

The Faith Journey

Lesson 7

Unit Three

We Are The Church

Here I Am, Lord

We have been filled with your good things, O Lord,
Lutzak ee parootyantz kotz Der,

Լցաք ի բարութեանց քոց Տէր,

by tasting of your Body and Blood.
Jashagelov uzarmeen ko yev zaryoon.

Ճաշակելով զմարմին քո եւ զարիւն:

Glory in the highest to you who have fed us.
Park ee partzoonus geragrogheet uzmez.

Փառք ի բարձունս կերակրողիդ զմեզ:

You who continually feed us,
Vor yev hanabaz geragres uzmez

Որ եւ հանապազ կերակրես զմեզ,

Send down upon us your spiritual blessing. Amen.
Arakya ee mez uzhokevor ko zorhnootyoon.

Առաքեա ի մեզ զհոգեւոր քո զօրհնութիւն:

Glory in the highest to you who have fed us.
Park ee partzoonus geragrogheet uzmez.

Փառք ի բարձունս կերակրողիդ զմեզ:

From "Lutzak," the hymn after Holy Communion



What are the good things with which God fills your life?



One Step Back

1. In our last session we explored our faith story and God's great promise to the Armenian people. It's the same promise that God made to the House of Israel in Jeremiah 31:33.

What was it?

- a. I will put my laws in their minds
- b. I will write my laws on their hearts
- c. I will be their God and they shall be my people
- d. All of the above

2. We looked at our faith story as organized into six main chapters. Number them in their correct order.

- a. The Covenant of Abraham—when God chose one man and all his descendents to come ____
- b. Jesus—the word made flesh who came to restore the relationship with our Creator ____
- c. Creation—a relationship which pleased God ____
- d. The end times—when our relationship with God will be fully renewed and restored ____
- e. Christ's followers—witnessing our belief ____
- f. The fall of humankind ____

3. Where was the first Armenian Church built?

- a. Holy Cross in Union City, New Jersey
- b. Armenian Church of Our Saviour in Worcester, Massachusetts
- c. St. John's Armenian Church in Southfield, Michigan
- d. St. Mary Armenian Church in Yetem, California

4. The Armenian Church of North America was established officially by

- a. St Gregory the Illuminator
- b. Catholicos Mgrdich Khrimian
- c. St. Paul the Apostle
- d. None of the above

5. St. Paul

- a. Was baptized a Christian at an early age
- b. Was famous for persecuting Christians
- c. Wrote most of the New Testament letters to individual newly-baptized Christians
- d. Went on many missionary journeys

Christ Lives in Us Through the Holy Spirit!

In our last session, we looked at the six main “chapters” of our faith story. In that outline, it's easy to see that we are living in the same time period as St. Paul and all the apostles, along with the Christians of the Early Church, our Armenian martyrs and Christian ancestors...all of us are Christ's followers. What binds us all together is our initiation into life with Christ through baptism and our life together in his Church .

Right before he returned to his Father, Jesus commissioned his disciples to share the good news of salvation with the whole world.

Read John 16: 7, 12-15.

- 1. What reasons for leaving did Jesus offer his disciples? (v 7)
- 2. What will the Holy Spirit do for the apostles? (13)
- 3. What will the Holy Spirit do for Jesus? (v 14)

Read Acts 2:42-47

List four of the thing the new converts devoted themselves to in verse 42.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____



Gifts That Keep On Giving

In approximately A.D. 56, St Paul wrote a letter to a new Christian community in Corinth that was having problems. His letter was not meant to scold them but to encourage and guide them. By the time we arrive at chapter 12, we begin to understand what God's idea of Church is. First we are called to gather. Then we are called to discover our God-given gifts and use them to be a light to the world, just as the apostles were.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord."

1 Corinthians 12: 4-5

Wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, working of miracles, prophecy, judgment of gifts, speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues.... In verse 7



Paul explains why these gifts are given to us. What is the reason? _____

2. Read 1 Corinthians 12: 12-26

With what image does Paul illustrate the unity of believers? _____

3. Read I Corinthians 12: 27-29. What gifts are identified? What are your gifts? How do you use them to serve your parish?

4. Read Galatians 5: 22-25. These verses describe the qualities of people who are "in step with the Spirit" (v. 25). List them here; there are nine.

Our Armenian Way

Decades ago in Armenian villages, the 'dzookh'—which has come to be the word for "parish" but which literally means "smoke"—was defined by groups of chimneys or homes. In this way two or three village priests would divide the care of the flock in a town. They would bless the homes of families in their jurisdiction. It was and still is an Armenian tradition to bless the homes of the faithful, especially during the Easter and Christmas seasons.



Fill Me, Lord

Fill me O Lord, with the goodness of the fruit that comes from your Holy Spirit.

Fill me with love, so that I will seek to understand and appreciate...

Fill me with joy, so that I can celebrate your presence...

Fill me with peace, so that I know how to...

Fill me with patience, so that I stop rushing long enough to...

Fill me with kindness, so that I take the extra time to...

Fill me with faithfulness, so that I place my mind and heart...

Fill me with gentleness, so that others know that...

Fill me with self-control, so that I act...

Fill me with these fruits of your spirit, Lord I pray! Amen