Get to the Root of It!

Tutorial 7

The Communion Hymn Օրհնեալ է Աստուած *Orhnyal e Asdvadz*

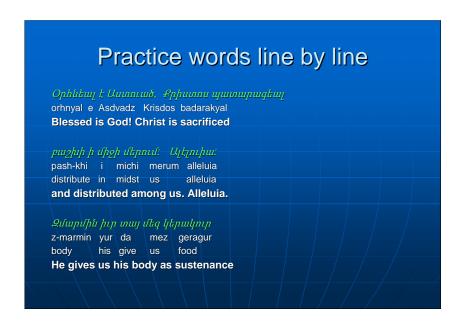
Year of Church and Home 2007

Communion Hymn

Blessed is God!
Christ is sacrified 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.

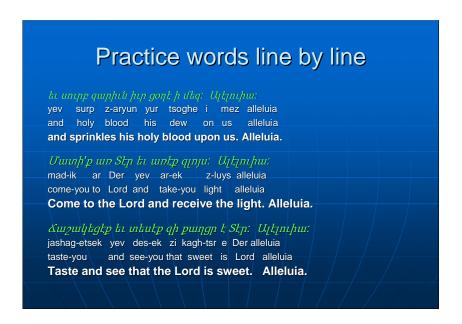
Based in part on Psalm 34.

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.



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.

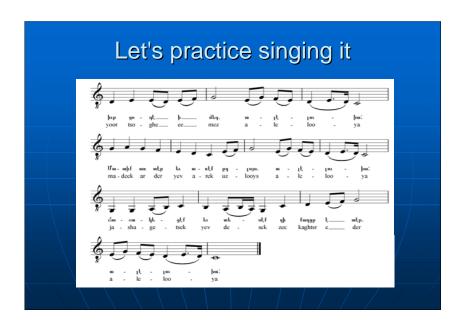


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Now let's practice singing it. Listen and follow along, then practice it line by line and from beginning to end.



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