

Leader:

Holy Hermit Gregory the Illuminator (c. 257 - c. 331) is the patron saint and first official head of the Armenian Church.

He was a religious leader who converted Armenia from paganism to Christianity in 301.

Armenia became the first country to establish itself as a Christian nation, an event traditionally dated to 301, now believed by most scholars to have occurred somewhat later, though before 314.

Gregory was born about 257.

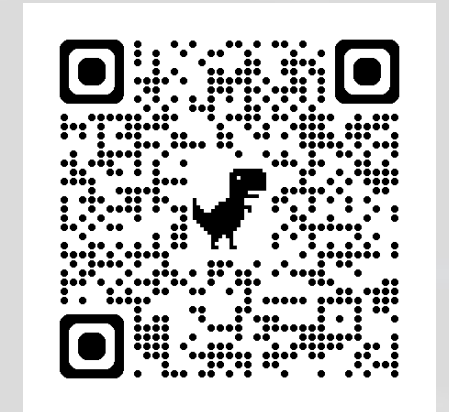
AFTER his father Anak, a Parthian prince, was put to death for assassinating his kinsman King Khosrov while Gregory was still an infant he was taken by his nurse to Caesarea in Cappadocia where he was raised as a Christian.

About 280, Gregory returned to Armenia and entered the service of King Tiridates III, the son of the assassinated Khosrov.

Tiridates pursued an anti-Christian campaign. Tiridates developed a serious ailment and suffered disfigurement. However, his heart softened after he was cured through Gregory's prayers from prison. Soon, Tiridates, repenting his crimes and, with most of the people of Armenia, answered Gregory's call and became converts to Christianity. In 303, Gregory built the Cathedral of Etchmiadzin near Mount Ararat which still is the seat of the Armenian Catholicos. Gregory passed his last years in contemplative solitude where he reposed about 331.

As we gather, "Prelude for the Resurrection & Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ" (no. 2 from "Two Preludes for Organ") by Australian composer Robert Allworth (1943-2017).

<https://youtu.be/isPcHHkp7-c?si=-MJP9ncTvUsmR3IG>



To read more about our Hermit, please scan

We will be led by our Leader with our Cantor as the voice of all
Leader and Cantor unmute

The Greeting

Blessed be God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All: Blessed be God's Kingdom
now and forever.
Amen**

Gathering Invitation and Prayer

Come to God and be ready to listen.

Come to God and be willing to hear.

Bring your gifts and talents.

Bring your hearts and minds.

Come and find a way to serve today.

All: Generous God,

**we thank you for the good gifts we receive from you:
for skills and abilities, for opportunities to serve.**

We ask for the gift of discernment

that we may know our own gifts

and recognise the potential in others. Amen

Sentence

Leader: I now invite our cantor to proclaim the sentence for today.

Cantor:

Jesus prayed, 'Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.'

John 17.11

Prayer of Approach

Lord God, we come into your presence as individuals. We do not always realise how special we are, especially to you.

You believe in us with your whole heart;

we believe in you with our whole heart.

There is so much more to each one of us than we ever believe.

Put us together and we are even more amazing!

You believe in us with your whole heart;

we believe in you with our whole heart.

May we come to understand our distinctiveness,
the things that make each one of us special.

All with our own talents, traits and quirks.

You believe in us with your whole heart;

we believe in you with our whole heart.

Amen.

Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth

https://youtu.be/TTcJ_SQruhE?si=Z46ECwbZQSIH2N75

The Deacon Introduces Confession

Christ our Passover Lamb has been offered for us,
therefore we come to celebrate the festival.

Silence may be kept.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a
sincere and a true heart.

All:

Merciful God, our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:

we have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;

we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.

Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Priest offers the Absolution

Almighty God who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to God in faith; pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Gloria

<https://youtu.be/4Zq3O8NPwW8?si=VCe8xlrbt6OwOK8S>

The Collect

Leader: Almighty God,
your blessed Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things:
mercifully give us faith to trust
that, as he promised,
he abides with us on earth until the end of time;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The first reader unmutes

The 1st Reading is from the Book of **Acts 1.15-17, 1.21-26**

15 In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, **16** 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— **17** for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.'

Continued

21 So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.’ 23 So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. 24 Then they prayed and said, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen 25 to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.’ 26 And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: We now say the psalm antiphonally. I invite the first reader to lead, and we will all respond along with our cantor as our voice.

Psalm 1

1 Blessed are they

who have not walked in the counsel of the ungodly:

nor followed the way of sinners,

nor taken their seat amongst the scornful.

2 But their delight is in the law of the Lord:

and on that law will they ponder day and night.

3 They are like trees planted beside streams of water:

that yield their fruit in due season.

Continues...

4 Their leaves also shall not wither:
and look, whatever they do, it shall prosper.

**5 As for the ungodly, it is not so with them:
they are like the chaff which the wind scatters.**

6 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand up
at the judgement:

nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

**7 For the Lord cares for the way of the righteous:
but the way of the ungodly shall perish.**

I now invite the 2nd reader to unmute and offer the 2nd lesson when ready.

The 2nd Reading comes from **1 John 5.9-13**

9 If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. **10** Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. **11** And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. **12** Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. **13** I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*We pause
before the
Gospel*



Deacon: The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to **St John 17.6-19**
All: *Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

6 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. **7** Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; **8** for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. **9** I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. **10** All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. **11** And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Continued

12 While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. **13** But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. **14** I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. **15** I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. **16** They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. **17** Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. **18** As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. **19** And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer. The hands are resting on a black Bible with the words "Holy Bible" printed in gold on the cover. The Bible is lying on a light-colored wooden surface. The lighting is warm and focused on the hands and the Bible.

We pause
after the
Gospel

The Sermon - Flashback

Discerning God's will together

Follow up Questions

1. What is your experience of discerning God's will in community?
2. How are we doing this well at HHO?
3. How could we do this better together?
4. Any memories of open spaces (at HHO or elsewhere) that you might like to share welcome.

Hymn

Light of the Minds that Know Him

<https://youtu.be/TOGp5sqBcH4?si=aZhf1g5D1dBjEP6g>

The Leader and Cantor unmute

The Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ
All: God's Spirit is with us

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All: And also with you.

Leader: *A sign of peace may now be exchanged*

*You might like to type "Peace" into the chat,
use the 'raise hand' or other reaction buttons,
or just simply wave via screen with your video turned on*

(Broadcaster exits shared screen for a few moments for the exchange of peace)

Prayer of Thanksgiving before Intercessions

Leader: As we now enter prayer, I invite the 2nd reader to unmute, to lead our intercessions. Please feel free to change your body position if you need to, as we offer this Thanksgiving prayer.

Leader: We thank you, God, for all our experiences.

Painful or pleasant, they make us as we are.

May we allow them to be used for your glory.

We thank you for our ministers, who have responded to your call to share their gifts and experiences with us.

Help us all to draw closer to each other and to you.

Amen.

Intercessions

Reader 2 We pray for creation and communities we share our lives with. We pause for a few moments to name either in our hearts, or out loud, or in the chat, those environments and communities we bring to the Lord in prayer.

PAUSE...

We entrust to you the community of Holy Hermits Online and our ministry partners:

- St John's Cathedral Brisbane
- The Anglican Diocese of Southern Queensland
- St Gabriel's Carindale
- The Episcopal Diocese of Texas, Canon Joann and the Mission Amplification Team
- Anglican focus
- Tithe.ly

We hold before you Bishop elect Sarah in the lead up to her consecration, as well as her family, as we prepare for this new chapter in the life of our region.

Prosper the work of our hands and show us the way to your new creation.
Creator God, **Hear our prayer.**

Loving Creator, we entrust to you all animals, especially those who are: sick, anxious, ageing, lost, at risk, lonely, sad, hungry, in pain, homeless, abused, living in fear, encountering violence of any kind, in need of comfort, rehabilitation or transformation.

We invite your loving compassion for:

Jasmine,

Leese(y),

Lolly,

Charlie and Sid,

Polly and Meggsie

Star and Mash,

Mascara,

Lambert,

We name in our hearts, out loud or in the chat, the animals we bring to the Lord in prayer. **PAUSE...**

Eternal Trinity of Love, we uphold to you the people we love and carry cares for:

Kerry and Les, Jake,
Dr Julie,
Julie and Ray, Tracey, Shane,
Alecia, Martin and Aidan,
Judy and Mary
George, Wendy, Kristine and Claire
Aaron and Andrea
Neva

Barry
Dilys and Tony,
Paul and Darhon,
Jess and Leah
Shirley
Mark, Desley and Bob
Gavin

Bill and Marjorie
Rev'd Shane and Janet

We name in our hearts, out loud or in the chat, those we bring to the Lord in prayer.

PAUSE...

We entrust to you those who have died, those who have died peacefully and those who have died tragically, the old and the young. Receive them into your kingdom.

Amen.

Pray Daily Cycle of Prayer

Leader: Loving God, joining with the Church in our cycle of prayer, we ask your blessings on:

- The Anglican Church of Burundi
- The Diocese of Grafton: †Murray Harvey; Clergy and People
- The Parish of Sunnybank: Scott Windred, Simon Tang
- Bush Ministry Fund
- St Luke's Anglican School, Bundaberg: Principal - Matthew Hughes; Chaplain - Erika Williams; Chair of School Council - Darren Hart; members of School Council; staff & students

Leader: Let us join together in the prayer which Jesus gave us saying,

**All: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**



Devotions

Leader:

As we enter a few minutes of silence together, you are invited to pray the commitment prayer for the week or spend this time in contemplation. We will be still together for a few moments before Spiritual communion on the next slide.

Leader and Cantor Mute

EDOT Partnership

Holy Trinity, source of all creativity, mission and pioneering partnerships, Please encourage and inspire us as we partner with the Episcopal Diocese of Texas and the Mission Amplification Team to establish a mutually successful collaboration with Holy Hermits Online.

We pray that you will provide encouragement to the leaders and organisers of our mission, in the partnership phases which we fluidly move through building foundations, creating resources and experimenting bravely.

We look forward to making new friends and connections over this next exciting time of ministry and outreach together. Please prepare us to open our hearts to our brothers and sisters in Texas and beyond.

We especially look forward to welcoming and loving all companion animals across each end of our beautiful world and sharing our Companion Animal and other ministries from our community life.

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth and sent your son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you in our online communities. Please help us find the remote, the lonely, the sick and the sad that need your help and your heavenly word.

Raise up more people in your worldwide church to pray and to work, to care and to understand, to give to you and to go for you, that your church may grow, your will be done, your kingdom come, and your glory be revealed;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Oh, my Lord Jesus I turn to
you present at the Altar and in
the Tabernacle.

I believe that you are present
in the Holy Sacrament of your
most Sacred Body and Blood.

I love you above all things and I
desire to receive you into my
Soul. I cannot at this moment
receive you Sacramentally in
Holy Communion.

Come spiritually into my heart.
Purify it, Sanctify it. Render my
heart like your own heart.

I embrace you as if you were
already there and unite myself
wholly with you.

Never permit me to be
separated from you.

Lord, I am not worthy to
receive you, but only say the
word and I shall be healed.

Amen

Making a Spiritual Communion

(Prayed in silence)



Song

You are Our Hope

https://youtu.be/zz_6z40EmWw?si=FOXGS3MZbDsT9_5P

Sending prayer

Leader: We pray our sending prayer together

All: Lord, help us to know ourselves better
and to reflect on your call to us.

Give us grace to use our gifts to honour you
and to serve others.

Help us to work together for the good of all.

Amen.

The Priest offers the Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you what is pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

Notices

- Our Eastertide Study, Faith asking Questions, continues Wednesday at 6pm
- The month of May is Vocations Season, a time to reflect on how God calls each of us to serve in community - vocation conversations available with Rev'd Jamee

Serving next week: 19th May 2024

Service Prep: Leonie

Music: Wiggles

Proof-reader: Kristine

Broadcaster: Barry

Tech Support: Paul

Welcomer: Chris

Leader: Dr. Julie

Cantor: Ruth

First Reader: Bob

Second Reader: Vanessa

Preacher: Jamee

Fellowship: Leonie

Offerings

Offerings are most welcome at <https://holyhermits.com.au/give>



or via the HHO App, please

Scan to download
the app



Thank you for your regular gifts to this ministry

Everyone is invited to unmute for Dismissal

Leader: Go in the peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Fellowship time

Thank you to Julie for leading Fellowship.

Please feel welcome to linger or pop a message in the Chat and head off when you are ready.

Sermon Follow up Questions

1. What is your experience of discerning God's will in community?
2. How are we doing this well at HHO?
3. How could we do this better together?
4. Any memories of open spaces (at HHO or elsewhere) that you might like to share are welcome.



Background photo developed in Microsoft Designer