

Unit Four* The Church Family* Being Together Our Gifts to God Become Jesus



We Speak to God

Dear Jesus, thank you for the chance each Sunday to share in your life through Holy Communion. Thank you for your precious gifts of love and forgiveness +Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyn Srpo. Amen.

Let's Talk

Everything we have is a gift from God: love, faith, communion, forgiveness, hope, trust. These gifts never wear out. They are ours to keep forever.

In return, we can show God, through our acts of love, faith, kindness, and our prayers, that we are spiritually strong. What does that mean?

We are spiritually strong when our faith is part of everything we do.



Listen to This

Lisa was in church with her class. She remembered the lesson of the Last Supper. Her teacher had explained it the week before, and now the class waited and watched to hear Jesus' words spoken by the priest.



Lisa remembered what her teacher had said about Jesus. Lisa thought about him on that night. He was with his friends, yet he felt alone. He knew what was going to happen to him, and he wondered what his friends would do after he was gone. Then Lisa heard the priest say the words,

“Arek, gerek, ays eh marmeen eem...”

“Ays eh aryoon eem noro ookhdee...”

Lisa remembered what these words meant. She closed her eyes for a moment and imagined herself with Jesus and the disciples at the Last Supper. Jesus shared the bread and wine as a way of sharing his life with everyone.

God Speaks to Us

Jesus was with his friends the night before he died. They were together to celebrate the Feast of Passover. While they were eating the special meal, Jesus took some plain bread. He blessed and broke it. Then he gave it to his disciples. “Eat this and remember me. This is my body.”



Next, Jesus took a cup of wine. He gave it to his disciples saying, “Drink this and remember me. This is my blood.”

Luke 22:14-20

We Learn About God

When After the Passover meal, Jesus and his apostles went to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus spoke to the disciple Peter. "I have prayed that you will be strong. Be ready to help the others."

Peter answered, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to jail and even to die with you."

Jesus replied, "I tell you that before a rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will say three times that you don't know me."

Jesus walked on a little way to pray. "Father, please do not make me suffer. But do what you want and not what I want."

The soldiers came to the Garden. Jesus was arrested and led away to the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance; and when a servant girl saw him, she said, "This man was with Jesus."

"Woman, I don't even know that man!"

A little while later, a woman said, "You are one of them."

"No, I am not!"

About an hour later, another man insisted, "This man must have been with Jesus. They both came from Galilee."

"I don't know what you are talking about!"

Right then, while Peter was answering the man, a rooster crowed. Peter remembered Jesus' words and sat down and cried.

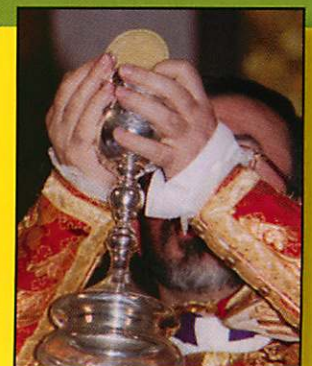
Why did Peter say that he did not know Jesus?

As Christ had predicted, Peter denied him three times. Peter felt sorry almost immediately for what he had done. He spent the rest of his life traveling to many lands, preaching Jesus' message and converting people to Christianity. He became what Jesus wanted him to be – strong in his faith.



Hearts and Hands

It was the custom, and it still is, to take home the nushkhar given to you by the priest and to place it in a container of flour, rice, lentils or other such grains. It is felt that the nushkhar is a gift from Jesus and, placing it in one of the containers of grain will keep it plentiful and the persons eating it, healthy.



Our Armenian Way



To make the nushkhar (the wafer) used during Holy Communion, the priest mixes flour and water to make dough. With something that looks like a wooden cookie cutter, the priest stamps the dough with an imprint of a cross and presses the nushkhar into its round shape. Then the newly-prepared nushkhars are baked.

At the time of Holy Communion, the priest will break pieces of the wafer into the wine and give it to the members of the congregation who are prepared to receive Holy Communion.

For My Family



Sharing Our Faith

Today's lesson was about the Last Supper and how every Sunday in Holy Communion we receive the gifts of the bread and wine Jesus shared with his apostles. The priest reminds us of Jesus' own words when he says "Arek, gerek", "Take. Eat." The bread and wine becomes Christ's Body and Blood through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We spoke about being spiritually strong. The children were told the story of the disciple Peter and his lack of courage to stand fast in his faith. When the Lord said, "You will deny me three times," Peter firmly replied that he would not. Peter replied firmly that he would not, but he did end up denying Jesus three times. But, later, he was one of the great champions of the faith.

Living Our Faith

1. Attend church as a family to receive Holy Communion.
2. After the hymn Soorp, Soorp (Holy, Holy), listen for the words spoken by Jesus Christ, "Arek, gerek, ays eh marmeen eem..." (Take, eat, this is my body...)
3. Encourage your child to tell you about the disciple Peter.
4. Display your child's nushkhar coloring page and ask what was learned about the nushkhar (wafer) in class.