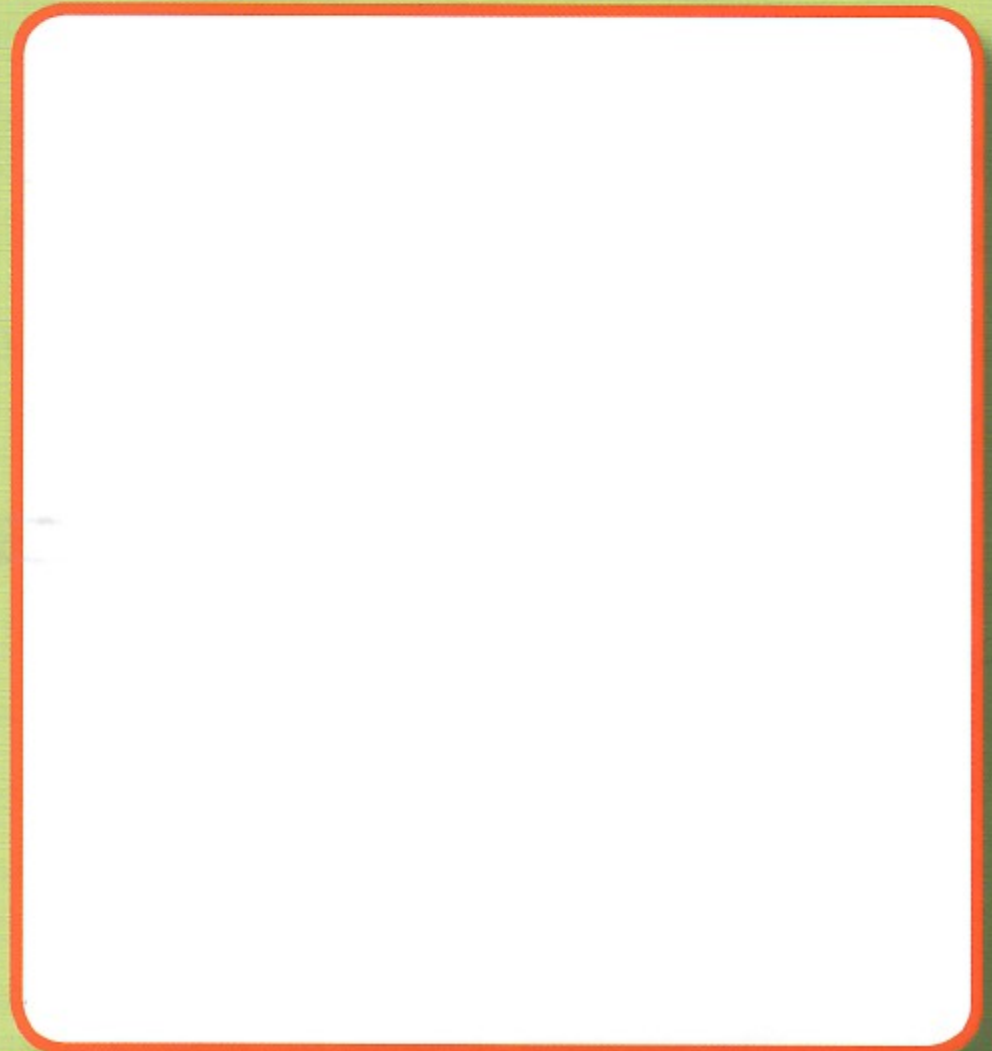
In the Armenian Church, the cross does not show a figure of Jesus on it because we want to show that Jesus rose from the dead and lives forever.

You will see many different kinds of crosses being used in the Armenian Church. There is a baptismal cross, given to a baby when he or she is baptized; there is a cross in the center of the Holy Altar; there is a hand cross that the priest holds; there is a cross, called a pectoral cross, that hangs around the neck of a priest.

There are khachkars (stone crosses). These are slabs of stone with a cross carved on them. Each khachkar is different. You will find many khachkars in Armenia.

WE CELEBRATE

Draw an Armenian cross
in this space





FAMILY PAGE

SHARING OUR FAITH

Today the focus for the children was the special place of the cross in the Armenian Church. They heard the story of the cross that Jesus carried to his crucifixion and the story of the empty tomb. Because we want to dwell lovingly on Jesus' resurrection, Armenian crosses do not show the crucified body of Christ. Crosses appear in many places in the church. Armenia is covered with khachkars (stone crosses), historic monuments to our faith over the centuries.

LIVING OUR FAITH

Your child made an Armenian cross today. We practiced making the sign of the cross in Armenian and English.

With your child, continue the practice of making the sign of the cross before and after prayers.

*Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yer Hokvooyn Srpo.
Amen.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- When you attend church as a family, ask your child to look for crosses.

