

# The Passion: The Road to Resurrection

## Pray Together

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyv Surpo, Amen. Dearest Lord Jesus, there is no way we can properly thank you for going to the Cross so we can live forever in Heaven. Please help us to live our lives in a way that makes others want to know about you. Amen.

## Chapter Checkup

Circle the correct answer.

1. In the Old Testament, God gave his laws to the \_\_\_\_\_ people.

- a. Roman    b. Palestinian    c. Jewish    d. European

2. Most of the powerful teachers of Jesus' time

- a. welcomed him because they were hungry for his word.  
b. made him comfortable when he traveled from town to town.  
c. provided food for the crowds who came to hear him.  
d. chased him from town to town and made plans to kill him.

3. Many of the powerful Old Testament teachers were called

- a. Pharisees    b. Babylonians    c. Athenians    d. professors

4. Standing up for your Christian beliefs requires

- a. saints.    b. arguing.    c. courage.    d. conformity.

5. Saint Gregory the Enlightener was imprisoned because he

- a. stole food to feed the poor.  
b. killed the evil king.  
c. tried to attack Armenia.  
d. refused to worship the king's false god.

## Faith Word

### *Sacrifice*

The giving up of something highly valued, an offering



## The Supreme Sacrifice

Read Romans 5:7-8.

What things might be important enough that a person might be willing to sacrifice his or her life for them?  
Write your ideas below.

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## The Most Holy Time

The time between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday is known in Armenian as “Avak Shapat,” or Great or Holy Week. On Palm Sunday, we remember the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. His followers were so happy to see him they lined the road where he was riding on a donkey. They shouted with joy and lined the street with palm leaves and their cloaks. In the Armenian Church, we celebrate this exciting day by opening the curtain to our beautiful altars, which have been closed since the beginning of Lent.

On Holy Monday, Jesus again entered Jerusalem, after having spent the night in Bethany. On this day he chased people out of the temple because they were buying and selling things in God’s house of prayer. On Holy Tuesday, we remember the parable of the Ten Maidens, which appears in Matthew 25:1-13. This parable reminds us that we must always be ready for Jesus to return.

Holy Wednesday is a sad occasion when we remember how Judas made an agreement to point Jesus out to the high priests so they could arrest and kill him.

Holy Thursday commemorates Jesus’ Last Supper. He knew that in a few hours he would be arrested, beaten, and crucified. The sacrament of communion originated at the Last Supper, when Jesus passed the bread and wine. As he did this, he told the

disciples to remember that the bread was his body which was about to be sacrificed, and the wine was his blood which would spill out of his wounds. The Armenian Church marks this occasion with the beautiful “Vodunlva” service, or the Washing of the Feet. During the Last Supper, Jesus, God’s own Son, tenderly washed the dusty feet of his disciples. He did this in order to show them, and us, that we must follow him by being humble and serving others.

After the supper with his disciples, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. He knew the terrors that awaited him, and he asked the Father if he could be spared the ordeal. He prayed this way twice, but each time he said, “yet not my will, but yours be done.” (Luke 22:42) Even though Jesus did not want to suffer and die, he obeyed the will of the Father so that we could have our sins forgiven. Opening up the way to heaven for us was more important to Jesus than avoiding the horrible tortures that he suffered. Jesus did not run away from his punishment so that we may escape ours! We share in this long night of prayer in the Vigil Service or *Khavaroom*, during which 12 candles are extinguished, two by two.





On Holy Friday, of course, we remember the crucifixion and burial of Jesus with a solemn church service which we call *Taghoom* or Burial. Holy Saturday is a day of quiet excitement, when Armenian Christians everywhere wait for the joyous Easter Eve and Easter Sunday service. We are so happy because Jesus overcame death. Through his death and resurrection, we can trust him to forgive our sins and guide us safely to the Father in heaven!

## Answer the questions by filling in the blanks.

1. "Avak Shapat" is the time between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The parable of the \_\_\_\_\_ reminds us that we must always be ready to meet Jesus.
3. At the \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus shared bread and wine with the disciples and initiated the sacrament of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. In the Garden of \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus asked the Father to spare him from his punishment.
5. By suffering, dying, and rising from the dead, Jesus showed us he has the power to forgive us our \_\_\_\_\_.

## A Single Heartbeat

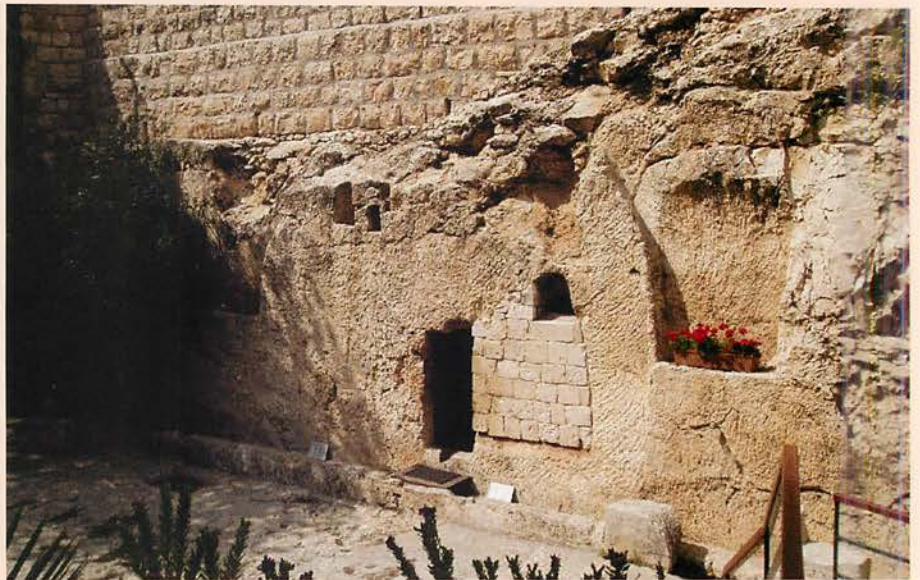
What does it really mean when we talk about Jesus' resurrection? How could someone come alive once they are dead? Jesus was crucified. The soldiers made certain he was dead. Jesus was wrapped for burial and placed in the tomb. The soldiers placed a guard around the tomb so that the disciples could not steal Jesus' body and then say he had walked out of the grave. (Matthew 27:62-66)

Inside the tomb, it was dark, cool, and silent. Jesus lay dead and still. His friends had left. They are sad because they believe all their hope in him is gone. The guards carefully watched the entrance. Friday night and Saturday pass quietly. Sunday morning dawns.

Suddenly, from inside the tomb – a single heartbeat. Then another.

And another. Jesus' loving heart begins to beat in a steady rhythm. He breathes and begins to stir. He stands and pulls off the burial cloth. The stone rolls away from the entrance to the tomb and he walks out.

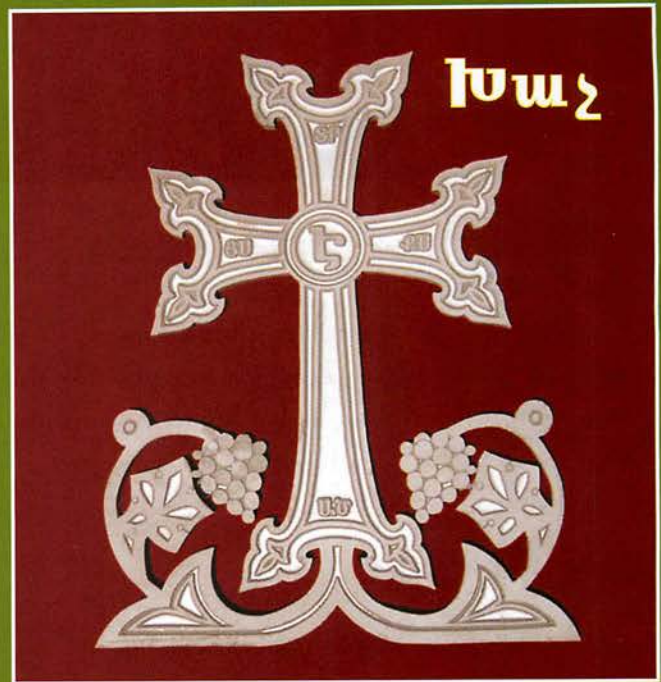
Jesus' friends come to visit the tomb and see the stone rolled away and the grave empty! They remember what he said: "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again." (Luke 24:7-8) They realize what this means. Jesus was indeed the Son of God! If he can overcome death itself, he can surely forgive our misdeeds!





# Our Armenian Way

Have you ever noticed that some crosses are shown with Jesus on them, and others do not? Our Armenian crosses are shown without the body of Jesus because we want to honor his resurrection and remember him alive, victorious over death. Armenian crosses usually have beautiful carving or decorations of grapes and wheat to celebrate life



## FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



### Lesson Roundup

Today your child learned about the events of Holy Week. In order to understand Jesus' death on the cross, they discussed things that are so important that one might agree to die for them. The students also made a decorated cross to remember the Crucifixion and celebrate the Resurrection.

### Family Faith Activity

As we remember Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and his command to serve, we should be on the

lookout for ways to help others. Try to perform at least one of the following activities with your family.

1. At dinner, take turns thanking each other for something you each did today.
2. Collect some good used clothing and take it to a nearby homeless shelter.
3. Discuss what things you value so much, you would be prepared to give your life for them (freedom, each other's safety, your faith?)

### A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup \_\_\_\_ and tried at least one activity as a family \_\_\_\_.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_