

The Divine Liturgy of The Armenian Church

The Celebrant starts the Liturgy at the feet of the altar, invoking the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Choir: O mystery, deep, unknowable, without beginning, you appointed with splendid glory the heavenly hosts, ranks of fiery spirits, to the nuptial chambers of the unapproachable light.

Heavenly King, preserve your Church unshaken and keep the worshippers of your name in peace.

1 Celebrant: By the intercession of the holy Mother of God, accept our prayers, O Lord, and save us.

Assembly: Let us make the holy Mother of God and all the Saints intercessors with the Father in heaven, that he may will and be merciful, may have pity and save us, his creatures. Almighty Lord, our God, save us, and have mercy on us.

2 Celebrant: Accept, Lord, our prayers, through the intercession of the holy Mother of God, the immaculate mother of your only begotten Son, and through the prayers of all your saints. Hear us, Lord, and have mercy, forgive, expiate, and remit us our sins. Make us worthy to thank and to glorify you with the Son and with the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

3 Celebrant: *The celebrant asks the Lord for the pardon of his sins.* Let us say with him: I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do; and I ask the blessed Mary, ever Virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

4 Assembly: May God almighty have mercy on you and grant you forgiveness for all your trespasses of past, and present; may he deliver you from those in the future and may he confirm you in all good works and give you rest in the life to come. Amen.

5 Celebrant: *The celebrant implores the mercy of God upon the faithful.* May God, who loves mankind, set you also free and may he remit all your transgressions, may he grant you time to do penance and good works; may he, mighty and merciful, guide your future life in the Holy Spirit; unto him glory forever. Amen.

Assembly: Remember us also before the immortal Lamb of God.

Celebrant: May you be remembered before the immortal Lamb of God.

6 Psalm 42

Celebrant: I will go unto the altar of God,
unto God who makes my youth joyful.

Assembly: Do judgment for me, God,
and do justice to me in my cause.

Celebrant: Deliver me from the unholy generation,

from the sinful and deceitful man.

Assembly: You are, God, the giver of my strength;

why did you forget me?

why do I get depressed

when my enemies persecute me?

Celebrant: Send, Lord, your light and your truth

so that they may guide me

and take me up your holy mountain to your dwelling.

Assembly: I will go to the altar of God,

to God who makes my youth rejoice.

Celebrant: I will profess you with praise, Lord my God.

Assembly: Then why are you so anguished, my soul,

and why do you aggravate me?

Have hope in God, profess him,

God is the one who delivers me from punishment!

Celebrant: Glory be to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Assembly: Now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Let us always ask the Lord for peace.

Let us praise the Father of our lord Jesus Christ, who made us worthy to stand in this place of giving praise to sing spiritual songs.

Almighty Lord, our God, save us and have mercy.

7 Celebrant: *(Going up to the altar)* In this holy dwelling and in this place of giving praise in this abode of angels and temple of expiation of men, before these signs glorified with God's presence and this holy place we bow down in fear and adoration. We praise and glorify your holy wonderful, and triumphant (Incarnation, or Resurrection...) and together with the heavenly hosts we offer praise and glory to you with the Father and with the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages.

Wine. The Celebrant pours the wine in the chalice, saying a brief secret prayer. Then the Deacons present the Celebrant with incense to burn.

Choir: Through the intercession of your virgin Mother receive the prayers of your worshippers.

You exalted the holy Church far superior than heavens with your blood, o Christ,

and as with the angels, you established ranks of Apostles, prophets and of hallowed teachers.

Choirs of priests, deacons, scribes and clerics assembled today offer incense before you, Lord, as Zachariah did in the old (covenant days).

Receive from us this prayer offered with incense, as you did the sacrifice of Abel, of Noah, and of Abraham.

Through the intercession of your heavenly hosts maintain ever unshaken the See of Armenia.

PREPARATION OF THE OBLATION (Sit)

8 Celebrant: Blessed be the kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and always unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Deacon: (Introit) O Lord, only Begotten Son and Word of God and Immortal Being, who did condescend to become incarnate of the Holy Mother of God and ever Virgin. You, the Unchangeable, did become man and were crucified. O Christ, our God, who by death did overcome death... Preserve us.

Deacon: Let us always ask the Lord for peace. Receive, give life, and have mercy! Bless, lord.

9 Celebrant: Blessing and glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always unto the ages of ages, Amen. Peace to all.

Assembly: Also with your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow to God in worship!

Assembly: In your presence, Lord.

10 Celebrant: Lord our God, your power can not be scrutinized, and your glory is incomprehensible, your mercy is beyond measure, and your compassion is inexhaustible, look in your bountiful love for men upon your people gathered in this holy temple, and abundantly give your mercy and pity to us and to those who pray with us. For to you is fitting glory, power and honor, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Celebrant: The celebrant prays in secret:

Lord, our God...

You taught us all to pray together on one accord and promised to grant the requests of two or three gathered in your name, do fulfill now the petitions of your servants for their good by granting in this world knowledge of your truth and in the world to come everlasting life. For you are a beneficent God and love men...

Make now the holy angels also enter with our entrance to worship and glorify with us your goodness.

11 Celebrant: For yours is might and power and glory, unto the ages, Amen.

THE TRISAGION (Stand)

Assembly: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, who is risen from the dead, have mercy on us (Three times).

Deacon: Let us always ask the Lord for peace.

Assembly: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world and for the growth of the Holy Church, let us pray the Lord.

Assembly: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the Bishops who are in holiness and orthodoxy, let us pray the Lord.

Assembly: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the well-being of our Supreme Pontiff Benedict and for the salvation of his soul, let us pray the Lord.

Assembly: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the well-being of our venerable Patriarch Nerses Bedros and for the salvation of his soul, let us pray the Lord.

Assembly: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the well-being of our Archbishop Theodore and our Bishop Manuel, and for the salvation of their souls, let us pray the Lord.

Assembly: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For doctors, priests, deacons, acolytes and for all the children of the Church covenant, let us pray the Lord.

Assembly: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the souls of those who slept in Christ with true and correct faith, let us pray the Lord.

Assembly: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Remember, Lord, and have mercy. Lord, have mercy; we commit ourselves to you, Lord.

Assembly: Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

LITURGY OF THE WORD (Sit)

Deacon: A reading from the Letter of the apostle Paul to the Romans

Deacon: (Reading the Apostolic Letter...)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: And also with you.

Celebrant: A reading from the holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Luke

Assembly: Glory to you, Lord!

Deacon: (Reading the Gospel...)

Assembly: Glory to you, Lord our God!

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH

12 We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

By the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered, died, and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

13 Celebrant: (After a brief secret prayer) Christ our redeemer defend us and keep us fearless from all evil with your peace, which surpasses all understanding and thought. Make us become like your true worshippers who adore you in spirit and truth. Because unto the most holy Trinity is fitting glory, power and honor, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen. Blesses is our Lord Jesus Christ!

Deacon: Bless, Lord.

Celebrant: May the Lord God bless you all.

Assembly: Amen.

OFFERTORY

The celebrant prepares himself to present to the Lord the holy offerings and prays in a low voice.

Meanwhile the Choir sings

Choir: The body of the Lord and the blood of the redeemer are in front of us. The invisible heavenly powers sing and say with stirring voice: holy, holy, holy Lord of hosts.

Celebrant: None of us, bound by disease and human passions, is worthy to approach your altar or to serve you, glorious King; because to minister to you is the very essence of the great and awesome hosts of heaven.

Yet, through your immeasurable goodness, you, infinite Word of the Father, became man and revealed yourself as our chief priest and as the Lord of all you gave us the priesthood of this sacrifice. For you are our Lord God who rules over those who are in heavens and on earth...

I pray you, only good and quick to hear, look upon me, your sinful servant... Cleanse my soul and my mind... Do not turn your face away from me and do not reject me... make your sinful and unworthy servant worthy to offer these gifts...

14 Celebrant: Through the grace and love unto mankind of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ, with whom to you, Father, and to the Holy Spirit is due glory, power, and honor, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Peace to all.

Assembly: Also with your spirit.

Celebrant: Greet one another with the holy kiss...

15 KISS OF PEACE (Stand)

In the Armenian Rite the sign of peace and of love is exchanged at the beginning of the Sacrifice, in accordance with the Lord's commandment: "First be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your sacrifice" (Mat 5:24).

16 Assembly: Christ was revealed in our midst,

God, the one who is, is seated here.

The hymn of peace resounded,

This holy greeting was ordered.

The Church became one,

This kiss is given as bond of fullness.

Enmity has been removed,

Love has been spread among us all.

And now, ministers, singing aloud

Give blessing with one accord.

To the one God whom

the seraphim sing the holy

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER TO THE EUCHARISTIC RITE

17 Celebrant: Let us conduct in awe, let us conduct in reverence, let us comport well, and let us keep ourselves in vigilance.

Assembly: In your presence, O God.

Celebrant: The sacrifice offered is Christ, the Lamb of God!

Assembly: Mercy, and peace, and a sacrifice of blessing.

Celebrant: The grace, the love, and the divine sanctifying power of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Assembly: Amen. With your spirit too.

Celebrant: With the fear of God lift up your minds!

Assembly: We have them up unto you, Lord almighty.

Celebrant: And give thanks to the Lord with your whole heart.

Assembly: It is just and proper.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

18 Celebrant: With the seraphim and with the cherubim singing the same holy song and cry out without fear and proclaim and say:

19 Celebrant and Assembly: Holy, holy, holy, Lord of hosts; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Blessing in the highest. Blessed are you who came and are to come in the name of God. Hosanna in the highest.

The Choir sings the Hymn, while the priest prays in secret:

20 Celebrant: Holy, holy, holy are you truly and all-holy. Who can ever get the glory of achieving to express words the outpouring of your infinitely loving solicitude unto us? You cared for at once and in marvelous ways the one who fell first to sin: through prophets, by giving the Law, through the priesthood and by the prefigurative offering of bulls. And at the end of these days you tore up the sentence of condemnation for all our debts by giving us your begotten Son, debtor and debt, immolation and anointed, lamb and heavenly bread, high priest and sacrifice; because it is he who distributes and he himself is distributed always in our midst without being consumed. For he became truly and without illusion man and took flesh in union without confusion from the Holy Virgin Mary the Mother of God he journeyed through all the needs of our human life without sin, and arrived willingly to the instrument of our redemption, to the world-saving cross.

THE INSTITUTION

Celebrant and Concelebrant: Taking the bread in his holy, divine hands, he blessed, gave thanks, broke, and gave it to the venerable, seating disciples, saying:

21 Take, eat, this is my body, which is broken for you and for many, in expiation and in remission of sins.

Assembly: Amen.

Celebrant: In the life manner, taking the cup, he blessed it, gave thanks, drank, and gave it to the holy disciples, saying:

22 Drink you all from this. This is my blood for the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many, in expiation and in remission of sins.

Assembly: Amen.

THE ANAMNESIS

The celebrant prays in secret:

23 Celebrant: In accordance with (your) commandment, o Lord, we offer this saving sacrament of the body and blood of your only begotten, we remember his suffering for our redemption, his life-giving crucifixion, his burial for three days, his blessed resurrection, his divine ascension, his enthronement at your right hand, Father, and we confess and praise his awesome and glorious second coming.

24 Celebrant: And from us who belong to you we offer to you what is yours to fulfill everything and for all.

Choir: In all things blessed are you, Lord. We bless you, we praise you, we give thanks to you, we pray you, Lord our God.

THE EPICLES (INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT)

The Celebrant invokes the Holy Spirit upon the oblations in secret and offers them again to the heavenly Father:

25 Celebrant: We adore you and pray you, beneficent God, send upon us and upon these gifts offered to you your co-eternal and consubstantial Holy Spirit,

- whereby bless this bread and make it truly the body of our Lords and Savior Jesus Christ,

- bless this cup and make it verily the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

- bless this bread and wine and make them truly the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, changing them by your Holy Spirit.

Celebrant: So that this may be to us all who approach unto it for exculpation, propitiation, and for remission of sins.

Assembly: Amen.

SUPPLICATIONS (Sit)

26 Celebrant: As with them, beneficent God, we implore you to visit us as well.

Assembly: Remember, Lord, and have mercy.

Celebrant: Let the Mother of God, the holy Virgin Mary, John the Baptist, Stephen the protomartyr, and all the saints be remembered during this holy sacrifice, we ask.

Assembly: Remember, Lord, and have mercy.

Celebrant: Let the holy apostles, the prophets, teachers, martyrs, and all the holy Fathers, the bishops, the presbyters, deacons in orthodox faith, and all the saints be remembered during this holy sacrifice, we ask.

Assembly: Remember, Lord, and have mercy.

Celebrant: We worship the blessed, praised, the glorious marvelous, and divine Incarnation of Christ!

Assembly: Glory to your Incarnation, Lord.

Celebrant: Let the faithful from everywhere, men and women, old and young, and of all ages who fell asleep in the faith and holiness of Christ be remembered in this holy sacrifice, we ask.

Assembly: Remember, Lord, and have mercy.

27 Celebrant: And especially grant us to have our holy Supreme Pontiff Francis, and our blessed Catholicos Krikor Bedros Catholicos, and our Bishop Mikael, for long time in integrity of doctrine.

Assembly: Grant us, Lord.

Prayer of the people

The priest prays in secret:

Celebrant: Through this grant love, stability and desirable peace to the whole world, to the holy Church and to all bishops in orthodoxy, to priests, to deacons, to leaders, to those who are in danger, to the weary and to those who are at war with barbarians.

Through this grant also mild weather and fertility to farmland and a speedy recovery to those who are afflicted with any disease.

Through this give rest to all who fell asleep in Christ since the beginning, the bishops, presbyters, deacons and the whole covenant of your holy Church and all the lay people, men and women, who dies in faith.

Celebrant: And the mercy of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ be with you.

Assembly: Amen. Also with your spirit.

The priest prays in private:

Celebrant: True God and merciful Father, we thank you for having honored us, condemned as we are, more than the blessed patriarchs; for you were pleased to be named father unto us. And now, Lord, we pray you, make your gift of such new and noble naming shine forth and flourish every day in your holy Church.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

28 Celebrant: And grant us to open our mouths with confident words, to address you, heavenly Father, to chant and say:

(Stand)

Celebrant and Assembly: Our Father who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

Celebrant: For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever and ever, Amen.

ELEVATION AND INVITATION TO COMMUNION

29 Celebrant: Through Christ Jesus, our Lord with whom to you, Holy Spirit, and to the almighty Father is due glory, dominion and honor, now and always and unto the ages of ages, Amen.

Deacon: Proschumen (Be attentive!)

Celebrant: (lifting up the Host) To the Most Holy.

Choir: Jesus Christ is the only holy; he is the only Lord; for the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Celebrant: Blessed is the Holy Father, true God.

Assembly: Amen.

Celebrant: Blessed is the Holy Son, true God.

Assembly: Amen.

Celebrant: Blesses is the Holy Spirit, true God.

Assembly: Amen.

Celebrant: (lifting up the Chalice) Praise and glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages.

30 Assembly: Amen. The Father is holy; the Son is holy; the Spirit is holy. Blessed be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The priest prays in private:

Celebrant: Look down from heaven, from the holiness and from the glorious throne of your kingdom, Jesus Christ our Lord. Come to sanctify and give us life, you who sit with the Father and are here sacrificed. Make us worthy and give us your immaculate body and precious blood and though us to all the people.

31 Celebrant: (Turning to the Assembly and blessing them with the holy species) Let us taste in holiness the most holy and precious blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who descended from heaven and is now distributed among us. This is life, hope, resurrection, expiation, and forgiveness of sins. Sing psalms to the Lord our God, sing psalms to our heavenly and immortal king, who sits in the cherubic chariot.

Assembly: Blessed is God!

Celebrant: The Fulfillment of the Holy Spirit.

PREPARATION OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Celebrant prepares himself to the holy Communion, praying in secret. Let us join him in the prayer:

Celebrant and Assembly: Holy Father, who called us by the name of your only begotten and made us shine through baptism of the spiritual font, make us worthy to receive this holy sacrament for the remission of our souls.

Impress upon us the graces of your Holy Spirit, as you did upon your holy apostles, who tasted and became the cleansers of the whole world...

According to your infinite love of mankind, grant this communion to be expiation of sins... as our Lord Jesus Christ promised and said that whoever eats my body and drinks my blood shall live forever...

Therefore, make this to be for expiation unto us, and those who will eat and drink of this may give praise and glory unto the father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto to ages of the ages. Amen.

Choir: Blessed is God!

Christ is sacrificed and is distributed among us: alleluia!

He gives us his body for food,

and sprinkles us with his holy blood: alleluia!

Come to the Lord and take the light: alleluia!

Taste and see how sweet is the Lord: alleluia!

Praise the Lord in heavens: alleluia!

Praise him in the highest: alleluia!

Praise him all his angels: alleluia!

Praise him all his hosts: alleluia!

COMMUNION

32 Deacon: With fear and with faith come forward and take the communion in holiness.

Say: We confess and believe that this is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ who carries the sins of the world.

(At the end of the distribution)

33 Celebrant: Lord, give life to your people, bless your inheritance; shepherd them and elevate them now and forever.

(Sit)

Choir: Our God and our Lord appeared to us. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

THANKSGIVING

The priest prays in secret:

Celebrant: We thank you, Christ our God, who granted this nourishment of your goodness to us for holiness of life. Keep us though this holy and without blemish; stay with us in your providence. Shepherd us to the fields of your holy and benevolent will, whereby strengthened against all opposition of the slanderer, we may be worthy to hear your voice alone and to follow you, the only good and valiant and true shepherd, and to receive from you the place prepared for us in the kingdom of heaven, our God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Meanwhile the Choir sings:

Choir: We are filled with your abundance, Lord, having tasted your body and your blood. Glory in the highest to you who fed us.

You feed us every day; send upon us your spiritual blessing. Glory in the highest to you who feed us.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER (Stand)

34 Celebrant: Lord, you bless those who praise you, and you sanctify those who put their hope in you.

Choir: Blessed is the Lord!

Celebrant: Save your people and bless your inheritance. Guard the integrity of your Church. Sanctify all those who greeted in love the elegance of your house.

Choir: Amen!

Celebrant: Glorify us with your divine power, and do not forsake us who put our hope in you. Grant your peace to the whole world, to all churches, all priests, all Christian kings and to their soldiers, and to all this people.

Choir: Amen!

Celebrant: Because all good gifts and all full graces descend from above, from you, who are the Father of light. And to you is fitting Glory, dominion, and honor, now and always, and unto the ages of ages.

35 Assembly - Choir: Amen. Blessed be the name of the Lord, now and on eternity (Three times).

36 Celebrant: You are the fulfillment of the Law and of the Prophets, Christ our God and Savior, who accomplished the entire mystery of salvation willed by your Father. Fill us with your Holy Spirit.

FINAL BLESSING

37 Deacon: Let us entreat the Lord that for the sake of the holy Cross he may deliver us from sin and may save us through his merciful grace. Almighty Lord, our God, give life and have mercy.

38 Celebrant: Protector and hope of the faithful, Christ our God, guard us in peace with your holy and precious Cross, and save us from the visible and the invisible enemy. Make us worthy to thank and glorify you with the Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

39 Assembly - Choir: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall be in my mouth at all times (Psalm 33).

40 Celebrant: Be you blessed by the graces of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace and the Lord be with you all. Amen.

On solemn feast days the Choir sings the hymn dedicated to the Pontiff:

Choir: Long live your servant whom you exalted from the See of Rome, where was placed the rock of faith, the foundation stone of your holy Church!