

We Worship God

UNIT
5
LESSON
THREE

WE LISTEN AND LEARN (PREPARATION AND SYNAXIS)

From Our Hearts to God

Thank you, Lord, for my church. I love _____ . Amen
(Fill in the blank with what you love most about attending church.)

MY WORLD

Our teacher told us we would be going to church to see how the priest prepares for BADARAK and the first two parts of the service, the **Preparation** and the **Synaxis**. I had never seen the priest get dressed in his vestments. We sat on the floor and were very quiet. The deacons helped him put on the special clothes. Our priest said a prayer for each thing he put on.

When he was done, we went into church and sat in the first pew. The priest came out. He said his confession and washed his hands. The teacher told us the people in church are called the congregation and the priest says his confession of sins to the congregation. After his confession, the priest went up to the altar and the curtain closed. This was the end of the Preparation part of the Badarak.

When the curtain opened, the priest came down and walked around the church with the altar servers in a sort of parade called **TAPOR**. We all got to kiss his hand cross and the teacher told us to say, "Remember me to Jesus." She told us we were asking the priest to tell Jesus we are here worshipping. The priest said, "You will be remembered" back to us. He goes back to the altar and makes the sign of the cross to us giving us a blessing from God.

The priest and altar servers went up to the *altar*. It is so beautiful with the candles, cross, flowers and holy picture. Our teacher told us the altar is a special table with a covering like a roof above it. After a while, the deacon took the Gospel Book from the altar, held it up and walked around behind the altar, a little **tapor** again. We sang *Soorp Asdvadz*. The people who were going to read the Bible that day came and kissed the book as a sign of respect. Maybe one day I will be a reader. The *readers* recite from the Old Testament and the Letters of the Apostles.

While the readers read to us, I saw one of the deacons at the altar read the Gospel book to the



priest quietly. Then the deacon stood in front of the altar and held the Gospel book in front of his face and read the same part to us. This is one of the most important jobs the deacon has. He also directs the congregation, telling us to stand, pay attention, bow and listen.

Right after the Bible readings, we all recite the Creed, which lists all the important things we believe.

Our teacher told us that the priest gives his sermon next or he might wait and give the sermon more toward the end of *Badarak*. The readings and sermon are part of the teaching part of *Badarak*, the Synaxis.

We didn't stay for the Eucharist part of the *Badarak* when we receive *holy communion* and we didn't stay for the Last Blessing and Dismissal. We quietly left church and went back to our classroom.



Taking a **Closer** Look

___The priest walks around the church

___The deacon reads from the Gospel

___The readers kiss the Gospel book

___The readers read from the Old Testament and Letters

___The priest vests

___We recite the Creed

___The priest goes back to the altar and blesses us

___Gospel book is carried around the altar

___The priest gives the sermon

___The priest says his confession to us then goes up to the altar

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

My mother and my brothers are those people who hear and obey God's message.

Luke 8:21



Getting Closer to God

How can you learn more about God when you are in church? _____

When we are in church we feel closer to God. The incense, the candles, the stained glass windows, the music, the priest – all of these help us feel we are in God’s special place.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Lord, protect and guide my priest and all priests of our Church. Amen.

Our Armenian Way

The sermon is usually about the Gospel reading for that day. The priest talks about what it means and how it can guide and help us today and every day.

Our priest has two roles during *Badarak*. He represents God to us and us to God. But most of all, he offers our gifts up to God and then offers God’s gift back to us. He prays for each one of us individually and all of us together.

You can pray for your priest as he prays for you. And pray for *all* the priests of our Armenian Church.



Time to Celebrate

A fun review...

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Today’s lesson was about the first two parts of the Badarak. We attended church (and if you came with us, thank you for joining us!) and then reviewed the important actions and meaning of what we experienced. The children discussed something they love about church. They started a crossword puzzle on the liturgy.

Living Our Faith

1. Complete today’s crossword puzzle with your child. Send it in with him or her next week.
2. Take your camera to church. Take pictures of various parts of the service. Have someone take a picture of your family with the priest after church. When your pictures are ready, put them in order on a poster and talk together about what is happening. Perhaps you can group the pictures into the four parts of the Badarak: Preparation, Synaxis, Eucharist, Last Blessing and Dismissal.