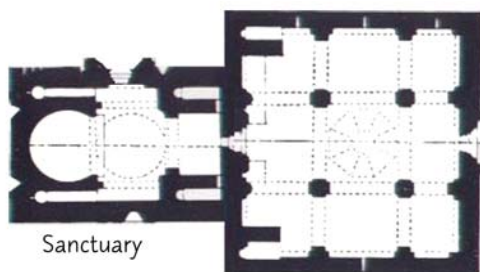


Notes on Holy Communion in the Armenian Apostolic Church



Traditionally, Armenians gathered in the Kavit for Christian instruction and fellowship before and after entering the sanctuary for communion.



Sanctuary

Kavit



The core of Sunday Worship in the Armenian Church is the remembrance of the Last Supper, which is the meal Jesus had with his disciples on Holy Thursday, the night he was arrested and the day before he was crucified. You can read more about the Last Supper in Matthew 26:27, Mark 14:23, Luke 22:19-20 and 1 Corinthians 11:25.

Following Christ's commandment "to do this in remembrance of Me," when early Christians gathered, they organized Lord's Suppers during which they broke bread and drank wine, thus partaking of Christ's "body and blood." Eating from the same loaf and drinking wine from the same cup was symbolic of their unity with each other in Christ (communion). This is the origin of the Holy Communion ritual. St. Paul describes the practice of the Lord's Supper in the early church in 1 Corinthians 11:22-25.

The Lord's Supper may be viewed as having several stages that form a coherent whole:

- Greet Each Other
- Pray (Lord's Prayer, *Hayr Mer*)
- Eat
- Say Thanks & Goodbye

Between these *four* basic stages there are *four* intermediate steps. After saying hello and before going to the table, we thank the host and reflect on why we have gathered (in Armenian, by the way, we often refer to the altar as the *holy table* – սուրբ *surp* **holy**, սեղան *seghan* **table**). Before eating, we praise our hosts and clean up.

These may be ordered in a logical sequence as follows:

- Great Each Other
 - Remember why we are gathered
 - Give Thanks
- Pray for our Spiritual Family (Lord's Prayer)
 - Praise the Hosts
 - Clean up before Eating
- Eat/Take Communion
- Say Thanks & Goodbye (from *God be with you*)

We gather and partake of the Lord's Supper regularly for spiritual nourishment to strengthen and sustain our commitment to live as Christians embodying Christ's teachings in our daily life.

This short guide is not meant to be a pew book or a substitute for more detailed study, but to be a tool, among others, for those seeking an understanding of Church Armenian and the Sunday service.

❖ **Key Tenets of the Creed (Said before the Greeting)** (📖 p. 18)

❖ Հաւատամք ի մի Աստուած, ի Հայրն ամենակալ.

havada-mk i mi Asdvadz, i Hayrn amenagal
believe-we in one God in Father almighty

We believe in one God, the Father almighty,

յարարիչն երկնի եւ երկրի, երեւելեաց եւ աներեւութից:

h-ararichn yergni yev yergri, yerevel-yats yev an-erevut-its
in-creator-the heaven-of and earth-of visible-of and in-visible-of

maker of heaven and earth, of things visible and invisible.

❖ Եւ ի մի Տէր Յիսուս Քրիստոս, յՈրդին Աստուծոյ...

yev i mi Der Hisus Krisdos h-orti-n Asdudz-o
and in one Lord Jesus Christ in-son-the God-of

and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God...

❖ Հաւատամք եւ ի Սուրբ Հոգին...

havada-mk yev i Surp Hoki-n
believe-we and in Holy Spirit-the

We believe also in the Holy Spirit...

❖ Հաւատամք եւ ի մի միայն ընդհանրական

havada-mk yev i mi miayn unt-hanragan
believe-we also in one only universal

We believe also in only one catholic

եւ առաքելական սուրբ եկեղեցի...

yev arakelagan surp yegeghetsi

and apostolic holy Church...

Creed from Latin *credo* = **I believe**. Note: Armenians say, **We believe** հաւատամք *havada-mk* (**mk** = we). The Armenian Church uses the Creed established by the Ecumenical Council of Nicaea in 325, known as the Nicene Creed.

Red Text: Active knowledge. Congregation sings or speaks.

Blue Text: Passive knowledge. Congregation listens and follows.

Black Bold: Translation. *Black Italic:* Transliterated Armenian.

(📖 p. 1): Page reference to Divine Liturgy Pew Book (St. Vartan Press, 2001).

1. **Greet Each Other** (📖 p. 23)

Մի ոք յերախայից...

mi vok herakhay-its
no person unbaptised-of

Only the christened* may partake of communion.

♪ *Մարմին տերունական եւ արին փրկչական...*

marmin Der-un-agan yev aryun prg-chagan
body Lord-ly and blood salvation

The body of the Lord and his saving blood...

Angels' Ode (📖 p. 24)

Համբարձէք, իշխանք, գորունս ձեր ի վեր...

hamparts-ek ishkhank z-truns tser i ver
lift-you princes gates your on up

Arise, princes, and open the gates... (Psalm 24) (📖 p. 25)

Ո՞վ է սա, թագաւոր փառաց...

ov e sa takavor par-ats
who is this king glory-of

Who is this king of glory?

Սա ինքն է թագաւոր փառաց:

sa inkn e takavor par-ats
this itself is king glory-of

This is the king of glory!



❖ *Peace Blessing (1st Time) (see box on last page)* (📖 p. 27)

*Christened in the Armenian Church or another church in communion with the Armenian Church (check with your priest if you have any questions).

❖ **Greeting/Kiss of Peace** (📖 p. 27)

Ողջոյն տուք միմեանց ի համբոյր սրբութեան.

vogh-chuyn du-k mimyants i hampuyr srput-yan
greetings give-you each other in kiss holiness-of

Greet each other with a kiss of peace.

(Romans 16:16, 1 Corinthians 16:20, 2 Corinthians 13:12,
1 Thessalonians 5:26)

🎵 *Քրիստոս ի մեջ մեր յայտնեցաւ:*

Krisdos i mech mer haydnetsav
Christ in midst our appeared

Christ has appeared among us!

Օրհնեալ է յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի:

orhnyal e haydnutyun-n Krisdos-i
blessed is appearance Christ-of

Blessed is the appearance of Christ.



Ահիւ կացցուք, երկիւղիւ կացցուք

ah-iv gats-tsuk, yer-gyugh-iv gats-tsuk
awe-with stand-let-us fear-with stand-let-us

Let us stand in awe, let us stand in fear of the Lord. (Psalm 33:8)

Պատարագ Քրիստոս մատչի անարատ գառն Աստուծոյ:

badarak Krisdos madch-i an-arad karn Asdudz-o
sacrifice Christ offered-is no-spot lamb God-of

Christ offers himself, the innocent Lamb of God. (John 1:29)

Ranks of Clergy

- կաթողիկոս *gatoghikos catholicos* (cata-holos according to-all) (Gk.)
- եպիսկոպոս *yebi-sgobos bishop* (epi-scopos, over-seer) (Gk.)
- վարդապետ *vartabed celibate priest*, teacher (Pers.)
- քահանայ *kahana priest* (as in Cohen) (Heb.)
- սարկաւազ *sargavak deacon*, servant (Pers.)
- դպիր *tbir Psalm-reader* (as in դպրոց *tbrots school*) (Heb.)

2. Remember why we have gathered – The Last Supper

❖ **Sanctus** (Isaiah 6:3, Revelations 4:8) (📖 p. 30)

♪ *Սուրբ, սուրբ, սուրբ,*

surp surp surp

Holy, holy, holy,

Տէր զօրութեանց.

Der zorutyán-ts

Lord forces-of

Lord of hosts;

Լի են երկինք եւ երկիր փառօք քո:

li en yergink yev yegir par-ok ko

full are heaven and earth glory-with your

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.



Օրհնութիւն ի բարձունս:

orhnutyun i par-tsuns

Blessing in the highest.

Օրհնեալդ որ եկիր եւ գալոցդ էս

orhnyal-t vor yegir yev kalots-t es

blessed-you who came-you and come-to-you are

Blessed are you who came and are to come

անուամբ Տեառն: Ովսաննա ի բարձունս:

anv-amp Dy-arn ovsanna i partsuns

name-in Lord-of hosanna in highest

in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Lat. *sanctus* = **holy**, as in Eng. *sanctify*, Arm. *surp*

❖ **Institution of the Lord's Supper** (Matthew 26:26-30,
Luke 21:19-20) (📖 p. 31)

Առէք, կերէք. այս է մարմին իմ...

ar-ek ger-ek ays e marmin im
take-you eat-you this is body my

Take, eat; this is my body...

Արբէք ի սմանէ ամենեքեան,

arp-ek i sman-e amenekyan
drink-you of this-from all

Drink this all of you;

այս է արին իմ նորոյ ուխտի...

ays e aryun im nor-o ukhd-i
this is blood my new-of covenant-of

this is my blood of the new covenant...



ի քաւութիւն եւ ի թողութիւն մեղաց:

i kavutyun yev i toghutyun meg hats
in pardon and in forgiveness sins-of

for the pardon and forgiveness of sins.

Jesus institutes Communion (Luke 22:19-20)

19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.”

Then they sang a hymn... (Matthew 26:30)

See 1 Corinthians 11:24-25 for Communion in the Early Church

3. Give Thanks

♪ *Հայր երկնաւոր...*

Hayr yergn-avor

Father heavenly... (📖 p. 31)

♪ *Thanksgiving Hymn* (📖 p. 32)

Յամենայնի օրհնեալ էս, Տէր.

hamenayni orhnyal es Der

In all things blessed are you, O Lord.

Օրհնենք զքեզ, զովենք զքեզ, զոհանաւք զքէն,

orhne-mk z-kez kove-mk z-kez kohana-mk z-ken

bless-we you praise-we you thank-we you-from

We bless you, We praise you, We give thanks to you,

աղաչենք զքեզ Տէր, Աստուած մեր: (Psalms)

a-gha-chemk z-kez Der Asdvadz mer

pray-we you Lord God our

We pray to you, O Lord, our God.

❖ *Peace Blessing (2nd Time) (see box on last page)*

♪ *Որդի Աստուծոյ...*

vorti Asdudz-o

son God-of

Son of God... (📖 p. 33)

♪ *Հոգի Աստուծոյ...*

hoki Asdudz-o

spirit God-of

Spirit of God... (📖 p. 34)

- Յիսուս *Hisus Jesus, savior* (Heb.)
- Քրիստոս *Krisdos Christ, anointed* (Gk.)
- Փրկիչ *Prgich savior* (Sem./Pers.)
- Տէր *Der Lord* from տի *di dignified* + այր *ayr man* (as in *anthropology*) (Arm.)
- Աստուած *Asdvadz God* as in հաստատ *hasdad fasten* (Arm.)
- պատարագ *badarak sacrifice, Divine Liturgy* (Pers.)

4. Pray for our Spiritual Family

Յիշեա, Տէր, եւ ողորմեա:

hish-ya Der yev voghormya
remember-thou Lord and have-mercy-thou

Remember, Lord, and have mercy. (📖 p. 35-36)

Մարիամ, Յովհաննէս Մկրտիչ, Ստեփանոս,

Mariam Hovhannes Mgrdich Stepanos

Mary, John the Baptist, Stephen,

Առաքեալ Թադէոս, Բարթոլոմէոս,

Arakyal Tateos Partughimeos

Apostle Thaddeus, Bartholomew,

Գիրգոր Լուսաւորիչ

Krikor Lusavorich

Gregory the Enlightener/Illuminator,

Գոհութիւն եւ փառաբանութիւն...

kohutyun yev parapanutyun

Thanks and glorification... (📖 p. 37-38)



Founders of our Faith

- **St. Mary**, Mother of God (Luke 1:26)
- **St. John**, who baptized Jesus (Matthew 3:13, Mark 1:9, Luke 3:21)
- **St. Stephen**, the first Christian martyr and deacon (Acts 6-7), his Feast Day is celebrated on Dec. 24
- **The Apostles, Sts. Thaddeus and Bartholomew**, two of Jesus' 12 disciples, who were sent to Armenia to spread Christianity in the 1st cent. (Arm. առաքեալ *arakyal* = *one who is sent*, as in Gk. *apostle* = *sent* or Eng. *epistle* = *letter, something sent*); hence, our church is called The Armenian *Apostolic* Church.
- **St. Gregory the Enlightener, Illuminator**, (լուս-աւոր-իչ *lus* = *light*, *avor* = *bear, ich* = *agent*), who spread the light of Christianity in Armenia, and with Sts. Drtad and Ashkhen (King and Queen of Armenia) established Christianity as Armenia's state religion in 301, making Armenia the first Christian state.

❖ **Lord's Prayer** (Matthew 6:9-13) (📖 p. 41)

Յանուն Հօր, Եւ Որդւոյ, Եւ Հոգւոյն սրբոյ:

h-anun Hor yev Vortv-o yev Hokv-uyn srp-o
in name Father-of and Son-of and Spirit-of Holy-of

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

♪ **Հայր մեր, որ յերկինս ես,**

Hayr mer vor hergins es
Father our who in-heaven are

Our Father, who art in heaven,

սուրբ եղիցի անուն քո.

surp yeghitsi anun ko
holy be-let-it name your

hallowed be thy name;

Եկեացէ արքայութիւն քո.

yegestse arkayutyun ko
come-let-it kingdom your

thy kingdom come;

Եղիցին կամք քո,

yeghitsin gamk ko
be-let-it will your

thy will be done

որպէս յերկինս եւ յերկրի:

vorbes hergins yev hergri
as in-heaven and on-earth

on earth as it is in heaven.

Չհաց մեր հանապազորդ տո՛ւր մեզ այսօր.

z-hats mer hanabazort dur mez aysor
bread our everyday give us today

Give us this day our daily bread;

Եւ թող մեզ զպարտիս մեր,

yev togh mez z-bardis mer
and forgive us debts our

and forgive us our debts,



որպէս եւ մեք թողունք մերոց պարտապանաց.

vorbes yev mek toghumk merots bardabanats
as also we forgive our-to debtors-to

as we forgive our debtors;

եւ մի՛ տանիր զմեզ ի փորձութիւն.

yev mi danir zmez i portsutyun
and don't lead us into temptation

and lead us not into temptation;

այլ փրկեա՛ ի չարէ:

ayl prg-ya i char-e
but save-thou from evil-from

but deliver us from evil.

Զի քո է արքայութիւն եւ զօրութիւն

zi ko e arkayutyun yev zorutyun
for yours is kingdom and power

For thine is the kingdom and the power

եւ փառք յաւիտեանս: Ամէն:

yev park havidyans amen

and glory forever. Amen.

❖ *Peace Blessing (3rd Time) (see box on last page)*

On the Lord's Prayer: One of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). And Jesus said, "This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father..." (Matthew 6:9)

Asked for at Baptism

հաւատ, յոյս, սէր, մկրտութիւն

havad huys ser m-gr-dutyun

faith, hope, love, baptism

(1 Corinthians 13:13)

5. Praise the Hosts

❖ **Doxology (Hymns to Holy Trinity)** (📖 p. 42)

Ի սրբութիւն սրբոց:

i srputyun srpots
holiness holy-for

Holiness for the holy.

♪ Միայն սուրբ: Միայն Տէր,

miayn surp miayn Der

The one holy. The one Lord.

Օրհնեալ Հայր Սուրբ, Աստուած ճշմարիտ:

orhnyal Hayr surp Asdvadz j-sh-marid
blessed Father holy God true

❖ **Blessed are you, Holy Father, true God.** (📖 p. 43)

Օրհնեալ Որդիդ Սուրբ, Աստուած ճշմարիտ:

orhnyal Vorti-t surp Asdvadz j-sh-marid
blessed Son-your holy God true

Blessed are you, Holy Son, true God.

Օրհնեալ Հոգիդ Սուրբ, Աստուած ճշմարիտ:

orhnyal Hoki-t Surp Asdvadz j-sh-marid
blessed Spirit-your Holy God true

Blessed are you, Holy Spirit, true God.

Some Familiar words from Greek and Hebrew

- ալէլուիա *alleluia* **praise the Lord** (Heb.)
- ովսաննա *hosanna* **save us, I pray** (Heb.)
- ամէն *amen* **let it be** (Heb.)
- սերովբէք քերովբէք *serovpek kerovpek* **seraphim cherubim** (Heb.)
- սաղմոս *saghmos* **psalm** (praise song, many by King David) (Gk.)
- մարտիրոս *mardiros* **martyr** (Gk.)
- եկեղեցի *yegegheysi* **church**, ecclesiastical, gathering place (Gk.)
- **Doxology** Gk. *doxa* = *glory* + *logos* = *word*, **glorification**
Arm. փառ *par* = **glory** + ա-բան *a-pan* = **word** + ութիւն *utyun* = **tion**
- **Kyrie** Gk. **Lord**, as in *Kyrie eleison* = **Lord, have mercy** (Arm. *der voghormya*); **Sunday** Arm. կիրակի *giragi* = the day of the Lord

6. Clean Up before Eating

Մեղայ ամենասուրբ Երրորդութեանն,
 megh-a amena-surp Yerrort-uty-an-n
 sinned-I all-holy Trinity-toward

I have sinned against the All-Holy Trinity (📖 p. 48)

Հօր, և Որդոյ և Հոգւոյն Սրբոյ:

Hor yev Vort-vo yev Hokv-uy-n Srp-o
 Father-to and Son-to and Spirit-to Holy-to

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Մեղայ Աստուծոյ:

megh-a Asdudz-o
 sinned-I God-to

I have sinned against God.

❖ **Kyrie** (📖 p. 45)

♪ **Տէր ողորմեա, Ամենասուրբ Երրորդութիւն,**

Der voghorm-ya amena-surp Yer-rortutyun
 Lord merciful-be-thou all-holy Trinity

Lord, have mercy, All-Holy Trinity.

տուր աշխարհիս խաղաղութիւն:

dur ashkharh-i-s khaghaghutyun
 give-thou world-to-this peace

Give peace to this world.

Եւ հիւանդաց բժշկութիւն.

yev hivant-ats p-zhsh-gutyun
 and sick-to healing

And healing to the sick,

ազգիս հայոց սէր միութիւն:

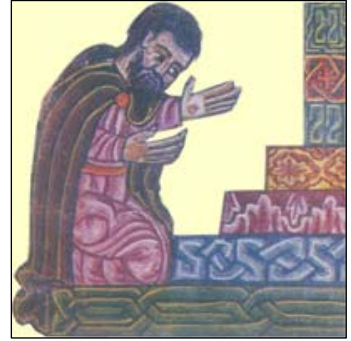
azkis hayots ser miutyun
 nation-to Armenian love unity

love and unity to the Armenian nation.

Յիսուս փրկիչ մեզ ողորմեա:

Hisus pr-gich mez voghorm-ya
 Jesus savior for-us mercy-have-thou

Jesus, Savior, have mercy on us.



7. Eat/Take Communion

Սա է կեանք, յոյս յարութեան,
sa e gyank huys harutyanyan

This is life, hope of resurrection,

քաւութիւն եւ թողութիւն մեղաց:

kavutyun yev toghutyun meghats

pardon and forgiveness of sins. (📖 p. 44)



Երկիւղիւ եւ հաւատով յառաջ մատիք

yergyugh-iv yev havad-ov harach mad-ik

fear-with and faith-with forward approach-you

In fear and in faith come forward

եւ սրբութեամբ հաղորդեցարուք:

yev srput-yamp haghort-etsaruk

and holiness-with communion-take-you

and with holiness take communion.

❖ *Communion Hymn (Based on Psalm 34)* (📖 p. 47)

🎵 *Օրհնեալ է Աստուած, Քրիստոս պատարագեալ*

orhnyal e Asdvadz Krisdos badarakyal

Blessed is God! Christ is sacrificed

բաշխի ի միջի մերում: Ալէլուիա:

pash-khi i michi merum alleluia

distribute in midst us alleluia

and distributed among us. Alleluia.

Զմարմին իւր տայ մեզ կերակուր

z-marmin yur da mez geragur

body his give us food

He gives us his body as sustenance

եւ սուրբ զարիւն իւր ցօղէ ի մեզ: Ալէլուիա:

yev surp z-aryun yur tsoghe i mez alleluia

and holy blood his dew on us alleluia

and sprinkles his holy blood upon us. Alleluia.

Մատի՛ք առ Տէր եւ առէք զլոյս: Ալէլուիա:

mad-ik ar Der yev ar-ek z-luys alleluia
come-you to Lord and take-you light alleluia

Come to the Lord and receive the light. Alleluia.

Ճաշակեցէք եւ տեսէք

jashag-etsek yev des-ek
taste-you and see-you

Taste and see

զի քաղցր է Տէր: Ալէլուիա:

zi kagh-tsr e Der alleluia
that sweet is Lord alleluia

that the Lord is sweet. Alleluia.



Communion Etiquette

When you approach the Priest distributing communion: (1) cross yourself, (2) say **Մեղայ Աստուծոյ: Megha Asdudzo I have sinned against God**, (3) Open your mouth and the priest will place a piece of wafer soaked in wine in your month, saying, **Աստուած թողութիւն շնորհեցէ Asdvadz togh-utyun shnor-hes-tse May God grant you forgiveness.** (4) Cross yourself and allow the wafer to dissolve in your mouth and swallow.

Օրհնեալ, եկեալ անուամբ Տեառն:

orhn-yal yeg-yal anv-amp Dyarn
bless-ed come-has name-with Lord-of

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

(Matthew 21:9, 23:39, Mark 11:9, Luke 13:35, John 12:13)

8. Say Thanks and Goodbye

Կեցո, Տէր, զժողովուրդս քո

gets-o Der z-zhoghovurts ko
save-thou Lord people your

Lord, save your people (📖 p. 50)

եւ օրհնեա զժառանգութիւնս քո:

yev orhn-ya z-zharankutyuns ko
and bless-thou inheritance you

and bless your inheritance. (Psalm 28:9)

❖ Hymns of Thanks

♪ *Լցաք...*

lts-ak
filled-we-were

We are full... (📖 p. 50)

♪ *Գոհանաւք...*

kohanamk
thankful-are-we

We are thankful... (📖 p. 51)

❖ Dismissal Psalms

♪ *Եղիցի անուն Տեարն օրհնեալ*

yeghitsi anun Dyarn orhnyal
be-let-it name Lord-of blessed

Blessed be the name of the Lord (📖 p. 53)

յայսմհետէ մինչեւ յաւիտեան:

haysm-hede minchev havidyan
henceforth until eternity

from this time forth for evermore. (Psalm 113:2)

♪ *Օրհնեցից զՏէր յամենայն ժամ,*

orhne-tsits z-Der h-amenayn zham
bless-shall-I Lord at-all hour

I shall bless the Lord at all times; (📖 p. 55)

յամենայն ժամ օրհնութիւն Նորա ի բերան իմ:

h-amenayn zham orhnutyun nora i peran im
at-all hour blessings him-of in mouth my

at all times his blessings in my mouth. (Psalm 34:1)

❖ Final Blessing

❖ *Երթայք խաղաղութեամբ եւ*

yert-ayk khaghaghut-yamp yev
go-you peace-with and

Go in peace and

Տէր եղիցի ընդ ձեզ ընդ ամենեսեանդ Ամէն.

Der yegh-itsi unt tzez unt amenesyan-t amen
Lord be-let-he with you and all amen

may the Lord be with you all. Amen.

Eng. *Goodbye comes from God be with you*

Quick Start Study Notes

Getting down the Basics

It's always best to start with what we know:

1. Review the 8 Stages of the Lord's Supper. Understand them as logical sequence for a ritual meal.
2. Read over the English translation (in bold). Understand the significance of each section as a re-enactment of the Lord's Supper or the tending of the flock by the Good Shepherd (John 10, Luke 15, Matthew 18:12).
3. Go over the following 25 words that are very common or have close equivalents in English.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. amen | 14. der hayr |
| 2. Krisdos | 15. hayr mer |
| 3. Hisus | 16. orhnya der |
| 4. Asdvadz | 17. der voghormya |
| 5. alleluia | 18. hishya der |
| 6. ovsanna | 19. serovpesn, kerovpesn |
| 7. Mariam | 20. saghmos |
| 8. Hovhannes Mgrdich | 21. gatoghikos |
| 9. Stepanos | 22. yebisgobos |
| 10. Tateos | 23. vartabed |
| 11. Partughimeos | 24. kahana |
| 12. Krikor Lusavorich | 25. sargavak |
| 13. hayasdanyayts yegeghetsi | |

4. Learn the Top 60 Words and 28 Phrases

The most common word is եւ *yev* **and**, constituting 10% of the service. The other most common words are սուրբ *surp* **holy**, Աստուած *Asdvadz* **God**, and the various forms of օրհնէա *orhnya*, *orhnyal* **bless, blessed**, ի *i* and its variant յ- *h-* **in**, զի *zi* **so that**. These 5 words alone constitute another 15% of the service. Here are 50 or so common words or phrases you may already recognize if you've learned *Hayr Mer* and been to church even occasionally. (You will find definitions and related words from other languages in *Get to the Root of It* on p. 20).

1. անուն *anun* **name** (cf. noun)
2. եղիցի *yeghitsi* **let it be**
3. ես, է *es, e* **you are, is**
4. սուրբ *surp, srpots, srputyun* **holy**
5. իմ *im* **my**
6. քո, քեզ *ko, kez* **ken your, you** (thou) (tu becomes kwo)
7. ինք, իւր *ink, yur* **him, his**
8. մեր, մեք, մեզ *mer, merots, mek, mez* **our, we, us**
9. դուք, ձեր *tuk, tser* **you, your**
10. որդի *vorti* **son** (parent, part)
11. հոգի *hoki* **spirit** (heave/sigh)
12. երկիր *yergir* **earth**
13. երկինք *yergink* **heaven**
14. արքայութիւն *arkayutyun* **kingdom** (cf. monarchy)
15. թող *togh* **forgive** (tolerate)
16. պարտիս, պարտապանաց *bardis, bardabanats* **debts, debtors**
17. փորձութիւն *portsutyun* **temptation** (peril)
18. փրկեա, փրկիչ *prgya, prgich* **rescue, savior**
19. արարիչ *ararich* **creator**
20. չար *char* **evil** (*ch*=not, *ar*=create, destruction, cf. ararich)
21. զօրութիւն *zorutyun* **power**
22. փառք ի բարձունս *park i partsuns* **glory in the highest**
23. յաւիտեանս *havidyans* **forever**
24. տուր, տայ, տանիր *dur, da, danir* **give, give over/lead** (donate)
25. խաչ *khach* **cross**

26. մարմին *marmın* **body**
27. հաց *hats* **bread** (food, pasture)
28. արին *aryun* **blood**
29. գինի *kini* **wine**
30. գառն *karn* **lamb** (ward, guard)
31. լոյս *luys* **light** (luster) *lusavorich* (light bearer)
32. թագաւոր *takavor* **king** (crown-bearer, Taj Mahal crown mega)
33. դուռ (դրունս) *tur* (*truns*) **door**
34. որ, ով *vor, ov* **which, who**
35. գովենք *kovemk* **we praise**
36. գոհանամք *kohanamk* **we thank**
37. լի, լցաք *li, ltsak* **full, we are full** (plenty)
38. մատիք *madik* **approach** (meet)
39. հաւատ *havad* **faith**
40. յոյս *huys* **hope**
41. սէր *ser* **love**
42. շնորհք *shnork* **grace** (*shnorhagal* thanks, gracias)
43. եկիր, եկեալ *yegir, yegyal* **came** (convene)
44. կեանք (կեցո) *gyank, getso* **live, save** (quick, vivacious)
45. կերէք, կերակուր *gerək, geragur* **eat** (devour, voracious)
46. միայն, միմեանց *miayn, mimyants* **one, one another** (mono)
47. ամենայն, ամենա, ամենեցուն *amenayn, amena, amenetsun* **all, most of all, to all** (same, assembled)
48. ընդ *unt* **with** (and, under)
49. մեղայ *megha* **I have sinned, strayed** (malice)
50. եկեղեցի *yegeghetsi* **church** (ecclesiastic, gathering)
51. ժամ *zham* **hour, time** (chapel, where hourly prayers are said)
52. արբէք *arpek* **drink** (absorb)
53. մեռելոց *merelots* **dead** (murder)
54. նոր *nor* **new**, with *-r* adj. suffix, as in *kaghts-r, parts-r*
55. մէջ *mech* **in, midst, as in** Brit. Eng. pronunciation 'immejately'
56. վեր *ver* **up** (over)

Congratulations! You now know more than 75% of the words used during Holy Communion.

Mastering the Communion Service

First, let's focus on the **7 active phrases** you need to be able to say (find them in the text):

1. **Christ is revealed among us.** (1. Greet Each Other p. 3)
Blessed is the revelation of Christ! (1. Greet Each Other p. 3)
2. **And with your spirit.** (Peace Blessing back page)
3. **Before you, Lord.** (Peace Blessing back page)
4. **I have sinned against God.** (6. Clean Up, p. 11)
5. **Bless us, father.** (Priest's Greeting, last page)
6. **Lord, have mercy.** (6. Clean Up, Kyrie, p. 11)
7. **Be mindful Lord, and have mercy.** (4. Pray for our Spiritual Family, p. 7)

(Once you've learned these, learn the Greetings for Easter and Christmas (on p. 3), and for vartabeds and bishops (last page)).

Second, let's focus on the **7 passive phrases** you need to understand:

1. **Peace to all.** (Peace Blessing – back page)
2. **Let us bow down to God.** (Peace Blessing – back page)
3. **Take, eat; this is my body.** (2. Remember why we have gathered, p. 5)
4. **Drink this all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant.** (2. Remember why we have gathered, p. 5)
5. **I have sinned against the All-Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.** (6. Clean Up, p. 11)
6. **Holiness for the holy.** (5. Praise the Hosts, p. 10)
7. **This is life, hope of resurrection, pardon and forgiveness of sins.** (7. Eat/Take Communion, p. 12)

Congratulations! You are now almost 80% of the way to having a working proficiency in Church Armenian!

Third, among the most important **7 sentences** you'll need to know as an Armenian Christian, The Lord's Prayer (4. Pray for our Spiritual Family, p. 7).

Fourth, the **7 key hymns or phrases** you'll want to know (find them in the text):

Here are **3** hymns everyone should learn to sing:

1. **Lord's Prayer – Hayr Mer** (4. Pray for Spiritual Family, p. 8)
2. **Thanksgiving Hymn – Hamenayni** (3. Give Thanks, p. 6)
3. **Communion Hymn – Orhnyal e Asdvadz** (7. Eat/Take Communion, p. 12)

And **2** more hymns everyone will want to recognize:

4. **Holy, Holy – Surp, Surp** (Sanctus) (2. Remember why we have gathered, p. 4)
5. **Lord, Have Mercy – Der Voghormya** (Kyrie) (6. Clean Up, p. 11)

Finally, the **2** closing phrases of the service:

6. **Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.** (8. Say Thanks & Goodbye, p. 13)
7. **Go in peace and may the Lord be with you all.** (8. Say Thanks & Goodbye, p. 14)

Is that all there is to it? Well, not quite, but that's enough to follow each stage of Holy Communion. Come to Church prepared, keep the logical sequence of the service in mind, and try to recognize as many words, phrases and hymns as you can. With time and participation, it will become second nature, as it has for scores of generations before us.

Holy Communion is a sacrament with a long history and many layers of meaning and symbolism. For more information, refer to other publications, including the notes in the pew book and the explanations in “A Walk through the Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Church.”

Want to Know More? Get to the Root of It

The Armenian Language is distantly related to English, for this reason, you may recognize certain words (or parts of words). These related words are called **cognates**. Cognates usually have similar consonants, or the consonants exhibit a regular correspondence, e.g., **h**ayr father **p**ater, **h**ats food **p**asture. Armenian often loses letters, as in **li** full **pl**enty, **yer**ek **thr**ee, and sometimes sounds change quite dramatically and uniquely, as in **dz**nunt **kin** generation, **dz**anot **kn**ow prognosis, **medz** mega, or **kaghtsr** sweet, **kuyr** sister **so**rarity. Recognizing cognates can accelerate your mastery of Church Armenian or any foreign language. Starting with *The Lord's Prayer*, try to view Church Armenian as an extension of your English language knowledge.

Հայր <i>Hayr</i>	Father	=Eng. father, Arm h = Eng f = Lat. p , as in p aternal
մեր <i>mer</i>	our	=Eng. our, Ger. unser, Lat. noster (pater noster = <i>hayr mer</i> = father our)
նր <i>vor</i>	who	=Eng. who, Lat. quo
յերկինս <i>hergins</i>	in heaven	<i>h</i> =in, <i>ergin</i> =heaven, <i>s</i> =in, <i>h</i> -prefix from <i>i</i> before vowels, <i>i</i> + <i>yergins</i> = <i>hergins</i> , <i>i</i> + <i>yergri</i> = <i>hergri</i>
ես, <i>es</i>	are-thou	Lat. <u>es</u> , Fr. <u>es</u> , Span. <u>estas</u> - <i>s</i> ending means <i>you (singular), thou</i>
սուրբ <i>surp</i>	hallowed	holy, see Sanskrit <i>çubhra</i> clean
եղիցի <i>yeghitsi</i>	be	=Eng. <i>colony</i> , <i>wheel</i> , <i>cycle</i> , yeghi = <i>be</i> , <i>become</i> , - <i>tsi</i> =may it, - <i>tsin</i> = may they, Arm. <i>gh</i> = Eng. <i>l</i> , Bogh os=Paul, agh =salt
անուն <i>anun</i>	name	=Eng. <i>name</i> , <i>noun</i>
քո <i>ko</i>	thy	=Eng. <i>thy</i> , Lat. <i>tuo</i> (<i>tuo</i> => <i>kuo</i> => <i>ko</i>)
եկեցե՛ <i>yegestse</i>	come	=Eng. <i>come</i> , Lat. <i>convene</i> , yeg- <i>come</i> , <i>estse</i> = may it (as in Arm. gyank- 'life' Eng. quick , Lat. <i>vivacious</i>)
արքայութիւն <i>arkayutyun</i>	kingdom	=Eng. arch as in monarch (Gk.) <i>utyun</i> = <i>tion</i>

քո <i>ko</i>	thy	see above, related <i>kez, zkez, zken=you, kum=your</i>
եղիցին <i>yeghitsin</i>	be	see above, -ն =they, Sp. <i>est<u>an</u></i> , Lat. <i>exe<u>un</u>t</i> , Fr. <i>so<u>n</u>t</i>
կամք <i>gamk</i>	will	=Eng. <i>care, charity</i> , God's caring wish for us, Arm. <i>pare-gam (pari=good) well-wisher or friend</i>
քո <i>ko</i>	thy	see above
որպես <i>vorbes</i>	as	<i>how</i> from <i>vor= which + -bes=way</i> , as in <i>inchbes es how are you?</i>
յերկինս <i>hergins</i>	in heaven	<i>s</i> =plural as in <i>heaven<u>s</u></i> (note: base word is <i>yergink</i>)
և <i>yev</i>	and	=Eng. <i>epi, ep<u>i</u>dermis, ep<u>i</u>taph</i> , meaning, <i>on top of (p>v)</i>
յերկրի <i>hergri</i>	earth	=Eng. <i>ear<u>th</u></i> , <i>h</i> =on + <i>yergir=earth</i> , Arm. <i>yergink</i> 'heaven' derives from Arm. <i>yergir</i>
զհաց <i>z-hats</i>	bread	<i>z</i> =direct object (of <i>dur, give</i>) <i>hats</i> =Eng. <i>food</i> =Latin <i>pa<u>st</u>ure</i> , Fr. <i>pa<u>i</u>n</i> , as in <i>com<u>pa</u>nion</i> , someone who breaks bread (<i>pa<u>n</u></i>) with (com) you, as in, Arm. <i>unt</i> =with + <i>ger</i> =eat => <i>unger</i> ; <i>hov-iv</i> = someone who <i>pastures</i> the <i>ewes</i> , i.e., shepherd, pastor
մեր <i>mer</i>	our	see above, related forms – <i>mek</i> =we, <i>mez</i> =to us, <i>zmez</i> =us, <i>merots</i> =our
հանապազորդ <i>hanabazort</i>	daily	<i>hanabaz</i> =continual, <i>ort</i> =ly
տուր <i>dur</i>	give-thou	<i>du</i> =Eng. <i>do<u>n</u>ate</i> , <i>-r</i> = you sg., thou, see <i>da<u>n</u>ir</i> lead
մեզ <i>mez</i>	us	see above
այսօր <i>aysor</i>	this day	<i>ay<u>s</u></i> =Eng. <i>th<u>i</u>s</i> , <i>-or</i> = day
և <i>yev</i>	and	see above
թող <i>togh</i>	forgive	=Eng. <i>toler<u>a</u>te</i> , Lat. <i>tol<u>l</u>is</i> =take away, see <i>togh<u>u</u>-m<u>k</u></i>
մեզ <i>mez</i>	us	see above
զպարտիս <i>z-bardis</i>	debts	<i>z-</i> =direct object (of <i>togh</i>) <i>-s</i> =pl. direct object, see <i>bard-a-ban</i> =debt-keeper

մեր <i>mer</i>	our	see above
որպէս <i>vorbes</i>	as	see above
և <i>yev</i>	and	see above
մեր <i>mek</i>	we	see above, <i>mek</i> becomes <i>menk</i> in Mod. Arm.
թողումք <i>toghumk</i>	forgive	see above, <i>-mk</i> = we , as in <i>havadamk</i> =we believe
մերոց <i>merots</i>	our	see above, <i>-ots/-ats</i> = <i>to pl.</i>
պարտապանաց <i>bardabanats</i>	debtors	see above, <i>-ats</i> = <i>to pl.</i> , indirect object (of <i>toghumk</i>), give pardon to debtors
և <i>yev</i>	and	see above
մի՛ <i>mi</i>	not	<i>mi</i> = don't, not to be confused with <i>miayn</i> , <i>mimyants</i> = one, one another
տանիր <i>danir</i>	lead	=Eng. <i>donate</i> , give over to, <i>-r</i> =thou, you singular
զմեզ <i>zmez</i>	us	<i>z-</i> direct object (of <i>danir</i>)
ի <i>i</i>	into	=Eng. <i>in</i> , means <i>at</i> , <i>into</i> , <i>on</i> , <i>from</i> depending on context and suffix of following word
փորձութիւն <i>portsutyun</i>	temptation	=Eng. <u>per</u> il <i>-utyun</i> = <i>-tion</i>
այլ <i>ayl</i>	but	=Eng. <u>el</u> se
փրկեա <i>prg-ya</i>	deliver	<i>rescue</i> , <i>save</i> , as in <i>Prg-ich</i> , Savior, <i>-ya</i> =thou, you singular, command
ի <i>i</i>	from	=Eng. <i>in</i> = <i>from</i> due to suffix <i>char-<u>e</u></i>
չարէ <i>char-e</i>	evil	<i>ch</i> =not, <i>ar</i> =create, as in <i>ar-ar-ich</i> =Creator, constructive - creative vs. destructive - evil, <i>-e</i> = <i>from</i>

Common prefixes and suffixes

As in English, we can create many words by adding prefixes and suffixes to the beginning and end of roots. Below are the most common prefixes and suffixes in the Holy Communion rite. For example, the root *orphn* *orhn* **ble**s, *orphn***եալ** *orhnyal* **ble**ssed, *orphn***ութիւն** *orhnutyun* **ble**ssing

1. **ան-** *անարատ* **an-arad** innocent, *աներեւոյթ* **an-erevuyt** invisible
2. **-ք** *երկինք* **yerghink** heavens
3. **-եալ** *ողորմեալ* **voghormya** have mercy!, *յիշեալ* **hishya** remember!
4. **-եալ** *առաքեալ* **arakyal** one sent, *orphnեալ* **orhnyal** blessed
5. **-ոյ** *սրբոյ* **srpo** holy-of, *Որդւոյ* **vortvo** son-of
6. **-ոց/-աց** *սրբոց* **srpots** holy-of, *փառաց* **parats** glory-of
7. **-իւ/-ով** *երկիւղիւ* **yerghyughiv** fear-with, *հաւատով* **havadov** faith-with
8. **-եք** *առեք* **arek** take-you, *կերեք* **gerek** eat-you
9. **-իչ** *փրկիչ* **prgich** savior, *լուսաւորիչ* **lusavorich** enlightener
10. **-u, -դ, -ն** *-s, -t, -n* this, that, you

More common words from Holy Communion

1. *օգնական* **oknagan** cf. *oknel* to help
2. *ժողովուրդ* **zhoghov** gather, *zhoghovurt* gathering
3. *բարձր* **partsr** = iceberg, mountain, heights, also *համբարձեք* **hampartsek** lift, raise
4. *նոր* **nor** = new (-r adjective suffix as in *kaghts-r, parts-r*.)
5. *տեսեք* **desek** see -k suffix = you!
6. *մինչեւ* **minchev** until
7. *ժառանգութիւն* **zharankutyun** from *zharank*=heir + *uytun*=tion, inheritance
8. *երեք, երրորդութիւն* **yerrek, yerrortutyun** three, trinity
9. *շնորհք* **shnork** grace, Mod. Arm. *shnorha-gal*= thank-ful, **gracias**
10. *ընկեր* **unger** companion (*unt* = with, com) + (*ger*=food, as in Lat. *pan*, Fr. *pain*, bread); *ger* = eat, **devour**, **voracious**, **g=v** as in **gyank** = **vivacious**
11. *մարմին* **marmin** body
12. *բերան* **peran** mouth
13. *հիւանդ* **hivant** sick, ill from *pain-pain*, Arm. *h, v* = Eng./Lat. *p*)
14. *բժիշկ* **pzh-ishg** physician

Armenian Church Calendar

The Armenian Church divides the year into 5 seasons marked by the major holy days in red.

Christmas – January 6 – Christ's Birth, Baptism and Adoration of the Wise Men

Presentation of the Lord – Feb. 14, 40 days after Christ's birth
(Տեառնընդառաջ *Dyarn*=Lord, *unt*=to, *arach*=forward) (Luke 2:29-32)

St. Sarkis – at the end of the Fast of Salt and Bread, traditionally believed to have been established by St. Gregory as a national fast for Armenia's conversion

Sts. Vartanants – Thursday before Lent. AD 451 – St. Vartan defends Christian Armenia against Persians at Avarayr

Lent – 40 days ending on the Friday before Palm Sunday

Annunciation – April 7, the Archangel Gabriel announces to St. Mary that she will bear a son, Jesus (Luke 1:26-38)

Palm Sunday – Christ's entry into Jerusalem

Holy Thursday – The Last Supper, when Christ instituted communion

Good Friday – Crucifixion

Easter – Christ's Resurrection (Յարութիւն *Harutyun*) on the 3rd day after His crucifixion–Սբ. Զատիկ *Surp Zadig*, the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox (March 21)

Ascension – 40 days after Easter – when Christ ascended into heaven.
Համբարձում *Hampartsum* (Mark 16:19, Luke 24:50-51, Acts 1:9-11)

Pentecost – 50 days after Easter (*Pentecost* is Greek for 50) Arm. Հոգեգալուստ *hoke*=spirit, *kalusd*=coming, when the Holy Spirit filled the disciples gathered in Jerusalem (Acts 2)

Holy Etchmiadzin Day – St. Gregory's emergence from his captivity, when the Only (*mi*=one) Begotten (*dzin*=born) i.e., Christ + descended (*etch*), founding the mother cathedral and churches honoring Sts. Hripsimé and Gayané)

Transfiguration – 100 days after Easter, Christ's divinity is revealed on Mt. Tabor (Arm. Պայծառակերպութիւն (*baydzara*=bright, *gerbutyun*=appearance) or Վարդավառ (*varta*=rose, *var*=blaze) on this day people sprinkle each other with water (Matthew 17:1-6, Mark 9:1-8, Luke 9:28-36, John 1:14)

Assumption – Sunday closest to August 14. St. Mary is transported to heaven at her death (assume – take up) or sleep (hence this holy day is also called the Dormition) (Arm. Վերափոխում *ver=up, over + pokh=change*) (Blessing of the Grapes Խաղողփնէք *khaghogh=grape + orhnek= blessing*)

Exaltation of the Cross – Sunday closest to September 15. (Խաչվերաց *khach=cross, verats=raising*). The feasts of the Cross celebrate the 1st-century raising of the Cross by the brother of our Lord St. James, the Discovery of the Cross in 326 by Emperor Constantine's wife St. Helen at Golgotha where Jesus was crucified, and the recovery of the Cross from Persian captivity in 629.

Holy Translators – mid-October. (Թարգմանչաց *Tarkmanchats*) commemorates invention of the Armenian Alphabet by Sts. Sahag & Mesrob in 405 and the translation of the Bible into Armenian, as well as other Armenian Church Fathers and scholars

Advent – Late November through Christmas. Յիսուսկ *Hisnak* (from յիսուն *hisun* fifty) 50-day preparation for the celebration of Christ's Birth on January 6

Greetings for Clergy

- For Married Priest (*kahana*):
Օրհնէա, տէր, Orhnya der, bless father;
Priest's response – **Աստուած օրհնէ, Asdvadz orhne**, God bless you.
- For Vartabed, Bishop, Catholicos:
Աստուած օգնական, Asdvadz oknagan, God helper,
Clergy response – **Աստուած պահապան, Asdvadz bahaban**, God protector.

Seasonal Greetings (Used as a greeting during holiday seasons)

Christmas Greeting – Քրիստոս ծնաւ եւ յայտնեցաւ:

Krisdos dz-nav yev haydnetsav

Christ is born and has appeared! (Response – same as usual)

Easter Greeting – Քրիստոս յարեալ ի մեռելոց:

Krisdos haryav i merelots

Christ has arisen from the dead!

Easter Response – Օրհնէալ է յարութիւնն Քրիստոսի:

orhnyal e harutyun-n Krisdosi

Blessed is the resurrection of Christ!

Peace Blessing

Priest

Խաղաղութիւն ամենեցուն: †

khaghaghutyun amen-etsun
peace all-to

Peace unto all.

Աստուծոյ երկրպագեցուք: †

Asdudz-o yergr-bak-estsuk
God-to earth-kiss-let-us

Let us bow down to God.

Making the Sign of the Cross

(խաչ *khach* cross)

Right hand (thumb, index, middle fingers together signifying the Holy Trinity) "In the name of the Father (1. head), and the Son (2. stomach) and the Spirit (3. heart), Holy (4. right shoulder), Amen (5. mid-chest)."

People

– Եւ ընդ հոգւոյդ քուս:

yev unt hokvuyt kum
and with spirit your

And with your spirit.

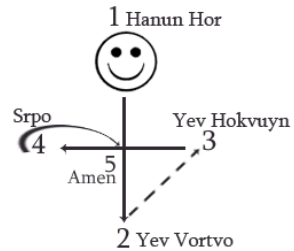
(Make sign of cross)

– Առաջի քո, Տէր:

arachi ko Der
before you Lord

Before you, Lord.

(Bow, cross oneself)



8 Parts of the Communion Service

1. **Greet Each Other** (*Krisdos i mech mer haydnetsav*)
2. **Remember Last Supper** (*Sanctus/Surp Surp, Arek, Gerek*)
3. **Give Thanks** (*Hamenayni, Hymns to the Trinity*)
4. **Pray for our Spiritual Family** (*Lord's Prayer/Hayr Mer*)
5. **Praise the Hosts** (*I srputyun srpots, Miayn Surp*)
6. **Clean Up before Eating** (*Confession, Kyrie/Der Voghormya*)
7. **Eat/Take Communion** (*Orhnyal e Asdvadz*)
8. **Say Thanks & Goodbye** (*Ltsak, Kohanamk, Go in Peace*)

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