

# Get to the Root of It!

## Tutorial 7

The Communion Hymn

Օրհնեալ է Աստուած

*Orhnyal e Asdvadz*

Year of Church and Home 2007

## Communion Hymn

Blessed is God!  
Christ is sacrificed and distributed among us. Alleluia.  
He gives us his body as sustenance  
and sprinkles his holy blood upon us. Alleluia.  
Come to the Lord and receive the Light. Alleluia.  
Taste and see that the Lord is sweet. Alleluia.

Based in part on Psalm 34.

The Communion Hymn is one of the oldest Christian Hymns. As you read the text, its clear message and function is to call people forward for communion. It is based in part on Psalm 34. Each instruction from the choir is followed by the refrain, Alleluia, a Hebrew word meaning 'Praise the Lord.' Today, the entire hymn is sung by the choir and congregation together at the deacons' instruction. However, it seems that in earlier times, the hymn was sung antiphonally, one group singing the main instruction and the other punctuating it with Alleluias.

## Practice words line by line

*Օրհնեալ է Աստուած, Քրիստոս սատարագեալ*

orhnyal e Asdvadz Krisdos badarakyal

**Blessed is God! Christ is sacrificed**

*բաշխի ի միջի մերում: Ալելուիա:*

pash-khi i michi merum alleluia

distribute in midst us alleluia

**and distributed among us. Alleluia.**

*Չմարմին իւր տայ մեզ կերակուր*

z-marmin yur da mez geragur

body his give us food

**He gives us his body as sustenance**

This hymn has additional verses with Alleluias and more blessings and praise. Sometimes they are sung, and sometimes not. In any event, the core message of this hymn is contained in 6 lines we just studied.

Now let's try saying the words line by line.

## Practice words line by line

*Եւ սուրբ զարինն իւր ցօղէ ի մեզ: Ալելուիա:*

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: Ալելուիա:*

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 զի քաղցր է Տէր: Ալելուիա:*

jashag-etsek yev des-ek zi kagh-tsr e Der alleluia  
taste-you and see-you that sweet is Lord alleluia  
**Taste and see that the Lord is sweet. Alleluia.**

This hymn has additional verses with Alleluias and more blessings and praise. Sometimes they are sung, and sometimes not. In any event, the core message of this hymn is contained in 6 lines we just studied.

Now let's try saying the words line by line.

## Let's practice singing it

Օրհնել է Աստուած

Օրհ - նել է Աս - տուած: Գրիս - տու սու - տու - թա - վել  
orh - nyal e as - dvadz krees - dos ba - da - ra - kyal

Դու - ին ի մի - շի մե - թոմ. ա - լե - լու - իս:  
push - khec ee mee - chice me - room a - le - loo - ya

Չնոր - մի՛ն յոր տոյ մեզ կը - թա - կոր Լս սորք զս - թի՛ն  
zmar - meen yoor da mez ge - ra - goor yev soorp za - ryoon

Now let's practice singing it. Listen and follow along, then practice it line by line and from beginning to end.

## Let's practice singing it

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of four staves of music in a single system, each with its corresponding lyrics in Georgian and English. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are:   
Staff 1: ზოპ - გო - ზღ - ბ - შიკ. ა - ლ - ლ - ლ - ლ:   
yoor tso - ghe - ee - mez a - le - loo - ya   
Staff 2: შა - აბ - ან - ატ - ლა - ა - ატ - ა - ლ - ლ - ლ - ლ:   
ma - deek ar der yev a - rek uz - looys a - le - loo - ya   
Staff 3: შა - ან - ლ - ლ - შიკ - ლა - ა - ატ - ა - ლ - ლ - ლ - ლ:   
ja - sha - ge - tsek yev de - sek zee kaghtsr e - der   
Staff 4: ა - ლ - ლ - ლ - ლ:   
a - le - loo - ya

Now let's practice singing it. Listen and follow along, then practice it line by line and from beginning to end.