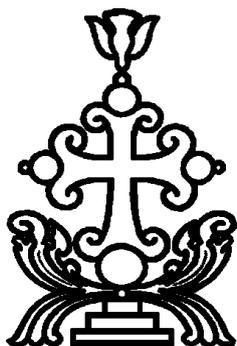
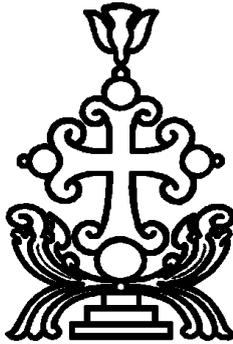


SYRO-MALABAR LITURGY



RITE OF BETROTHAL

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Major Archbishop of the Syro- Malabar Church

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DECREE

After due consultation and deliberation in the concerned forums and with the approval of the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church in its sessions held from 22nd August to 2nd September 2016 and from 9th to 14th January 2017 and after having obtained the *Recognitio* of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches on 2nd October 2017, the undersigned George Cardinal Alencherry, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church hereby promulgates the liturgical text of Betrothal for the Syro-Malabar Church, to be effective from 25th January 2018.

Given at Kakkanad from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church at Mount St. Thomas on 6th January 2018.

✠ George Cardinal Alencherry

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

PREFACE

The Commission for Liturgy is happy to publish the English translation of the liturgical text of the Betrothal to be used in the Syro-Malabar Church. The draft of the Malayalam text had been prepared based on the taksa of the East Syrian liturgy of marriage and the different texts of Betrothal used in the Syro-Malabar Church. The draft text prepared by the Central Liturgical Committee was discussed and approved by the Synod (9th to 14th January 2017) with necessary modifications and was sent to Rome for *Recognitio*. The Congregation for the Oriental Churches approved this text on 2nd October 2017 (Prot. No. 184/2017).

Having verified that the English version is true to the original Malayalam version promulgated by the Major Archbishop on 6th January 2018, I hereby approve this English translation as per the mandate given by the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church. The English translation of the text of Betrothal shall be effective from 25th January 2018.

Mar Thomas Elavanal,
Chairman, Syro-Malabar Commission for Liturgy

January 8, 2018

RITE OF BETROTHAL

General Instructions

1. Since the rite of betrothal is only a sacramental, it is not celebrated along with the Holy Qurbana.
2. If the rite of betrothal is celebrated on Sundays or any other day of obligation, Qurbana may be celebrated either before or after this ceremony.

The man and the woman, together with their relatives and friends enter the church through the main door and proceed to the Bema. The man and the woman stand in front of the Bema; man on the right side and woman on the left side. There must be two witnesses near them.

C: Glory to God in the highest. *(Three times)*

A: Amen. *(Three times)*

C: Peace and hope to people on earth, always and forever.

A: Amen.

C: Our Father in heaven,

C&A: Hallowed be Thy name,

Thy kingdom come.

Holy, holy, holy are you.

Our Father in heaven,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Angels and people sing out your glory;

Holy, holy, holy are you.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day the bread we need
and forgive us our debts and sins
as we have forgiven those who offended us.
Do not let us fall into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

C: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

A: From eternity and forever. Amen.

C: Our Father in heaven,

C & A: Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come.
Holy, holy, holy are you.
Our Father in heaven,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Angels and people sing out your glory;
Holy, holy, holy are you.

OR

C: Our Father in heaven

A: Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day the bread we need
and forgive us our debts and sins
as we have forgiven those who offended us.
Do not let us fall into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Angels and people sing out your glory;
Holy, holy, holy are you.

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: O God our Lord, you have created man and woman. We glorify you, for you have united them for the loving union and existence of the human race. Lord, you who have selected our forefather Isaac and his life partner Rebecca, graciously bless these servants (names) who have come here to make the promise to be united in marriage with full freedom of mind and complete joy. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Lord of all, forever.

A: Amen.

Psalm 34: 8-14

C: Taste and see that the Lord is good.
(*Qanona*) Lord who prepared the way for Isaac to find out the wife, bless these servants who have come for the engagement.

A: Happy are those who take refuge in Him.

C: Fear the Lord, you his holy ones,
For those who fear him have no want.

A: The young lions suffer want and hunger,
But those who seek the Lord
Lack no good things.

C: Come, O Children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

A: Which of you desires life,
And covets many days to enjoy good?

- C: Keep your tongue from evil,
And your lips from speaking deceit.
- A: Depart from evil, and do good;
Seek peace and pursue it.
- C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- A: From eternity and forever, Amen.
- C: (*Qanona*) Lord who prepared the way for Isaac to find out the wife, bless these servants who have come for the engagement.
- D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.
- C: Lord, Our God! For all the helps and blessings You have bestowed on us and for which we can never be grateful enough, we offer You never-ending praise and glory in the Church, crowned like a spouse with every goodness and grace. You are the creator and Lord of all, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, forever.
- A: Amen.

(Hymn)

- A: Lord of all we bow and praise You
Jesus Christ, we glorify You
For You give man glorious resurrection
And You are the one who saves his soul.
- C: *It is proper to thank You and praise Your name.*
Lord of all we bow and praise You...,
- A: *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. From the eternity and forever. Amen.*
Lord of all we bow and praise You...,

OR

A: Lord of all, we praise You. Jesus Christ, we glorify You.
For You are the one who raises our bodies, and saves
our souls.

C: *It is proper to thank You and praise your name.*
Lord of all, we praise You...,

A: *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit. From the eternity and forever. Amen.*
Lord of all, we praise You...,

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: My Lord, You are truly the One who raises our bodies.
You are the Savior of our souls, and the preserver of
our lives. We are bound always to thank, adore, and
glorify You. The Lord of all, forever.

A: Amen.

(Hymn)

D: Lift up your voices and sing aloud
Let us all sing His praise
Bless the Lord
Bless the Lord eternal.

A: Holy Lord of all
Holy mighty One
Holy immortal One
Have mercy on us.

C: *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and the Holy
Spirit.*
Holy Lord of all...

A: *From the eternity and forever. Amen.*
Holy Lord of all...

OR

D: Brothers and sisters, raise your voices and glorify the living God.

A: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy on us.

C: Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Holy God, Holy Mighty One...,

A: From the eternity and forever. Amen.
Holy God, Holy Mighty One...,

D: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

C: Lord, Our God, illumine our hearts and minds to hear and understand the sweet voice of Your life-giving and divine commandments. In Your mercy and grace, grant that they bear in us the fruits of love, hope, and salvation beneficial to our body and soul and that we may constantly praise You, Lord of all, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, forever.

A: Amen.

Gospel Reading

D: Let us stand and listen attentively to the Holy Gospel.

C: Peace + be with you.

A: With you and with your spirit.

C: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed by St. ...

A: Glory to You Christ, Our Lord.

Jn 15:9-12

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

OR

Mt 6:25-33

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you - you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

A: Glory to You Christ, Our Lord.

Homily
Karozutha

- D: Let us all with joy and devotion pray for these servants who present themselves before you, saying ‘Lord, have mercy on these servants’.
- A: Lord, have mercy on these servants.
- D: Bless these servants and bestow your grace upon them to enter into the holy sacrament of matrimony according to their promise. We beseech you.
- A: Lord, have mercy on these servants.
- D: Bless these servants to prepare themselves for a married life based on Christian virtues and with a pure heart. We beseech you.
- A: Lord, have mercy on these servants.
- D: May these servants enter into married life, being conscious of the obligations of the Christian family. We beseech you.
- A: Lord, have mercy on these servants.
- D: Lord, prepare these servants to acknowledge that the sacrament of marriage is a covenant between God and the spouses and a relation lasting unto death. We beseech you.
- A: Lord, have mercy on these servants.
- S: Let us commend ourselves and one another to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- A: Lord, Our God, we commend ourselves to you.

C: O God our Lord, have mercy on these servants who have come before your presence for the celebration of betrothal. Bless them graciously to fulfill their promise and to lead a life pleasing to You. Keep them and their families united in love. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Lord of all, forever.

C: Amen.

C: You are aware that the promise of marriage may be done only with right knowledge and full consent. The Holy Church gives you an occasion to declare publicly your promise to get married.

The celebrant calling the man by his name asks:

C: *(Name of the man)* Do you promise to accept *(Name of the woman)* as your wife according to the law of Christ and according to the teachings of the Holy Church?

Man: Yes. I promise.

The celebrant calling the woman by her name asks:

C: *(Name of the woman)* Do you promise to accept *(Name of the man)* as your husband according to the law of Christ and according to the teachings of the Holy Church?

Woman: Yes. I promise.

The celebrant asks the witnesses

C: Do you bear witness to this promise of marriage?

Witnesses: Yes.

C: May Jesus Christ our Lord, bless you (names) who made the promise of marriage and may He bless you to fulfill your promise.

(Sprinkles Holy Water)

A: Amen.

C: O Lord Jesus, who received the Church as the pure bride, graciously extend Your right hand of mercy upon these persons who have made the promise of marriage. Protect them under the shade of Your providence. May the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our mother, St. Joseph, the head of the Holy Family, and St. Thomas, our Apostle, make perfect the promise made by these persons. May the prayer of all the saints especially the saints and the blessed ones of our Church help and protect them, Lord of all, forever.

A: Amen. Bless us, O Lord.

Final Blessing (Huttama)

C: May God, by His Word strengthen the promise of marriage that you have made in His providence. Let Him confirm it by the commandment of love and perfect it by His mercy. May God, who has united Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel, seal your promise in faith, truth, love, and unity of heart. May God strengthen you to receive the sacrament of matrimony with intense prayer and spiritual preparation. May God abundantly bless you, your parents who brought you up in love, your family members and all those who took part in this holy ceremony, now, and always ✠ and forever.

A: Amen.