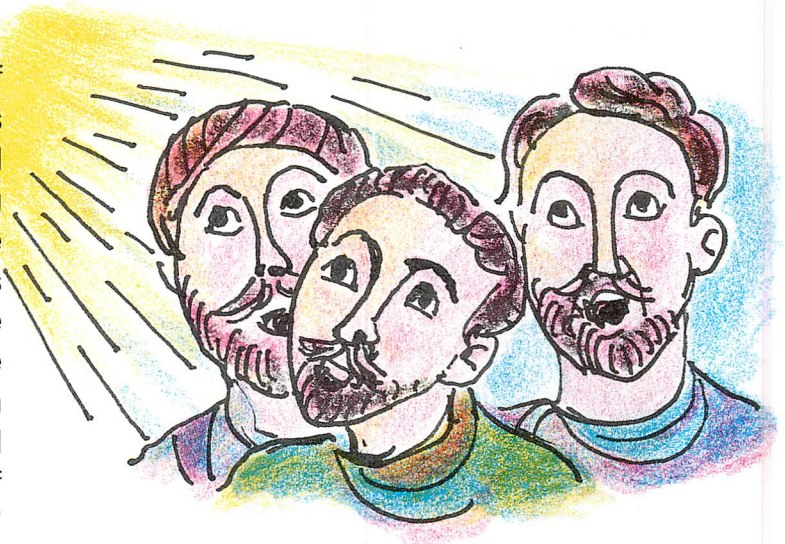


The Holy Spirit

THE HOLY SPIRIT: THE GIVER OF LIFE

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Holy Trinity. The Holy Spirit is known as “the giver of life.” The word “spirit” has the meaning of “giving life” or “breath.” We see this in the Old Testament before the world was created. The Bible tells us that the “spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.” (Gen 1:2) “When the Lord God formed man of dust and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, the man became a living being.” (Gen. 4:7) In the New Testament the Holy Spirit breathed life and the Church was born. This happened on the feast of Pentecost.

In a few sentences, describe the events on the feast of Pentecost and tell how the Holy Spirit breathed life into the Church, as he dwelt in each of the apostles. (Refer to Acts 2:2-4)



The Holy Spirit is still present in the Church today. We first receive the Spirit in the sacrament of baptism; the Holy Spirit is a gift from God the Father. We know this because Jesus told the apostles, “Wait for the gift I told you about, the gift my Father promised. John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Spirit.” (Acts 1:4-5) The sacrament of baptism initiates us into the family of God. We are cleansed of original sin and prepared to receive the Holy Spirit by affirming our faith and promising to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. The priest prepares the way for this act of

faith by praying “so that he/she may be a temple and dwelling of thy Godhead and may be able to walk in all the ways of righteousness.”

The newly baptized is now prepared to receive the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of chrismation or Soorp Gnoonk. The priest pours Holy Muron into the palm of his hand and seals the child's forehead, eyes, ears, nostrils, mouth, hands, heart, back and feet, beseeching the Holy Spirit to seal the faith willingly accepted by the child and to protect his sight, thoughts, words, deeds, and service from the influences of evil in the world.



THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit cannot be seen with our eyes but he is present in the Church as a sign of the love of God and Jesus. The dove, which stands for peace, is the symbol of the Spirit. We know him by his presence among us — by the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faith, meekness and temperance we find in ourselves and in others. These are the fruits of the Spirit. The beautiful white dove flying gracefully in the heavens is an attempt to express the beauty and serenity the Spirit brings. We should pray to the Holy Spirit to strengthen our lives by blessing us with the fruits of the Spirit.

1. *Compose a prayer to the Holy Spirit asking him to bestow upon us his fruits. There are nine in all.*

Example: “Holy Spirit, eternal Love of the Father and the Son, kindly bestow on us the fruit of patience so that we may humbly endure everything that may be opposed to our own desires.”

(If you need help with your prayer, some other names the Holy Spirit is called are: Spirit of Truth; Divine Spirit; Comforter; Counsellor; Soorp Hoki.)

2. *Which two fruits of the Spirit would you like to incorporate into your life? Why are they important to you?*



QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

1. In what two sacraments does the Holy Spirit come to us?

2. What does it mean when the priest says, "So that he/she may be a temple and dwelling of thy Godhead"?

3. In the sacrament of chrismation the priest uses Holy Muron to seal the child with the Holy Spirit. Why and how is this done?

The Holy Spirit — A Symbol of Power:

Peter and the apostles were followers of Jesus during his preaching ministry. When Jesus died, they were left with the responsibility of continuing the mission of Jesus. This was very frightening to them. When the day of

Pentecost had come, the apostles were gathered together in one room. Suddenly a strong wind filled the room and there appeared to them tongues of fire resting on each person. The apostles and Peter were no longer afraid but were filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. The Acts of the Apostles is filled with stories of such power in the history of the early Church. Using your Bible, locate some of these stories and choose one to write about below.



and Savior.

Open your copies of the Divine Liturgy. (This activity can be done individually or in small working groups.) Find as many references in the Divine Liturgy as possible to Jesus as our Savior, as the one who saves. Write down the reference and the page number. For example:

“O Lord, receive our supplications and save us.” (p.2a) “May the Lord almighty save us and have mercy.” (p.19a) “And the mercy of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ be with you, with all.” (p.35a)

There will be a long list. Stress the fact that since there are so many references in the Divine Liturgy to Jesus as our Lord and Savior, this title must be the most important attributed to Jesus. (15 min.)

4. Ask students the following:

- What do you think the word “Savior” means? (Have someone look it up in the dictionary if no one knows. The word “savior” means “a person who saves” or “Jesus.”)
- What did Jesus free us from? (Jesus freed us from sin, so we might become spiritually alive.)
- Who sent Jesus to free us from sin? (God the Father sent Jesus to be the savior of all mankind. It was a part of his plan for humanity’s salvation.)
- How can we share in God’s plan for salvation? What role does Jesus play in our salvation?

5. After students give responses to these questions, ask them to open their student text to “Jesus, Lord and Savior.”

Have students do the “Seven Steps” activity. This exercise involves looking up Scripture references in the Bible. The following is proof of the seven steps for sharing in God’s plan for salvation and having Christ as our personal Savior:

- “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)
- “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 4:23)
- “For the wages of sin is death.” (Romans 7:23)
- “At the right time, Christ died for the ungodly.” (Romans 5:6)
- “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household.” (Acts 17:31)
- “And the Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.” (Rev. 22:17)
- “And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:41.) (15 min.)

6. Move on to “Food for Thought.” If the class is large enough, break into small groups that can work together.

Answers:

- “God loves me.” God loves me so much that he

sent his Son Jesus to save me from sin.

- “I am a sinner.” At some time in my life I have sinned in thought, word, and deed.
- “I am a lost sinner, dead in sin.” When I sin, my spiritual life is dead. But to be saved is to become spiritually alive in Christ.
- “Christ loves me so much that he died for me.” Only through the sacrificial Lamb of God could the world be saved from sin.
- “I can be saved by my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.” To have true faith in the Lord, I must believe: “Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose on the third day.”
- “I will call upon the name of the Lord in prayer and be saved.”

I will pray to the Lord my God, and spread the Good News to all my friends. Together we will be followers of Jesus.

- “I will see that my friends and I grow in faith.” I will pray to the Lord every day of my life and encourage my friends to do the same. I will make every effort to include my friends in coming to the badarak with me and remind them to come if they miss a Sunday. We will grow in faith together.

Three things that come to mind when you hear the name of “Jesus.” (Friend, Teacher, Prophet, Messiah, Savior, Son of God.) (20 min.)

7. Homework: “Find the Names For Jesus.”

(Answers are on page 69.)

Session 3—The Holy Spirit

Key Concepts

1. The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity.
2. We know the Holy Spirit by the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faith, meekness, and temperance we find in ourselves and others.
3. Fire, wind, water, and dove are symbols of the Holy Spirit.

Objectives

Students will

1. Create a prayer to the Holy Spirit using the fruits of the Spirit.
2. Make a mobile, “The Fruits of the Holy Spirit.”
3. List symbols of the Holy Spirit.

Materials Needed

- Dowel or stick 12” long
- Heavy string
- White paper (patterns in student activity pack)
- Glue
- Scissors
- Needle
- Nylon thread

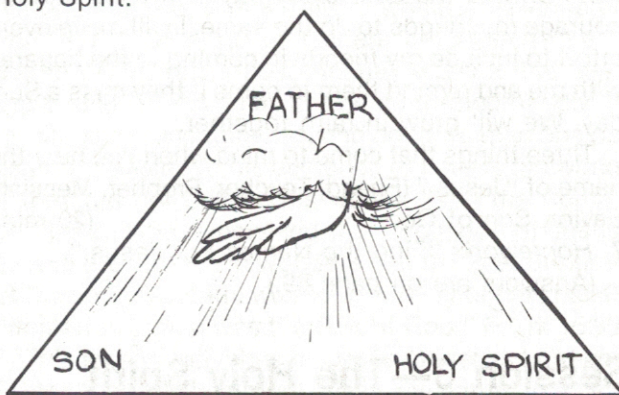
Procedure

1. Review parent/pupil worksheet. (5 min.)
2. Worship Service—Suggested Bible reading: John 16:5-15; Hayr Mer. (5 min.)
3. Discussion

(Draw a triangle on the blackboard before the students enter the classroom.)

- a. Who can tell me what is on the blackboard?
- b. What do you notice about the lines of the triangle? (The lines are endless and there is no opening.)
- c. Everything that is inside that triangle is tied together and an integral part of the triangle. There is a certain power associated with it because nothing can get into the triangle without breaking one of the solid lines. The triangle has a strength of its own.
- d. Does anyone know what the triangle symbolizes? (The Holy Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.)

At each point of the triangle, write "Father, Son, Holy Spirit."



- e. Let's put a symbol for God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit on our triangle. Can anyone think of a symbol they have seen associated with God the Father? (Usually a hand reaching down from a cloud. The hand is a helping hand trying to show fatherly love and concern over his children. The hand leads us to the path of righteousness.)

God the Son, or Jesus, is the second person of the Blessed Trinity. What symbols are associated with Jesus? (The cross, a lamb, a fish.)

God the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Holy Trinity. He is known as the "giver of life." Does anyone know why he is called the "giver of life?" To find the answer, open your Bibles and read the following two passages: Gen. 4:7 and Acts 2:2-4.

Genesis 4:7 tells us the Holy Spirit breathed life into man at Creation. Acts 2:2-4 describes how the Holy Spirit breathed life into the Church at the feast of Pentecost. In fact, Pentecost is also known as the birthday of the Church.

- f. What signs or symbols is the Holy Spirit known by? A dove, water, fire, wind. (See if the class can guess the meaning of each symbol.) Fire is a sign of his consuming, purifying power in the life of the believer.

(Acts 2:3) Wind speaks of his hidden depth in his mighty power. (John 3:8) Water speaks of his power to fill the believer to overflowing spiritual life. (John 7:37-39) The dove speaks of his gentle, tender, peaceful nature. (Mark 1:10) (10 min.)

4. How is the Holy Spirit present in the Church today? (The Holy Spirit is present in the Church in the sacraments. Through the sacraments of baptism and chrismation, for example, we are initiated into the Christian community, or family of God. We receive "new life" through the Holy Spirit in these two sacraments. Our new life is the one we have chosen with Christ.)

How can the Holy Spirit dwell within us? (Write on the blackboard: "The Fruits of the Spirit.") We can know the Holy Spirit by his presence among us through the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faith, meekness and temperance we find in ourselves and others. These are called the fruits of the Spirit. In our prayers we can ask the Holy Spirit to give us these gifts, and in turn, live our lives according to the Word of God.

Just imagine how wonderful it would be to possess each of these qualities, or even some of them. (Discuss how difficult it is to be patient, generous, meek. Ask the class which of the fruits of the Spirit they would like to strengthen in their lives and why.) (10 min.)

5. Read "The Fruits of the Spirit" on page 158. Have the class do the activity. Compose a prayer to the Holy Spirit asking him to bestow his fruits upon us.

For example: "Holy Spirit, eternal love of the Father and the Son, kindly bestow on us the fruit of patience so that we may humbly endure everything that may be opposed to our own desires." Ask for volunteers to share their prayers. (The class can work in groups or individually.) (10 min.)

6. Activity: "The Fruits of the Spirit" mobile.

- a. As students cut out a single dove from student activity packet, talk about the use of the dove as a symbol of the Spirit. The Spirit cannot be seen. We know him by his presence among us. The beautiful white dove flying gracefully in the heavens is an attempt to express the beauty and serenity the Spirit brings.

- b. Read from the list of fruits: (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faith, Meekness, Temperance). Each word refers to one of the qualities that the Spirit brings to fruit in the lives of those who follow Jesus. Discuss the meaning of each one.

- c. Have students choose and write the English word on one side of the dove, Armenian on the other: LOVE ԱԷՐ JOY ՅԼՇՈՒԹԻՒՆ PEACE ԽԱՂԱՂՈՒԹԻՒՆ PATIENCE ՀԱՄԲԵՐՈՒԹԻՒՆ KINDNESS ԱԶՆՈՒՄԻՒՆԻՒՆ GENEROSITY ԱՌԱՏԱԶԵՆՈՒԹԻՒՆ FAITH ՀԱԻԱՏՔ MEEKNESS ՀԵՉՈՒԹԻՒՆ TEMPERANCE ԺՈՒԴԿԱՂՈՒԹԻՒՆ. Then put a needle and nylon thread through the hole in each dove. Tie thread to the stick and cut. Do the

same with each dove. Use a heavy string tied to the center of the stick for hanging the mobile.(20 min.)

7. *Homework:* Parent/pupil worksheet: "The Fruits of the Spirit"; "The Holy Spirit—The Giver of Life."

Questions to Think About: "The Holy Spirit—A Symbol of Power."

Session 4—The Second Coming

Key Concepts

1. The Second Coming of Jesus is called the Parousia.
2. We should prepare ourselves for the great Day of the Lord when Jesus will come, not as savior to humanity, but as judge.

Objectives

Students will

1. Perform an echo pantomime on the Judgment Day.
2. Tell at least three ways we can prepare ourselves for the Parousia.
3. Read the Parable of the Talents and discuss the wise and unwise use of God-given talents.

Background for Teacher

The birth of Jesus is the pivotal point in the whole of the history of salvation. It is the "great beginning." Then Jesus came and died for us and God said, "This is my Son." God brought about our salvation through Jesus. But Jesus has not left the world. He lives in us through the sacraments. God continues to bring about our salvation today and every day until the end of time. Christ will continue to live in his Church until the great day of the Parousia when he will draw all men into himself. On this day Christ will come to bring us to his Father. He will choose from the world the righteous, for they truly prepared themselves every day of their lives to one day be with the Father in heaven. It is the act of "preparation" that concerns this lesson. We hope to teach the children that we must prepare ourselves every day of our lives, because we do not know the day or hour of the Second Coming of Jesus.

Materials Needed

- Bibles
- Candles

Procedure

1. Review parent/pupil worksheet, "The Fruits of the Spirit" (5 min.)
2. *Worship Service*—Suggested Bible reading: Revelation 1:6-8.

Impromptu prayer concerning the Second Coming of Jesus (To be read by you or a student).

"A long time ago God promised the world that he would send a savior to free man from sin and give him eternal life in heaven. All the people began to prepare themselves for the coming of the Messiah. Families began to fade from the face of the earth, but still the people waited for the coming of the Lord. God knew it would be difficult for his people to wait and still remain faithful to him. So he sent many helpers: the apostles, the prophets, and the saints who helped to pave the way for the coming of the Lord and prepare God's people to receive him. And Jesus, the Son of God conceived by the Holy Spirit, was born as savior to the world for our salvation. The world again grew evil. God promised the second coming of the Lord, but this time, to judge us. Today, let us prepare ourselves for the second coming of God. Dear Lord, help us to humble ourselves, and love our neighbor, and see goodness in everyone we meet, so that we might prepare ourselves to meet you on the Judgment Day. Amen." (7 min.)

3. Discussion

a. What do you think of when you hear the phrase, "The Coming of Jesus?" (Some students might respond with Christmas, the birth of Christ, the Judgment Day.)

b. Jesus comes to us in three ways: history, mystery, majesty. How did Jesus come in history? (Jesus came to us in history when he was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary and became man so he could free man from sin.)

How does Jesus come to us in mystery? (Jesus is present in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist and comes to each of us who receives him.)

When will Jesus come in majesty? (On Judgment Day, Jesus will come on his throne as King to judge all men.) (3 min.)

4. Today's lesson will focus upon the Parousia, or the second coming of Jesus. Read Matthew 24:1-28 together and discuss. (10 min.)

5. Have students open to the "Echo Pantomime" on page 160, based on a paraphrasing of Matt. 25:31-46. (An echo pantomime involves two people. One person says the words, and the other is his echo, and performs the actions.) Ask for volunteers—one student to read the words, the other for the action. (8 min.)

6. Discussion

The pantomime we just witnessed leaves us with one very important thought about when the Judgment Day will be and what we should be doing now. Who can tell me what this is?

At the very end of the pantomime, we are told, "Watch out, because you do not know what day your Lord will come. You must always *be ready* because