

# Let Us Bow Down Before God!

## *A Walk Through the Badarak*

UNIT  
2  
Lesson  
Three



### Prayer Starter

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

Dear Lord, thank you for our church family and for all the beautiful ways you have given us to know you. Help us open our hearts to you in prayer, at church, with our family and friends, and in all creation. These are all your gifts to us. Amen.

### Hye-Q

“Kreesdos ee mech mer haydnetsav.” (‘Christ is revealed among us.’)

Քրիստոսս ի մէջ մեր յայտնեցաւ

“Orhnyal eh haydnootyoonun Kreesdosee.” (‘Blessed is the revelation of Christ.’)

Օրհնեալ է յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի

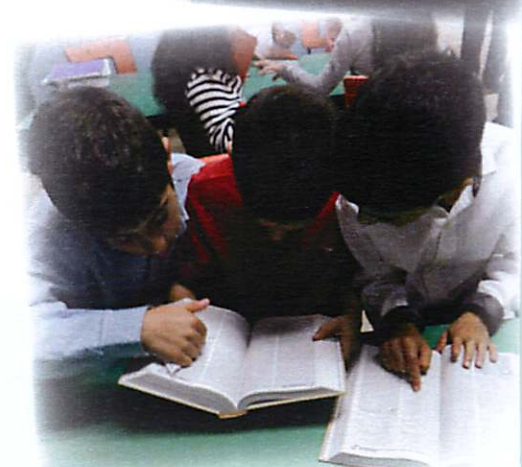
## Daily Bread

Every Sunday we are invited to take part in a very important gathering - the Divine Liturgy or Soorp Badarak. On that day, we are together with our church family, worshipping God, remembering the story of Jesus and sharing in Jesus’ life through Holy Communion. We attend Sunday School for part of that time, but we’re still all together as a church family.

When we leave the church at the end of the service, we kiss the Gospel and go back out into the world with the love of Jesus Christ inside us and on our lips.

The Divine Liturgy service book is a great help when you worship. What do you notice about it?

1. It’s in four languages! Armenian, English, old (or classical) Armenian, and something we call “transliteration.” That’s a way of spelling out a word in Armenian into English letters. Here’s an example: **Քրիստոսս=Kreesdos**
2. It is in two parts: the first half is in Armenian; the second in English.
3. It includes the hymns we sing.
4. It explains what’s going on.
5. It has pictures to help us understand.



# The Divine Liturgy



## 1. Preparation:

This is the very beginning of the service where the priest prepares himself to celebrate the service with the people in the church. He puts on special vestments (we can't see this part) and washes his hands and confesses before he approaches the altar.



## 2. The Teaching:

(Called the Synaxis or Liturgy of the Word) During this section of the service, we hear readings from the Bible, especially the Gospels, say the Creed together—which states what we, as Armenian Christians, believe—and pray for the church and its people. This starts on page 11 in the pew book.

The Psalms are a set of 150 prayer-poems that are a part of the Old Testament of the Bible. They are filled with all kinds of feelings: sadness, hopelessness, anger, joy, and fear among many others! But all of these beautiful prayers are also about trusting God. Many of them appear in our Divine Liturgy.

## 3. The Eucharist:



We share the Kiss of Peace, sing the Lord's prayer or Hayr Mer. Through the prayers of the priest and the people, the bread and wine are transformed by the Holy Spirit into the body and blood of Jesus; then we ask for forgiveness of sins and receive Holy Communion. This starts on page 23 in the pew book.

## 4. Dismissal and blessing:

In the last part of the service, we say final prayers, the priest blesses us, and we kiss the Gospel book, taking our faith out into the world with us. This starts on page 50 in the pew book.



Did you know...!?



## SCRIPTURE SOURCE

I wash my hands in innocence, and go about your altar, O Lord, proclaiming aloud your praise and telling of all your wonderful deeds. I love the house where you live, O Lord, the place where your glory dwells.” *Psalm 26:6-8*

At the very beginning of every *Soorp Badarak*, the priest washes his hands and recites Psalm 26 from the Bible. This is a symbol of “being pure and clean” as he is about to perform an important duty – celebrating the *Badarak*! There are many other symbolic actions during this service.. When we understand the meaning behind the actions, we can appreciate the service more and it will not seem boring to us.

## In the Armenian Tradition

The special clothes a priest wears at Badarak are called vestments. These are based on the dress of Old Testament priests of the Temple. Their vestments were made of beautiful fabrics and precious metals and jewels. Over centuries of Armenian Church history, each piece of the vestment has changed a bit in style, but not really that much. Think about how different fashions are today from just 100 years ago. The reason vestments have not changed very much is because each piece has a deep and ancient meaning. They help give spiritual strength to the priest.



## BIBLE BYTES

**Ephod** *An ephod is an embroidered vestment believed to look like an apron with shoulder straps, worn by priests in ancient Israel. In the Old Testament book, Exodus 28, God tells Moses about what a priest should wear. He refers to an ephod with a breastplate as part of that outfit and describes how to make it.*

## Well Versed

“For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

*Psalm 100:5*

# CELEBRATE WITH GOD



The **crown**... is a “helmet of salvation” to fight against evil.



The **belt**... puts a circle of faith around heart and mind.



The **shabig**... is a “robe of gladness” a sign of purity of heart and innocence.



The **cuffs**... give strength and cleanness to the hands.



The **stole**... covers the neck with “righteousness” a sign of a clean heart.



The **collar**... again, covers the neck with “righteousness” and cleanness.



The **cape**... gives strength against evil.



**Slippers**... with designs of scorpions and snakes, are symbols of trampling on evil.

## Family Focus

Our Third Grade went into church today to be present for the Kiss of Peace. An in-church assignment was to observe the special clothing the priest wears. Back in the classroom, we learned more about the Soorp Badarak, our Divine Liturgy, and the Psalms, and made a vestment doll complete with paper vestments as a review.

### Living Your Faith

1. Have your child show you the vestment doll he or she created.
2. Look through the Bible with your child and read some of the psalms together. Several psalms are recited or sung during the Badarak, especially Psalm 24: 7-10; Psalm 34: 1, Psalm 113:2.
3. Look at **Bible Bytes** in this lesson. With your child, do an internet search for this word. Compare pictures of the ancient Jewish “Ephod” with the modern-day Armenian vestments. Discuss the similarities and differences with your child.