**Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit**

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus

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11:00 a.m. March 30, 2025

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*HYMN** - #4 “We Praise You, O God”

**\* INVOCATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER** (in unison)

Almighty and merciful Father, whose love is never ending and whose forgiveness reaches out to all those in alienation and sin, remember us in this hour of our need; and grant that your presence may bring meaning into our confused lives, turning despair to purposeful action and sorrow into joy. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

*“Our Father, Who art in heaven…”*

**\* GLORIA PATRI - #79**

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**RESPONSIVE READING AND PRAYER**

PASTOR: O God, our Father, let Your Spirit inspire us, in order that we may spread Your word for Your praise.

**PEOPLE**: **Loving God, be with us now, as Your Spirit leads us on.**

PASTOR: Prince of Peace, we pray for peace among nations, so that we may live in harmony and unity. Teach us to uphold justice in our decision making.

**PEOPLE**: **Loving God, be with us now, as Your Spirit leads us on.**

PASTOR: Loving God, reach out Your helping hand to those who suffer through hunger and poverty. We pray for those whose lives are affected by deadly diseases that are still without cure.

**PEOPLE: Loving God, be with us now, as Your Spirit leads us on.**

PASTOR: O God, we plead for Your blessings on the roles of Christians in society. We pray for all those whose lives have been affected by violence and war crimes.

**PEOPLE: Loving God, be with us now, as Your Spirit leads us on.**

PASTOR: O Lord, we pray for the church and its leaders, that we still be eager to see the good news preached.

**PEOPLE: We pray for the outcasts of the world, that they will receive mercy.**

PASTOR: Lord God, we pray for teachers and parents, that they will be eager to guide the young in Christ’s footsteps.

**PEOPLE: We pray for the sick of the world, that they may receive healing.**

PASTOR: O Merciful God, we pray for our nation and its leaders, that we will be eager to establish peace in the world.

**PEOPLE: O Compassionate God, we pray for the confused in the world, that they will receive understanding.**

PASTOR: O Lord, help us to be witnesses by our lives to the reality of Your love and grace.

**UNISON: O Lord, may we live as those who have found the meaning of life in our faith. In Jesus’ name, we pray.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**\* DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING:** Luke 12:13-21 (p.1617)

**ENGLISH SERMON:** Full Barns, Empty Souls

**\*HYMN** - #246 “O Savior, Let Me Walk With You,” (vs.1,4)

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING:** Luke 18:1-8 (p.1628)

**ARMENIAN SERMON:** The Parable of the Persistent Widow

**\* HAYR MER:** #275

**\* BENEDICTION**

**\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**: “Park Kez Der, Asdvadz Mer”

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

**\*Congregation is requested to stand. \*\*\*Latecomers may be seated.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WE WELCOME ALL WHO ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US,** especially guests. We extend a very cordial welcome to newcomers to take part in the worship, to engage in the activities of the Church, and to make this your church home.

**ACC COUNCIL MEETING**: Today, March 30th, after the Church Service, at 12:30pm.

**FOOD DRIVE – TODAY, MARCH 30TH IS THE LAST DAY:** Monetary donations are also accepted: Make checks payable to Cass Community Social Services, and include in the memo: ACC Food Drive.

**MEN AND WOMEN’S BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY:** Next Saturday, April 5th. Breakfast at 10:00am; and studies at 11:00am.

**APRIL 24TH -- 110th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN REMEMBRANCE**: by the four Armenian churches of Greater Detroit, is being held at St. Sarkis, at 7:00pm. A light afterglow will follow.

**Synopsis of the Armenian Sermon**

According to the Armenian Church calendar, the fourth Sunday of Lent is “The Judge’s Sunday” (Dadavori Kiraki). The scripture is taken from Luke 18:1-7. The passage deals with persistant prayer that brings positive results. The widow who sought justice from a cynical and corrupt judge, succeeded only through persistent petitioning. The judge “who neither feared God nor cared about men” (vs.3), eventually granted the widow’s petition.

The passage teaches the following lessons:

1. Not to give up when one has a just cause. Not to lose hope when one pursues justice. Most of the good things in life are slow in coming.
2. Good things depend upon patience and perseverance. Character is not built in one day; it takes years. There are times when the going will be tough, but do not lose faith and hope.
3. Be persistent in prayer. If an unscrupulous judge finally grants what the poor widow asked of him, how much more is God going to respond to those who call on Him” (vs.7-8).