**Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit**

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11:00 a.m. April 27, 2025

**ARMENIAN MARTYRS’ SUNDAY**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*HYMN** - #311 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

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

*Togh Sadanan hooyah ashkhadi*

*Ir Taverov prnel mez*

*Menk Vakh Choonink, zee Dern Pari*

*Garogh eh bash-banel mez*

*Tevk al badir antiv, mez basharen khs-div*

*Grmank hassdad menal, mirch dern amenagd*

*Anhaght mer abaven eh*

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

Lord, fill us with the love of life, your life of love, which faces death in all its forms and rises stronger than before. Raise us and call us to venture out again. Help us to take the plunge and challenge all the powers that masquerade as being in control of this, our world. This day we want to celebrate your resurrection with our own! Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who taught us to pray: *“Our Father, Who art in Heaven…”*

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**A LITANY OF COMMEMORATION:**

**PASTOR:** Our loving and gracious Heavenly Father, for all those who have stood firm in their Christian faith in the face of persecution, exile, and death.

**PEOPLE: We praise you, O God!**

**PASTOR:** For all those Armenian men, women and children who were deported, driven on death marches, and massacred mercilessly because they refused to deny their faith.

**PEOPLE: We lift up our cries to you, O God.**

**PASTOR:** For all those who directly or indirectly participated in the murder of this small Christian nation and washed their hands saying, “I am innocent of their blood.”

**PEOPLE: We lift up our cries to you, O God.**

**PASTOR:** For all those who continue to trample on truth, justice, and human rights.

**PEOPLE: We lift up our cries to you, O God.**

**PASTOR:** That the Armenian people may not perish but prosper under Your Fatherly care.

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**CHORAL RESPONSE** – *“Soorp Adsvadz”*

**ANTHEM**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING:** Romans 8:31-39 (p.1758)

*Dennis Marburger*

**ENGLISH SERMON:**

*“Meaningful Ways of Objecting Armenian Martyrs’ Day”*

**\*HYMN** - #401 *“Faith of Our Fathers”* (vs.1,4)

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING:** John 20:24-30 (p.1687)

*Dr. Taline Hagopian*

**ARMENIAN SERMON:** *“Dealing With Our Doubts”*

**\*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.

**THE BOARD OF DEACONS MEETING:** will be held on Sunday, May 4th, at 12:15 p.m.

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING:** will be held on Tuesday, May 6th, at 6:00 p.m.

**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 12:30 p.m., join us for a complimentary luncheon. Please sign your name on the sign-up sheet in the Social Hall.

**FATHER’S DAY PICNIC, SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH:** Please sign-up on the sheet, in the Social Hall, if you are able to be at this picnic. It will be at Kensington Metro Park, at noon.

**Synopsis of the Armenian Sermon**

The first Sunday after Easter is called New Sunday. After the Resurrection of Jesus, everything was new, even the first day of the week.

In the Christian calendar, this Sunday is dedicated to St. Thomas. History has dealt harshly with Thomas. “Doubting Thomas” has become a figure of speech. Thomas was not a skeptic, nor an agnostic. He was the kind of man who wanted to be sure. His experience suggests the following:

1. **To doubt is not necessarily a bad thing.** Things would remain the same if people accepted the status quo. In human society, a lot of progress is attributed to doubt. People like Capernicus, Christopher Columbus, the Wright brothers, all doubted the status quo. Thomas doubted, but there came a time when his faith strengthened because of his doubts. Faith without doubt is dead.
2. **Thomas’ experience teaches us that we should face our doubts.** Thomas wanted first-hand experience with the Risen Christ. Having an inquisitive mind is not a sin. “I don’t understand, could you explain it to me?” is something that should not be criticized. Thomas did not settle for a second-hand faith; he wanted to have first-hand experience.
3. **Thomas’ experience teaches us that we can resolve our spiritual doubts by personal experience with Christ.** Thomas’ mistake was that he insisted on his personal experience. Many people demand empirical, visible evidence. They insist, “Show me, so I can believe.” What Jesus told Thomas and to all Thomases of the world, “You have no difficulty with the old maxim, ‘Seeing is believing;’ and I tell you, ‘Believing is seeing.’” In other words, faith is seeing with eyes of the heart, not necessarily with one’s eyes. There are some things, like hope, justice, love, and many other things which we do not see, but we experience. We believe in those things because we have personal and private experience with them.