MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

HOME BOUND OR HOME BLESSED?

My Dear Children in Christ,

I greet you in the name of Our Resurrected Lord Jesus Christ! *Kreesdos Haryav Ee Merelotz!* Christ is Risen!

As you know, the Governor's stay-at-home order has extended through May 30. Eastertide, which is fifty days after Easter, is a time when I bring the Good News of Our Lord's Resurrection into parishioners' homes with home blessings. I know the importance of this custom in our faithfuls' lives. However, for well known reasons, this year I cannot follow this ancient tradition that comes to us from the apostles themselves.

Though it is not the same, I am sharing with you a short prayer service to offer prayers for the protection of your homes and families. As you do with our Morning Prayer Service, you can assign parts to the members of your family, reserving the last prayer for the oldest in your household. I suggest offering the prayer before dinner one evening when everyone can come together. This prayer will not replace the traditional home blessing, but it will provide you an opportunity to ask for God's blessings and protection for your families in your "little church." I promise to visit your homes as soon as it is safe to do so.

Given that we likely will not be returning back into the sanctuary of our beloved church for weeks still to come, I also encourage each family to dedicate an area of your home for offering prayers. Please keep a Bible and an icon in your prayer space. To avoid transferring illness to one another, I strongly encourage each person to set aside their own Bible and icon for veneration.

I would also like to remind you that our bodies themselves, by virtue of our Baptism and Chrismation, became temples of God's divinity: "Clean him (her) with Your truth and by the shining grace of the Holy Spirit, in order that he (she) be a temple and the dwelling place of your divinity." May the Holy Spirit continue to dwell in each of us and keep our thoughts, words and deeds in accordance with the sanctity of our bodies as temples of God's divinity.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your generous *Yughakeen* donations during this Easter season. The fact that you continue to support St. James even during these difficult times is a testament to your endless love for and devotion to YOUR CHURCH.

May the Risen Christ bring peace and healing to His children and to the entire world.

Christ is Risen!

Der Hovhan

PRAYER FOR PROTECTION AT HOME

ALL

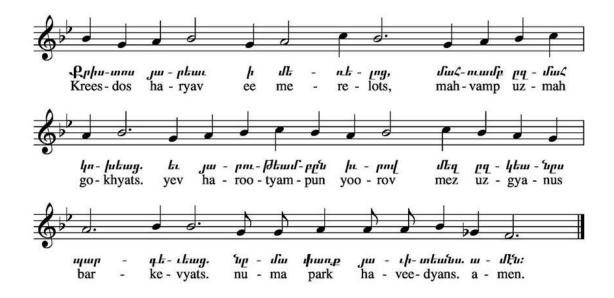
Blessed is our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Orhnyal Der mer Heesoos Kreesdos. Amen.

Hayr mer vor hergeens yes. Soorp yegheetsee anoon ko. Yegestseh arkayootyoon ko. Yegheetseen gamk ko vorbes hergeens yev hergree. Uz-hats mer hanabazort door mez aysor. Yev togh mez uzbardees mer vorbes yev mek toghoomk merots bardabanats. Yev mee daneer uzmez ee portsootyoon. Ayl purgya uzmez ee chareh.

Zee ko eh arkayootyoon yev zorootyoon yev park haveedyans. Amen.



READER: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 28:16-20

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

ALL

Glory to You, O Lord Our God!

PRAYER

O Christ, guardian of all, let your right hand guard and shelter me by day and by night; at home and abroad, in sleeping and waking, that I may never fall. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a manifold sinner.

LITANY

By the Holy Cross let us beseech the Lord that He may through It deliver us from our sins and save us by the grace of His mercy. Almighty God, our Lord, save us and have mercy upon us.

PRAYER

Almighty and merciful Lord, you have made a revelation to Your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house'; therefore Your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to You.O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant. Now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servants, so that it may continue forever before you. For you, O Lord GOD, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servants be blessed forever. Amen.

ALL (recite the Lord's Prayer):

Blessed is our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Orhnyal Der mer Heesoos Kreesdos. Amen.

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Zee ko eh arkayootyoon yev zorootyoon yev park haveedyans. Amen.



Prepared by St. James Armenian Church of Evanston, IL