

A LIVING FAITH Lesson about the SUNDAY OF THE WORLD CHURCH, "GREEN SUNDAY"

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Theme: Sharing

Scripture: Luke 22:15-20 (RSV)

Paree Looys!

The second Sunday following the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Sunday of the World Church. The Sunday of the World Church is also called "Green" Sunday, which according to Archbishop Malachia Ormanian, is the popular name of the feast and is linked with the awakening of nature in the springtime. It commemorates the first Church of Jerusalem, established by Christ.

On the first day of the Jewish festival of Passover, Jesus instructs two of the Apostles, Peter and John, to go into Jerusalem and meet a man, who would direct them to a house where Christ and His Apostles could celebrate the Passover Feast. Peter and John are led to the "Upper Room" of a house, where they make the necessary preparations for the meal. Later that evening Christ and the Twelve Apostles sit together to eat supper.

Christ speaks to them and says, "I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God. And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come." And he took bread, and gave thanks, and broke it, and gave unto them, saying, "This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me." Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you." (Luke 22:15-20)

This "Last Supper" was the event where Jesus Christ established the Sacrament of Holy Communion, which we celebrate every Sunday during the Divine Liturgy in Armenian Churches throughout the world. The Upper Room in Jerusalem, where the first Communion took place, is considered to be the first Church, as founded by Christ.

I am certain that there have been many occasions that you have invited people you love to your home and invited them to **share** dinner with you. Imagine spending all day preparing a delicious meal and once the food is ready and the table is set, your guests decide not to eat! Can you imagine if Jesus' disciples declined Jesus' invitation to His Last Supper? Every Sunday, during Badarak, our Lord invites us to His table, to **share** in His very essence – His Body and Blood as embodied in the bread and the wine. Through Holy Communion we become the Church, and it is the most intimate encounter we can have with God in this life. We **share** new life in Jesus through Holy Communion. Jesus taught us to do so by **sharing** and breaking bread and **sharing** a common cup filled with wine. It was not an accident that Jesus demonstrated the importance of **sharing** at the Last Supper. **Sharing** is one of the greatest virtues we can practice with one another. We should welcome every opportunity to **share** with others not only during Holy Communion, but also throughout each and every day.