



## DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

# bulletin

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## DISCOVERY OF THE HOLY CROSS

### Feast of the Cross/Խաչի Տօն/Khachi Don

The homage, and even services accorded to the cross are universal among all Churches. Prayers are addressed to the cross; its power is extolled, and such virtues and efficacies are attributed to the cross as would be appropriate for persons and not objects. The cross is even deemed a mediator or an agent. Generally when we say "cross" we think of the very stake and cross-piece upon which Christ was crucified, and which is also known as the "Tree of Life." However, we assign to all crafted crosses, regardless of the material from which they are made, all the attributes and circumstances related to the original cross, only if they have first been anointed. Certainly it is impossible to think of inanimate matter as the Lord and the reason of creation. Everything—honor, services, and praise—rises up to the crucified Saviour and to the cross as the implement of salvation symbolizing the very person of the crucified Saviour. The feasts of the cross have been established in the Church on this principle. These feasts are variously related to historic events. Thus, when the cross is glorified through the commemoration of the crucifixion, it is the crucified Saviour who is worshipped.

The feasts of the cross in our Church are: the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (*Khachveratz*), the Discovery of the Cross; (*Kiud Khach*), the Apparition of the Holy Cross (*Yerevman Khach*), and the Holy Cross of Varak (*Varaka Khach*). Aside from these, feasts of the Holy Cross are observed on the Monday, Friday, and Saturday of the hebdomedal (seven days) of the cross, which lacking specific commemorations are but continuations of the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and have been instituted with the same objec-

tive. In the seven-day exaltation and glorification of the cross, three succeeding days have been devoted to the cross, and three to the Church.

The previous article was taken from *A Dictionary of the Armenian Church*, written by Patriarch Malachia Ormanian. Translated by Bedros Norehad. This translation of *Dsissagan Pararan* is a treasure chest of information of feasts, vessels and vestments, and aspects of the liturgical service. It is considered a classic resource book on the Armenina Church. 143 pp. The book is available in the Diocesan bookstore.

The following liturgical material for the services of the Feast of the Cross, has been translated by Yeretgin Sirarpi Aivazian.

#### *Ee Kha-cha-nish Payden — Mode V*

Ee kha-cha-nish pay-den tu-ghur-te-tzan tu-jhokhk,  
zo-roo-tyamp soorp Hok-vooyñ no-ro-ke-tzav yer-gir,  
ov eh sa vor kha-pan-yatz uz-mah.

Hresh-dagn a-ve-der goo-sin Ma-ri-amoo,  
sa eh ee us-guz-pa-neh pann vor ha-rach kan zha-vid-  
yans vor-tin. sa eh ta-ka-vorn vor kha-pa-nyatz uz-mah.

Har-yav ha-voor yer-ror-ti. ve-muk ba-da-re-tzan  
yer-gir shar-jhe-tzav sa-sa-ne-tzan tu jhokhk.  
sa eh gen-tan-in ha-vi-de nitz Kris-dos.

From the wood bearing the sign of the Cross hell was shaken.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit the earth was renewed:  
who is this that has destroyed death?

The angel did announce tidings to the Virgin Mary that this is the Word who was from the beginning, who was the Son before eternity. This is the King who destroyed death.

He didst rise on the third day. The stones were torn, the earth moved and hell was shaken. This is Christ

the eternally living one.

Khachee Ko Kris-dos Yer-gurba-ka-nemk.

For transliteration of the words and music see "Avak Shapat" by Vatche Vartabed Hovsepien, page 152-157.

We bow down to thy Cross Oh Christ, and we magnify thy holy betrayal, we glorify thy holy passion. Come Oh ye faithful, let us bow down to Christ our God; for being summoned on the cross he bestowed a gift to the world. Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, who wast betrayed for us have mercy for us.

Glory to thy Cross, alleluia, to thy holy betrayal, alleluia, to thy passion, alleluia. The light of thy face was given to us as a sign and didst gladden our hearts.

Thou didst fill them with their wheat, wine and oil. Glory

to thy Cross, alleluia. Glory and adoration to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages, amen,

With the life-giving Cross which became our salvation, do we all glorify thee.

The Cross which didst shine forth from the Father of light unto the earth and became a staff of strength to those who believe, through this do we all glorify thee.

The Cross was shown to us through a glorious and resplendent rising, for help against the enemy.

Thou who art without reproach wast brought to trial because of the sin of Eve, thou didst make us drink of the fountain which sprang forth from your side. Renew us also who are corrupted in sin.