

# Get to the Root of It!

## Tutorial 3

*The Lord's Prayer*

Year of Church and Home 2007

# The Lord's Prayer

## ■ *Lord's Prayer Hayr Mer Zuyr U'tir*

“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).

■ At the core of our spiritual practice as Armenian Christians

■ At the core of Church Armenian

Some Language Facts:

- 7 lines
- about 50 words long
- 25 distinct root words that account for more than 60% of the core of Church Armenian

The Lord's Prayer, the Our Father, *Pater Noster*, is the prayer Christ taught his disciples, when they asked him “Lord, teach us to pray.” It is the most common and fundamental prayer of the Armenian Church. Every service begins and ends with the Lord's Prayer, and traditionally, most public occasions begin with the Lord's Prayer.

An analysis of the spiritual significance of this prayer is beyond the scope of this tutorial, which has a more modest goal - to teach how to say and sing the prayer in Church Armenian.

In addition to its central significance to our faith as an all-purpose prayer of daily life, if you know this 7-line prayer, you are well on your way to proficiency in Church Armenian. The prayer is 50-words long, but because words are repeated, you only need to learn 28 words. Moreover, these 28 words, as might be expected, form the core of our Church services and constitute about 70% of the most common words in Armenian Church services. So once you know this prayer, you have made a significant step not only spiritually, but also linguistically, toward fuller participation in the Armenian Christian Tradition. Let's take a look at it in English first.

## Text in English

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit  
(making the sign of the cross)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory  
forever. (Said by the Priest) making the sign of the  
cross  
Amen. (= Hebrew for 'so be it')

The opening line - *In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit* is said by everyone. When we say it, we make the sign of the cross. The main prayer starts with *Our Father who art in heaven*, and ends with *Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil*. The closing line, *For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.* in yellow is said by the Priest, who leads us in making the sign of the cross at the end of the prayer. After which everyone says *Amen*, which is a Hebrew word that is used in Christian rites. *Amen* means 'so be it.'

## Practice saying it phrase by phrase

- *Hanun hor yev vortvo yev hokvuyn srpo. Amen.*
- *Hayr mer vor hergins es*
- *Surp yeghitsi anun ko*
- *Yegestse arkayutyun ko*
- *Yeghitsin gamk ko vorbes hergins yev hergri*
- *z-hats mer hanabazort dur mez aysor*
- *yev togh mez zbardis mer*
- *vorbes yev mek toghumk merots bardabanats*
- *Yev mi danir zmez i portsutyun, ayl prgya i chare.*
- *Zi ko e arkayutyun, yev zorutyun, yev park, havidyans, amen.*

## Practice saying it phrase by phrase

*Հայր մեր, որ յերկինս ես, սուրբ եղիցի անուն քո.*

Hayr mer vor hergins es surp yeghitsi anun ko  
Father our who in-heaven are holy be-let-it name your  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;**

*Եկեացէ արքայութիւն քո. եղիցին կամք քո,*

yegestse arkayutyun ko yeghitsin gamk ko  
come-let-it kingdom your be-let-it will your  
**thy kingdom come; 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.**

## Practice saying it phrase by phrase

*Ձեռք մեր հանապազորդ տո՛ւր մեզ այսօր. և թող մեզ զպարտիս մեր,*

z-hats mer hanabazort dur mez aysor yev togh mez z-bardis mer  
bread our everyday give us today and forgive us debts our

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,**

*որպէս և մեր թողումը 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;**

## Practice saying it phrase by phrase

*այլ վրկեա՛ ի չարէ:*

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

**but deliver us from evil.**

*Ձի քա 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.**

# Now Practice Singing

## Տերունական Աղօթք



Հայր մեր, որ յեր-կինս ես, սուրբ ե - ղի - ցի  
hayr mer vor her - geens es soorp ye - ghee-tsee



ա-նուն քո. ե-կես - ցե ար-քա-յու - թիւն քո, ե-ղի-ցին կանգ  
a - noon ko ye - ges - tse ar - ka - yoo - tyoon ko ye-ghee-tseen gamk



քո որ - պէս յեր - կինս ես յեր - կրի. զհաց մեր հա-նա-պա-զորդ  
ko vor - bes her - geens yev her - gree z\_hats mer ha - na - ba - zort



## Now Practice Singing 2

13  
տոուր մեզ այ - սօր. թող մեզ ըզ-պար-տիս մեր, որ - պէս եւ մեք  
door mez ay - sor togh mez uz - bar - dees mer vor - bes yev mek

16  
թո - դոււք մե - րոց պար - տա - պա - նաց. եւ սի տա - նիր  
to - ghoomk me - rots bar - da - ba - nats yev mee da - neer

19  
զմեզ ի փոր - ծու - թիւ. այլ փոր-կեա ի չա - րէ:  
zmez ee por - isoo - tyoon ayl pur - gya ee cha - re

## Congratulations!

- You have learned the Lord's Prayer in Church Armenian.
- review regularly
- say daily or several times a day
  - morning
  - before meals
  - at night

Congratulations! You have learned the Lord's Prayer in Church Armenian. Go over the tutorial regularly until you know all the words and explanations and can say and sing this prayer without hesitation. Say it when you wake up, when you go to bed, and before meals, before you know it, it will be second nature. Along with many common words you know, these 28 words constitute almost 70% of Church Armenian, so once you have mastered these you are well on your way to a knowledge of Church Armenian.