

MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH



ܠܗܥܠܡܐ ܕܚܝܐ ܥܒܕܐ ܕܝܫܐ

THE SERVICE BOOK FOR
THE FEAST OF THEOPHANY

ENGLISH & MALAYALAM TRANSLITERATION

The English text in this book was adapted from prose translations from the original Syriac by Rev. Fr. Baby Varghese found in *The Order of the Prayers of the Major Feasts* (Malankara Orthodox Church Publications, 2013).

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PROCESSIONAL HYMN*(golo d-teshbubhtë – yohanan than sthuthigeetham)*

Yohannaan than sthuthi geetham	The voice of praising by John
Yorddaan nadiyil muzhangunnu	Resounded at the Jordan:
Thaathannu thiru hithamiyalunna	“Come, behold the Lamb of God
Daivathinnaja poethamithaa	In whom the Father is pleased.”

Paavana roohaayivanupari	The Holy Spirit was seen
Praavenna vidham thelivaayee	In the likeness of a dove
Svajanathodu purajaaathikalae	All peoples and all nations,
Bahuthara bhasha bhashikalae	Give thanks, exalt, and bless Him
Sthuthi cheythavanae sthothrathaa	Now, always and forever
Lanavaratham nathi cheytheedin	

KATHISMA*(taw ahay – sodarare varuvin pokaam)*

Sodararae varuvin pokaam	My brethren, let us depart
Snaanamathaelkkum suthaneyum	And witness Christ’s baptism
Thiru sannidhiyil nadi yorddaan	The waters yielded to Him
Sthalam eakunnathumeekshikaam	And the Son sanctified them

Neeravanidam eakeedukayaal	The Son called His servant John
Neerilavan kathiroli veeshi	To lay his hand upon Him
Neerathilaekkavaroham che-	And the servant, John, approached
Ythavanathinarulee parishuddhi	And he stretched out his right hand

Adiyaanaam yohannaano-	John’s hand laid upon Christ’s head
Darulee thanmael kai veppaan	And John told his Creator:
Adiyaanudayoen than thalayil	“My Lord, I have not the words;
Valathu karam vechura cheythu	I know not how to baptize.

Njaanaarude thiru naamathil	If I use the Father’s Name,
Mamoodesaa nalkaendoo	You, Lord, are with the Father
Thaathan than naamam chonnaal	And If I use the Son’s Name,
Thaathan ninnil sthithi cheyvoo	Your are <i>the</i> Only-Begotten

Naamam thanayantaethaaaal	If I use the Spirit's Name,
Neeyaekan thanayan nonam	One is the threefold myst'ry:
Roohaayude paeraakumpol	Father, Son, <i>and</i> Holy Spirit.
Thaaatha suthaamala roohaayaam	Glory to You, Lord of all!

Thrithvathin porulonnallo
Sarvaadheesha thae sthothram

OPENING PRAYER

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

PEOPLE: May His mercy and compassion be upon us, weak and sinful servants, in both worlds, forever. Amen.

PRIEST: O Lord Jesus Christ, Self-Existent from the Father, who bowed down from the heights of his Godhead and was baptized by John, His preacher, in the River Jordan in order to sanctify the waters by His holiness, sanctify our souls and bodies with the holiness that flows from You eternally, so that with purity and holiness, we may glorify You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now, always and forever.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PSALM 51

Have mercy on me, O God, in Your loving kindness; in the abundance of Your mercy blot out my sin.

Wash me thoroughly from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my fault and my sins are before me always.

Against You only have I sinned and done evil in Your sight, that You may be justified in Your words and vindicated in Your judgment. For I was born in guilt and in sin did my mother conceive me.

But You take pleasure in truth and You have made known to me the secrets of Your wisdom. Sprinkle me with Your hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Give me the comfort of Your joy and gladness, and the bones which have been humbled shall rejoice. Turn away Your face from my sins and blot out all my faults.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew Your steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

But restore to me Your joy and Your salvation and let Your glorious spirit sustain me; that I may teach the wicked Your way and sinners may return to You.

Deliver me from blood, O God, God of my salvation, and my tongue shall praise Your justice. Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall sing Your praise.

For You do not take pleasure in sacrifices; by burnt offerings You are not appeased. The sacrifice of God is a humble spirit, a heart that is contrite God will not despise.

Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion and build up the walls of Jerusalem. Then shall You be satisfied with sacrifices of truth and with whole burnt-offerings; then shall they offer bullocks upon Your altar.

To You belongs praise, O God. barekhmor.

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

shubho labo w-labro wal-ruho qadeesho.

From ages unto ages and forevermore.

men 'olam wa'damo l'olam 'ol-min amin.

'ENYONO

(*'al yurednon – nadi yordhaanil*)

The Father spoke at the River Jordan:
 “This is My Son in whom I am_ pleased.”

Nadi yordaa-nil thaathan vaa-nathilaartthu
 Preethiyezhum mal valsalanaam thanayanivan

Rejoice, O Church in the Lord's baptism
 Adorn yourself with singers and with priests

Nrupa mashihaa than snaanathil thiru sabaye
 Suthare mo-daal vaidikaraa-laniyikka

Blessed is He who has humbled Himself
 He sanctifies us by His Baptism

Vinayasamae-tham snaanam kai-kkondulaki
 Nnamalatha chae-rthoen parishuddan bahu dhanyan

The crowds marveled at the river Jordan
 For the Spirit dwelt upon the Son's head

Nadi yordaa-nil thanayan than thalayinmael
 Roohaaye-kka-ndaascharyam janamaandu

Blessed is Your manifestation, Lord
 Which has shone forth from God the Father

Thaathan ka-thirae shuddhi jaga-thinnaarulaan
 Yorddanaa-rnnoe-roloyae nin prabha dhanyam

He enlightens all, the Light which has shone forth
 Wait for the Light that you may be gladdened

Prabhayin su-tharae suprabha jaa-tham cheythu
 Iprabha tha-nnil modippaan kaathiduvn

Behold the Groom who has invited you
Put on garments fit for His wedding feast

Manavaalan than manavarayil kshanamulloer
Ningal chaa-rthin samuchithamaam- vasanangal

Rejoice and praise, O waters of Jordan
Christ the Savior has been baptized in you

Nadi yoerdaa-nae modichee-duka ninnil
Snaanamathea-ttoo rakshakanaa-kum masihaa

The Three Persons were made known at *the* Jordan:
The Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit

Pithru sutha roo-ha vimalayathil moonnaakum
Knooma yoe-rdaan nadi thannil ghoshithamaay

**barekhmor. shubho labo w-labro wal-ruho qadeesho.
men 'olam wa'damo l'olam 'ol-min amin.**

Glory be to the Father, and the Son,
And the Spirit, the Holy Trinity

Swayamulbhoo-thaa aadiyuma-nthavumenyae
Thrithwamathaa-kum pithru sutha rooha sthuthi thae

moryo rahem 'layn w'adarayn.

PRAYER

PRIEST: O Holy One, Who by His Baptism sanctified all waters, sanctify us, O Lord, by the holiness from You on this day of Your holy Theophany. Make our mouths like fountains of Your praises and perfect vessels of Your glory, now, always and forever.

PEOPLE: Amen.

HYMN: GREEK CANON¹*(qonuno yawnoyo)*

**Let us praise the Lord Who has triumphed gloriously over the horses
and has thrown their riders into the sea.** *(Exodus 15:1)*

He walked against the force of the rising waves
And showed the dry land to the Israelites,
Who were thought to be drowned in the depths,
And the Egyptian chariots were covered by the sea.
The water became a grave for the horsemen by the immense power of the
right hand – of God

Bheekara vaaridhikkethiraay daivam nada kondu
Mungippokaamennorthorisaal vaaridhiyal kara kandu
Misreemya rathangaleyudanadiyaazhi vizhungi
Athyunnathanudayoen thannude karabalamathinaal
Kuthirappattaalathinu vaaridhi kallarayaa - yi

barekhmor. shubho labo w-labro wal-ruho qadeesho.

Our King, clad in light and the Exalted Lord,
In the morning in which You shone forth from the wilderness,
You came to the waters of the Jordan and lowered your head for Baptism
In order to take, redeem, and rescue Your image by Your right hand from
the ranks of – darkness

Maanava jaathikkudayam cheythoru pularkaalathil prabha than
nipathae! nee maruvil ninnum yoerddanaarnnu – koorirulin
padayil ninnum nin prathi roopathae - prabalakarathaal
pariraksh ippaan snaanathinu nee thala thaazhthti

men ‘olam wa’damo l’olam ‘ol-min amin.

O Eternal Word, You have raised the old man
Whom You submerged with You in the waters of the Jordan

¹ In Syriac, the Greek canons are traditionally sung according to the eight tones of the Church. In Indian practice, however, all canons are sung in a generic, unmetered chant.

And you conferred upon him renewal by the mysterious voice heard from above

The Father cried out: “This is My beloved Son

Who is of one essence with Me and is with Me in His divinity

Aadyantha viheenaal vachaneshaal ninnodu sahitham - nee
neeril mukkeettavanuddhaara namaekee - ennomana
nandananaanivinenn aakunnoenen saaramshathil - daivathvathil
enikkoppam sthithi cheyyunnoen - ennaevam janakan cholliya
gahanadhvaniyaal gaganathinum navyathayum nalki

My soul yearns for You in the night; my spirit within my heart seeks You. *(Isaiah 26:9)*

By the washing from the water and the Spirit,
He has cleansed us from the impurities of our debts
And the defilement of our enemies
And has led us to the new way that never grows old,
The spiritual path that never strays nor defiles.
This path remains in the meditation of him who – loves God

Vairikalil ninnulavaakum kanmaashamalinathikal kkinnaal
venmayivan nalki salilaathma snaana thaal - nithya
naveena subaadha vishuddha mathamaamaathmeeyam
maarggam kaatti namukkaay - daivathin priyavalsanude
manathaarilanaarathamaamee marggam nilakollum

barekhmor. shubho labo w-labro wal-ruho qadeesho.

When the Creator saw His handiwork
Imprisoned by the bonds of sin,
He carried him on His shoulder and raised him
He washed away his defilements in the waves of the river Jordan
And renewed the image of Adam who had fallen by his-own will

Than kayyaal manayappettoen - duritha duraagraha
bandhithanaayathu kandappoel - udayoenavanaetthangi
tholinmael eatti - yoeerddaan nadiyile jalamathilavanude

malinatha poekki – eavam nija manassaa nipathitha naadaamin
roopathinu navyatha nalki

men ‘olam wa‘damo l’olam ‘ol-min amin.

Fittingly and diligently, let us gather
At the springs of the Jordan which bring forth spiritual and pure sources
The Word has come to us from His place
And has brought good drink for those thirsting for God
He has healed creation from the diseases that have come upon it

Nirmaalamathumaathmeeyavumaam bahushaakh
akalae- pravahippichidumaruviyilaekkulssaa hathodu
vidhi poel poyeedaam – paartthaal vachanam daivam
svapadattheennum nammal kkanthikamaagathanaayi –
daivikadaahaar tthanmaarkkay kondiha vannaanutthama
paaneeyam – aakaamkshayodarikilananjoru srushtikkarulee
shaareerika shanthi

MAGNIFICAT: SONG OF MARY

(mawrbo – Luke 1:46-55)

**Mary said: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God,
my Savior because He has looked upon the lowliness of His handmaid
for behold from henceforth, all generations shall call me blessed.**

O Bride of Light, blessed mother and full of grace,
The wonder of your Son is beyond the understanding of Humanity
You became the vessel for the Salvation of our race
We ought to confess and to weave crowns of praise
And to offer up glory gifts and thanksgiving

Thaayae! Kanyae! Karuna niranjoelae thaejassin thiru manavattee
manavabodhaatheethan nin shishuvathbuthapoornnan
maanusha vargga parithraanathinnu nee kaaranamaayi –
sthothram thae padeedaanum keertthana makudamudayaa
num - nandi sthuthi daanangaleyarpippathinum njangal

baaddhyathayulloer

Because He, Who is mighty, has done great things for me, and holy is His Name and His mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear Him.

Moses saw a wonderful sign and he was amazed
For the sign indicated to us a boundless mystery,
That the Virgin bore the life-giving fire of divinity and extolled it with
wonder,
and it represented the river Jordan and its waves which received the life-
giving fire

Adayaalam kandathbhutha vivashathayodath
irillaatha- rahasyangale nammodariyichaanoru naal
nibi moshā- jeevadamaakum daiveeka pavakanāe
yathbhuthakaramaayaaghoshichoru kanyakayaeyum –
avanaeyaettoru yoeirdan nadiyeayum soochippichaan

He has won victory with His arm, He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the lowly.

When John saw the Son coming to be baptized by him,
He cried out with fear: “This is the Lamb of God
Who takes away the sins of the world
I am not worthy even to untie the straps of his sandals
For He is the One who baptizes with fire and the Holy Spirit

Snaanamathaelpaanaagathanaam nandanane kandaa
daravodu sabhayam yoohaanonulghoshi cchaan – lokathin
paapam paerum daivika kunjaadivanallo – allalloerkkilivante
cheruppin vaarazhippaan njaanayogyān – paavakanaaalum
paavarooahayaalumivan snaanam nalkum

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away. He has given help to Israel His servant, mindful of His mercy. Even as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and His seed,

forever.

**barekhmor. shubho labo w-labro wal-ruho qadeesho.
men 'olam wa'damo l'olam 'ol-min amin.**

Jesus our King gave an ineffable anointing to His Church
By the living and Holy Spirit
When He cleansed her defilement in the pleasant waters of the Jordan
And defeated and overpowered the deceit of the enemy,
And when he granted her the eternal life promised to her

Nalkee sabhayithineesho raajavathigahana mathaa-
mabhishaekatthae jeevapradaanaam paavana roohaayaal – nadi
yoerddanude vimalajalathilavan thiru sabhayude malinatha
poekki – van chathiyaerum vairibalathinu lajjayum apajayavum -
chaerthittaeki sabhaykkaay vaagdathamathaam shashvatha jeevan

DEACON: Stawmen Qalos.

PEOPLE: Quryelayson.

HUSOYO

PRIEST: Let us all pray and beseech the Lord for mercy and compassion.

PEOPLE: O merciful Lord, have mercy upon us and help us.

PROMIYUN

PRIEST: Make us worthy, O Lord, to offer glory and thanksgiving, praise and adoration, and unceasing exaltation, truly at all times and at all hours to the Eternal and Self-Existent One, Who existed always and exists, and always Luminous, and by Whom every rational nature is enlightened and turns back toward Him by His natural love, the Most Luminous; the Source of blessings; the Blissful Who cannot be approached; the King of kings; the Lord of the lordships; the Ruler of the rulers; Who, in the oneness of His essence and glory

is confessed and glorified by the earthly and the heavenly orders in three holy Persons. To Him belongs glory and honor, at this time of the blessing of the waters, and at all times, seasons, hours all the days of our lives, forever.

PEOPLE: Amen.

SEDRO

PRIEST: O Lord God, Maker of all beings and Creator of all visible and invisible creation, Who established the mansions of light for the dwelling of the heavenly hosts and by Your good will created the second world. You created the light first in order that the whole creation might be filled with it. You stretched the heavens like a curtain, decorating it with the beautiful stars. You founded Your lofty dwellings upon the waters and decorated it with various kinds of blossom, and by the water that You sprinkle from above, You created various kinds of fruit. By the continuous flows and by the abundant springs, You water the surface of the earth. For the providence of Your creation in all manners, You made its fruits life-giving nourishment. Then You created man in Your own image and in Your own likeness, making him the king of Your creation. When he fell from his great office, through his negligence, You brought him back to His divine rank by Your coming in the flesh, washing away by the second birth the impurity which had defiled him.

Even now, O Lord, Who had brought us to this hour, be with us and among us by driving away from our souls all the darkness of ignorance. Fill us with the light which is beyond the world, guiding us unerringly to the all perfect and three-fold light which, beyond all understanding, proceeds from the Holy Trinity. Enlighten the eyes of our minds by the rays of Your light, and make us the children of light. By the indwelling of Your Holy Spirit, transform these waters into a fountain of healing. Fill them with the gifts of holiness, that they may be a source of help for those who receive

them. Set us all free from disgraceful passions. Blot out our sins; whiten our stains and cleanse our defilements; wash us thoroughly that we may be pure and worthy of Your light.

Make us worthy to stand with confidence before Your dreadful seat of judgment and receive Your mercies and loving kindness and to stand at the right hand of Your Majesty, having been completely enlightened even in the likeness of Your Godhead, for You alone are the Giver of divine gifts. To You belongs glory and dominion, from all creation in heaven and on earth, and to Your Father, and to Your Life-giving Holy Spirit, now, always and forever.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: From God, may we receive remission of debts and forgiveness of sins, in both worlds, forever.

PEOPLE: Amen.

QOLO

(Tone 2, quqoyo – cherthu salilam yohannan)

Behold, John mixes the water for baptism
 And Christ sanctifies it and is baptized in it
 As He comes forth – out of the water
 Earth and heaven – give honor to Him
 The sun and moon worship him and clouds praise Him
 Who has sanctified all the rivers and the springs
 Halleluiah and Halleluiah

Cherthu – salilam yohannaan snaana-thinnaay
 Mungee- shuddheekaranam cheythathinullil mashiha
 Neeril ninnum – theerathaerumpol
 Avanae maani-chavaniyumambaravum
 Kathiroen kathirukal chaayichu thaarakal kooppi Aattil
 Nirayodoottukalae vaazhthiya daivathae
 Halleluyah w-Halleluyah

David, the prophet, is standing at the river
 As the Son of God descends into the Jordan
 He takes his harp – and begins to sing:
 “Forget your kin – and your father’s house
 The King shall desire your beauty,” O Holy Church
 You are the poor one who was made queen in splendor
 Halleluiah and Halleluiah

Neeraattam manavaati kazhichaerunnaeram
 Kaathangavaneeshal daaveedaattarikil ninnu
 Veenayilaevam padee vimala sabhae!
 Agathee! Tvaritham - shreeyaarnnoelae! Nin
 Roopam– bhopathi mohippaan pithru jana gaehangal
 Kaivitteeduka nee najnjeepadamaarjjichalloe
 Halleluyah w-Halleluyah

barek^hmor. shub^ho labo w-labro wal-ru^ho qadeesho.

Without fire or wood the water has become warm
 As the Son of God descends into the Jordan
 And John comes forth – like a blessed priest
 And lays his hand – on the head of Christ
Above, the Holy Spirit descends as a dove
 And rests, brooding over the river Jordan
 Halleluiah and Halleluiah

Snaanam cheyyaan suthaneeshan yorddaan pookee Theeyum
 Virakum koodathe jala mooshmithamaayi
 Vaidikanepol – vanniha yoohaanoen
 Udayoen thala mael – vachoo valathu karam
 Praavennoenam roohkkudisha paari-tthaanu
 Yoerddaan nadiyile neerinmael cheythaanaavaasm.
 Halleluyah w-Halleluyah

men ‘olam wa’damo l’olam ‘ol-min amin.

The pure, Holy One and the Son of the Holy
 Who in the beginning was and is God the Word

Has been baptized – to purify us
 To atone us – He blessed the waters
 Christ, Who is God in nature and the Absolver,
 Has been baptized in the Jordan. Glory to Him!
 Halleluiah and Halleluiah

Parishuddan parishuddhasuthan vimalan shreasthan
 Daivathinaadimavachanam shuddhi namukkaakaan
 Snaanathinnaay – vanniha nammalude
 Paapam pokkaan – salalathae vazhthi
 Saakshaal daivamivan dosham maayikkunnoen
 Sthuthi thae–yordansnanathil thiru hithamaarnnonae
 Halleluyah w-Halleluyah

moryo rahem ‘layn w‘adarayn.

‘ETHRO

PRIEST: Most Gracious One, Who came to be baptized to make atonement for our sins; most holy One, Who came to the font for our purification, absolve and sanctify, O Lord, by this sweet incense which we offer to You for the fulfillment of the needs of the Church, Your faithful flock. Preserve the children of the baptistery by Your holy baptism, so that with gladness and rejoicing, they may offer glory and thanksgiving to You, now, always and forever.

PEOPLE: Amen.

ZUMORO

(Psalm 114:5)

O sea, why did you flee?
 O Jordan, why have you turned back?

Saagaram enthinu nee paanju
 Yordanne enthinu nee pinvangi

SCRIPTURE READINGSOld Testament

Numbers 20:1-11

1 Kings 2:19-25

Isaiah 12:1-6

Epistles

Acts 8:25-40

Hebrews 10:15-25

HULOLO & FETHGOMO

Halleluiah – Halleluiah

The waters saw You, O God

The waters saw You and were afraid

Halleluiah

(Psalm 77:16)

Halleluiah – Halleluiah

Ninnae dharshichu jalam daevaesha

Ninnae dharshichu jalam bheeyaarnnoo

Halleluiah

DEACON: With calmness, reverence, and with sober minds, let us attend and listen to the proclamation of the living words of God, in the Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that is read to us.

PRIEST: ❖ Peace be with you all.

PEOPLE: May the Lord God make us worthy, with your spirit.

PRIEST: The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the life-giving announcement from St. Luke, the evangelist who publishes the good news of life and salvation to the world.

PEOPLE: Blessed is He Who has come, and is to come, glory be to Him, Who sent Him for our salvation, and His mercy be upon us all, forever.

PRIEST: Now in the time of the Baptism of our Lord, and our God,

and Savior, Jesus Christ, the Word of life, God Who was incarnate of the Holy Virgin Mary, these things did come to pass in this manner. ❖

PEOPLE: We believe and confess.

PRIEST: *(John 4:4-42 is read)*

❖ Peace be with you all.

LITANY

DEACON: Let us stand with modesty and diligence, and with voices pleasing to God let us answer and say:

PEOPLE: Quryelayson/Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Christ our God, Who is the depth of ineffable mysteries, Who, on account of His loving-kindness, was seen on earth and dwelt among men; we beseech You.

PEOPLE: Quryelayson/Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Christ our God, Who enlightened the world with the brightness of Your divinity; Who by the holy water drowned the mob of demons and blotted out our sins, we beseech You.

PEOPLE: Quryelayson/Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: You, Who sweetened the bitter waters by the wood which Moses threw into them and have now blessed the substance of the waters which acknowledges You as God, Creator and Sanctifier of all springs, we beseech You.

PEOPLE: Quryelayson/Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: You, Who cured the water at the hand of the prophet Elisha, and Who, even now, grants us, through the abundance of Your wisdom, permanent healing and purification of souls,

we beseech You.

PEOPLE: Quryelayson/Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the peace and tranquility of the whole world, and for the preservation of our righteous, venerable and blessed Fathers: our patriarchs, Abun Mor Ignatius, Abun Mor Baselios, and our bishop, Abun Mor (N), along with the rest of the Orthodox bishops that their parishes be preserved from all harm, for the faithful kings who reign and for the commemoration of Mary, the Mother of God, the saints and the faithful departed, we beseech You:

PEOPLE: Quryelayson/Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Enlighten, O Lord, our souls with Your sublime knowledge, on this glorious day of lights,² and all the days of our lives. Strengthen our hearts in Your fear and in love for one another. You, Who put on the slanderer to shame and gladdens the angels, deem us worthy to receive the gifts and the help which You promised our human race. O Christ, our true God, One of the Holy Trinity, we beseech You.

PEOPLE: Quryelayson/Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Hear us, O Lord, incline Your ear to us, and have mercy and compassion upon us. Let us respond and say three times:

PEOPLE: Quryelayson/Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Stawmen Qalos.

PEOPLE: Quryelayson.

² The feast of our Lord's baptism is also called "The Feast of Lights" in Syriac

HUSOYO³

PRIEST: Let us all pray and beseech the Lord for mercy and compassion.

PEOPLE: O merciful Lord, have mercy upon us and help us.

PROMIYUN

PRIEST: Make us worthy, O Lord, to offer glory and thanksgiving, praise and adoration, and unceasing exaltation, truly at all times and at all hours to Jesus, our God and Savior, Who by His coming towards us and by the divine baptism enlightened all the gentiles who went astray, and by the light of threefold holy brightness, turned them back to the divine worship. To Him belongs glory, honor, and thanksgiving, now, and at all times, seasons, hours all the days of our lives, forever.

PEOPLE: Amen.

SEDRO

PRIEST: Christ, the Eternal Light, Son and the Word of the Father, Who in the end of days manifested from the womb of the Virgin by a law that is beyond nature as Savior and Redeemer for us, who were formerly 'sitting in darkness and in the shadows of death'⁴, By the foreknowledge, You commanded to come up a spring, divided into four rivers to water the face of the earth. At the end of days, You covered the borders of the earth by the 'flow' of the preaching of the Gospel. By the mortal waters, you have put an end to the pride of the wicked with justice. Like the rain upon the fleece, You descended on the listeners of the divine knowledge and covered the seas.

³ This second promiyun & sedro is optional. The text published by the late Metropolitan Mor Athanasius Yeshu' Samuel omits it.

⁴ Isaiah 9:2

By striking with a rod, You divided the Red Sea, and made the people who were running hastily toward the promised land to cross as on dry land. You cast the stubborn Pharaoh and his armies into the depths of the sea. You have set us free from the oppression of the demons as if from the greatly troubled waves of the sea. From the rock, You gave water to the people who were thirsty, by the hand of Your servant Moses. You are the true rock that brings forth rivers of life from within the bodies of those who believe in You. O Lord, by the wood that was put in the waters, You changed the bitter taste into sweetness. On the venerable Cross, by the blood and water which came forth from Your holy side, You purified the gentiles. By the prayer of the prophet and by salt, You made the sterile waters of Jericho wholesome⁵, and symbolized Your descent into Jordan. By Your baptism, the font saving us from spiritual destruction, You granted rebirth that resembles Your divinity.

Now, O Lord, by the threefold invocation of the three Lights that are beyond the world, make these waters that are placed before us the waters that multiply joy. Make these waters, 'the waters of rest', the purification of all defilements of sin, healing for souls and bodies, restoration to the sick, healing of barrenness, protection for homes; that which repels demons, adversaries, grudges, murder, hatred, jealousy, sorcery, idolatry and all demonic acts. May they become the waters which forbid the dangers of the air and dispel all dangerous conditions; and which make the seeds to grow, protecting the plants and ripening the fruits. May they become life-giving and redeeming waters for all those who participate in them, for You are the One who gives blessing and every perfect gift, and the Lord of our nature and the helper of our creation. We offer up glory to You, with Your Father, and Your Holy Spirit, now, always and forever.

PEOPLE: Amen.

⁵ 2 Kings 2:19-22

PRIEST: From God, may we receive remission of debts and forgiveness of sins, in both worlds, forever.

PEOPLE: Amen.

BLESSING OF THE CENSER⁶

PRIEST: I, a weak and sinful servant of God, lift up my voice and say:

Holy, ❖ is the holy Father.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Holy, ❖ is the holy Son.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Holy, ❖ is the living and holy Spirit, Who sanctifies the censer of His sinful servant, while sparing and showing mercy upon our souls and the souls of our parents, brothers and sisters, elders, our teachers, and of our departed, and of all the faithful departed, the children of the Holy Church, in both worlds, forever.

PEOPLE: Amen.

THE NICENE CREED

DEACON: Let us attend to divine wisdom. Let us all stand well and respond to the prayer of the reverend priest (*most reverend father/great high-priest*) and say:

BISHOP: We believe in one, true God, the Father almighty...

PEOPLE: Maker of heaven and earth, / and of all things, visible and invisible.

And in the One, Lord Jesus Christ, / the Only-begotten Son

⁶ The priest burns incense and blesses the censer, just as it is done in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

of God, / begotten of the Father, / before all worlds, / Light
of Light, / True God of True God, / begotten, not made, /
being of one essence with the Father, / and by Whom all
things were made.

❖ Who, for us men, / and for our Salvation, / came down
from heaven.

❖ And was incarnate of the Holy Virgin Mary, / Mother of
God, / by the Holy Spirit, / and became Man.

❖ And was crucified for us / in the days of Pontius Pilate, /
and suffered, and died, / and was buried.

And the third day rose again, / according to His will, / and
ascended into heaven, / and is seated on the right hand of
His Father, / and is coming again in His great glory / to
judge both, the living and the dead, / Whose kingdom shall
have no end.

And in the One, living Holy Spirit, / the Life-giving Lord
of all, / Who proceeds from the Father, / and Who with the
Father, and the Son / is worshipped and glorified, / Who
spoke by the prophets and the apostles.

And in the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church / And
we acknowledge one Baptism, / for the remission of sins, /
And look for the resurrection of the dead / and the new life
in the world to come. **Amen.**

DEACON: Stawmen Qalos.

PEOPLE: Quryelayson.

BLESSING OF THE WATER

PRIEST: O Great and Glorious God, Who is beyond glory; Who is carried by the cherubim and is glorified by the seraphim; Who performed innumerable great things and wondrous and indescribable signs; Who sweetened the bitter waters at the hand of Moses with the wood typifying the sign of the Cross, and Who gave water to the thirsty people of Israel to drink; Who healed the barren, sterile, and bad waters by the visible salt which Elishah the prophet cast in the spring of water in Jericho, and to Your people, who became fruitful and multiplied and filled the earth, this was in anticipation of Your mystery, Christ God, the Heavenly Salt. As the Maker and Founder of all things, by Your ineffable wisdom You changed the substance of water into good wine at Cana of Galilee, and You sanctified the abundance of the Jordan when You were baptized by John the Baptist. Even now, O Lord, by the blessing of the spiritual and heavenly Salt, by Your invisible mighty power, by Your ineffable loving-kindness, and by the descent of Your Holy Spirit, bless (❖) these waters that are set before us. Send to them the grace, the power, and the priestly operation of Your Holy Spirit, that they may be unto all who take from them or participate in them, the gift of divine healing of their souls, bodies, and spirits. To You belongs glory, honor, and dominion, with Your blessed Father, and Your Holy Spirit, now, always and forever.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: O Creator of the waters, and Maker and Changer of all things, bless (❖) these waters by the power of Your Holy Spirit and grant to them grace and power against all opposing forces, and grant to all those who participate in them by drinking or sprinkling or by any other means, healing of soul and body and rich mercies from You, removal from all evil, and salvation and peace for our life by Your grace, O Lord Jesus Christ, and of Your Father and of Your Holy Spirit, all holy,

good, adorable, and life-giving, Who is of one essence with You, now, always and forever.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: ❖ Peace be with you all.

PEOPLE: And with your spirit.

The priest removes the veil which covers the vessel, and waves his hand gently over it and over the Cross. Then he removes the cross from the mouth of the vessel, while one of the deacons says the following admonition.

DEACON: Let us stand well, let us stand with fear, with modesty, with purity, and with holiness. Let us stand, my brethren, in love and true faith and fix our minds upon these waters that are set before us and are blessed by the reverend priest reverend priest (*most reverend father/great high-priest*). In peace and tranquility, let us offer prayers and supplications to God, the Lord of all, that He may be pleased to bless them.

PEOPLE: Grant us, O Lord, mercy, peace, and the blessing of these waters.

PRIEST: [hubo...] ❖ The Love of God, the Father, ❖ the grace of the Only-begotten Son, ❖ and the fellowship and indwelling of the Holy Spirit be with you all, my brethren, forever.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The priest, with outstretched hands, says the following prayer.

PRIEST: How great You are, O Lord, and how marvelous Your works are. It is beyond the speech of mortals to speak of the perfection of Your wondrous signs. Your creative power brought everything into being from nothing. By Your dominion You sustain creation, and by Your providence You support the world. You have joined together the four

elements and crowned the cycle of the year with the four seasons. The incorporeal heavenly hosts tremble at Your presence; the angelic ranks glorify You; the companies of the archangels worship You; the six-winged seraphim, as they fly, praise You; the many-eyed cherubim, with unapproachable glory, bless You; the sun, the moon, the stars, and the light, in their courses, declare Your works; the depths fled at Your rebuke; the springs perform Your service. You stretched out the heavens like a curtain; You spread forth the earth above the waters; You set the sand as a boundary to the sea; and You spread the air for breathing. You are the incomprehensible, eternal, and ineffable God Who was beheld on the earth, taking upon Yourself the image of a slave and the likeness of man, because Your compassion could not suffer to behold our human race harnessed under the yoke of the adversary; therefore, You came down and redeemed us. We praise Your loving-kindness. We proclaim Your mercies and we acknowledge Your wondrous visitation to us. You bless our natural birth, and by Your birth in the flesh, You sanctified the virginal womb. The whole creation glorified in Your manifestation, for You are our God Who was seen on earth and went about with men. You sanctified the abundance of the River Jordan by sending upon it from heaven Your Holy Spirit; and You crushed the head of the dragon who lurked there. Do then, compassionate Lord, by the descent of Your Holy Spirit, come and bless these waters (❖); bestow upon them the grace of the Jordan (❖); make them the fountains of blessings (❖); the gifts of holiness (❖); the forgiveness of sins.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: For the healing of sickness (❖); for the support of the weak (❖); unapproachable by the powers of the adversary (❖); filled with the Divine Power (❖).

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Make these waters unto those who receive from them or participate in them for the healing of souls and bodies (❖); for the purification of passions (❖); for the sanctification of homes (❖); for the preservation from all injuries (❖).

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: By water and the Spirit, You have renewed our nature which was corrupted by sin; by the waters You overwhelmed sin in the days of Noah; by the waters of the sea You delivered the Hebrews from the bondage of Pharaoh; by the fire and water of the Prophet Elijah's sacrifice You absolved Israel from the worship of Ba'al. Even now, O Lord, as You bless these waters by Your grace, bestow upon all those who touch them or participate in them or use them in true faith for any purpose, (❖) blessings, holiness and purification (❖); health, healing and rest to the afflicted (❖); and encouragement, aid and freedom from all mental and carnal passions.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: So that the whole universe, men, angels, visible and invisible beings, may offer praise to Your most glorious and most blessed Name, O our God, with Your Father, and with Your Holy Spirit, now, always and forever.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The priest waves his right hand over the vessel and draws on it the sign of the Cross three times, saying:

PRIEST: These waters are blessed in the Name of the Father (❖);

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: And of the Son (❖);

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: And of the Holy Spirit (❖) for life eternal.

PEOPLE: Amen.

BLESSING OF THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE WORLD

The priest puts back the cross in the mouth of the vessel. He carries it high between his hands and facing the East he shall say in a loud voice:

THE EAST

PRIEST: He Whom the angels minister

PEOPLE: Holy art Thou, O God.

PRIEST: He Whom the cherubim bless

PEOPLE: Holy art Thou, Almighty.

PRIEST: He Whom the seraphim sanctify

PEOPLE: Holy art Thou, Immortal. Sinners, with repentance, entreat saying: O Thou, Who was baptized for us, have mercy upon us.

THE WEST

PRIEST: He Whom the fiery hosts praise

PEOPLE: Holy art Thou, O God.

PRIEST: He Whom the spiritual beings magnify

PEOPLE: Holy art Thou, Almighty.

PRIEST: He Whom the mortals worship

PEOPLE: Holy art Thou, Immortal. The children of the faithful Church entreat saying: O Thou, Who was baptized for us, have mercy upon us.

THE NORTH

PRIEST: He Whom the heavenly beings glorify

PEOPLE: Holy art Thou, O God.

PRIEST: He Whom those between exalt

PEOPLE: Holy art Thou, Almighty.

PRIEST: He Whom the earthly beings glorify

PEOPLE: Holy art Thou, Immortal. Sinners, with repentance, entreat saying: O Thou, Who was baptized for us, have mercy upon us.

THE SOUTH

PRIEST: Lord, have mercy upon us.

PEOPLE: Lord, be kind and have mercy.

PRIEST: Lord, accept our offices and our entreaties and have mercy upon us.

PEOPLE: Glory to Thee, O God.

PRIEST: Glory to Thee, Creator.

PEOPLE: Glory to Thee, Christ the King, Who pities His sinful servants. **barekhmor.**

PRIEST: Our Father, Who art in heaven,

PEOPLE: Hallowed be Thy Name...

Then the priest, accompanied by the deacons, shall go to the baptistery with the bottle. He shall open the font, remove the cross from the bottle and pour a few drops of the water in the form of a cross over the cross placed in the font. The first time to the East, the second to the West, and the third to the North and South. The people shall recite Psalm 51. Then the clergy and deacons return to the sanctuary and the priest shall put the bottle on the altar. Then he shall say the following prayer.

HUTHOMO

PRIEST: O Good and Loving God, who by Your great and ineffable gift have blessed these waters, bless (❖) with them all of us, our souls and bodies, by our participation in them that we may offer glory and worship to You, invisible Father, and to Your beloved Son and to Your Holy Spirit, who is good, adorable, life-giving and consubstantial with You, now, always and forever.

PEOPLE: Amen.