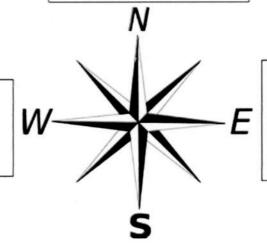
In the Armenian Church, the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross** takes place with great ceremony and includes the ritual of the Great Procession and Blessing of the Four Corners of the Earth.

During the Blessing of the Four Corners ceremony, there are readings from Scripture, hymns and prayers offered that speak to the Holy Cross of Christ.

We bless the North, asking God's protection that our churches, monasteries, clergy and faithful be kept in peace and grow in spirituality.

We bless the West, asking for God's grace upon the nations of the world and all Christian people.



We bless the East, calling upon God to guard and defend the Catholicos of all Armenians in Holy Etchmiadzin, and the land, and the people of Armenia.

We make the sign of the cross over the South, praying God protect the earth and harvest from damage.

At the end of the service, the congregation would come forward to venerate (honor) the Cross and take springs of basil home.



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