**Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit**

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11:00 a.m. April 20, 2025

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*HYMN** - #202 “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

vs.1-2 English; vs.3 Armenian transliteration

*Ir grads ayn tarn daknab, Alleluia*

*Mer sirooyn haved eh gab, Alleluia*

*Vor srden har-kins hassni, Alleluia*

*Oor Hissooss ispar hank-chi, Alleluia*

**\*INVOCATION** (in unison)

Almighty God, Who has brought from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, and Who used His death upon the cross to bring about our redemption, grant us the faith to believe that every good which seems to be overcome by evil, and every love which seems to be buried in darkness and death, shall rise again to life immortal; through Christ, the risen Lord, Who taught us to pray:

*“Our Father who art in Heaven…”*

**\*HAYR MER:** - #275

**THE EASTER MEDITATION AND PRAYER:**

**PASTOR:** Christ is risen!

**PEOPLE: He is risen indeed!**

**PASTOR:** Lift up your hearts!

**PEOPLE: We will lift them up unto the Lord.**

**PASTOR:** We praise you, O Lord, for bringing from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, using his death upon the cross to bring about our redemption.

**PEOPLE: Praise be to Your holy name.**

**PASTOR:** We pray for those who are battling life-threatening illness, that they may renew their hope through Christ’s resurrection.

**PEOPLE: We pray for those who are dragged down by the weight of despair, that they may renew their hope through Christ’s resurrection.**

**PASTOR:** May our celebration of Easter, renew our faith in the Risen Lord.

**UNISON: Blessed be the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**CHORAL RESPONSE** – *“Soorp Asdvads”*

**ANTHEM**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING:** Mark 16:1-6 (p.1584)

**ENGLISH SERMON:** *“What Does Easter Tell Us?”*

**\*HYMN** - #201 *“Low in the Grave He Lay”* (vs.1,3)

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING:** Luke 24:1-6 (p.1642)

**ARMENIAN SERMON:** *“Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?”*

\***HYMN -** #199 *“Your Is the Glory”* (vs.1,3)

**\*BENEDICTION**

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

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

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

**BLESSED EASTER TO ALL!**

***“Kristos Haryav Ee Merelots. Orhnyal Eh Harootyunen Kristosee!”***

**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.

**MANY THANKS TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE:** for preparing and serving Easter Breakfast, and thank you to those who helped in the kitchen.

**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.

**MOTHER’S DAY, MAY 11TH:** This is an invitation to join us in the morning worship service, to pay tribute to our mothers. Following the morning worship service, at 12:30pm, join us for a complimentary luncheon. Please sign your name on the sign-up sheet in the Social Hall.

**FUNERAL SERVICE** for Mrs. Siroon Bedikian, will be held on Saturday, April 26, at 11:00am.

**Synopsis of the Armenian Sermon**

The message of Easter is summarized in a question and in a declaration, that we read in today’s Armenian Scripture. The question is: **“Why do you look for the living among the dead?”** The declaration is: **“He is not here; He is risen!”**

The implications of this declaration are the following:

1. **First. Christ’s Resurrection is a historical fact.** The date, the venue, and the people involved in the story are all historical facts, not figments of imagination.
2. **Second. The facts of the Resurrection convey the message that in this universe, God has the last word.** There are times when falsehood crucifies truth, hate crucifies love, injustice crucifies justice. But there is always a resurrection day for truth, love and justice. The Pilates, Herods, Pharisees and Sadducies will not prevail. Love is stronger than hate; truth is more lasting than lies.
3. **Third. Death is not the end. When we die, we shall live again.** Because Christ lives, those who believe in Him will also live. Death is a transition. It is a gateway to eternity. The grave is not a terminus. There is life hereafter.
4. **Fourth. Eternal life begins here and now for those who are committed to the Risen Lord.** It is a quality life and it continues in eternity. There are some “unfinished symphonies” to be perfected in our heavenly home, in God’s actual presence.