

**Mar Thoma Church - *Diocese of North America and Europe***  
**Diocesan Sunday – March 1, 2015**  
**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Opening Song :**

**The Kauma:**

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

**C: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be forever. Amen.**

L: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

**C: Blessed is He who has come and is to come again in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest.**

L: Holy art Thou, O God.\*

**C: Holy art Thou, Almighty Lord.\***

L: Holy art Thou, Immortal Lord.\*

**C: O Lord, the Messiah, who was crucified □ for us, have mercy on us.\***

*[\*To be repeated three times]*

L: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C: Lord, have compassion and mercy upon us.**

L: Lord, accept our prayers and worship, and have mercy upon us.

**C: Glory to You, O God.**

L: Glory to You, Creator of all.

**C: Glory to You, O King, the Messiah, for You have compassion on Your sinful servants. Bless us, O Lord.**

L: Our Father in Heaven,

**All: Hallowed be Your Name; May Your kingdom come. May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the time of trial, but deliver us from the evil one. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**Opening Prayer:**

L: God of eternity, in Your Son Jesus Christ You redeemed all of humankind and called and commissioned Your Church to proclaim the Good News of His death and resurrection to the ends of the earth and to the end of age. We praise You, O Lord, for enabling the Diocese of North America and Europe of the Mar Thoma Church to take part in this holy and divine mission. We pray that You pour out Your Spirit afresh upon us, Your people, in this region of the world. By Your grace, O Lord, help us to remember and rejoice in Your blessings in the past and to faithfully trust in Your power to shape our future. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Confession Prayers:**

*“No one who conceals transgressions will prosper, but one who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13)*

L: God of all that is good, we confess that we have sinned against You and against one another. For the unrighteous things that we have done and for the virtuous things that we have failed to do.

**C: Loving God, have mercy and forgive us.**

L: God of compassion, we confess that our lives fall far short of Your glory. You have called us and set us apart to be a Christ-centered and compassionate community. However, we seldom embody these qualities in our individual and corporate lives, because we fail to give priority to understanding Your will through the study of Your Word and through active participation in the life and witness of the church. For these our sins,

**C: Loving God, have mercy and forgive us.**

L: God of mercy, we confess that too often we are selfish and proud, neglecting the needs of others. Although, we believe that You have planted us as a church in this part of the world to continue Your mission and to extend Your loving-kindness and mercy to those who are suffering, we have often disappointed You, by our attitude of indifference and lack of concern. For these our sins,

**C: Loving God, have mercy and forgive us.**

L: God of hope, we confess that we do not truly trust and obey You in all of our life situations because we are often overwhelmed by self-pity, fear, and worry. We realize that this is the result of our tendency to seek after worldly solutions to overcome our struggles as individuals and as a church. Thus, we have disregarded Your command to abide in You and seek from You true peace and comfort. For these our sins,

**C: Loving God, have mercy and forgive us.**

L: God of our salvation, we confess that we have not been true partakers in Your gift of redemption. You have blessed and equipped us with various gifts and abilities which enable us to spread Your gospel message of redemption in Christ, our Lord. Instead of using these blessings for the extension of Your Kingdom and the glory of Your name, we have misused them for our own purposes. In doing so, we have forsaken our commitment to share the Good News of salvation to others. For these our sins,

**C: Loving God, have mercy and forgive us.**

L: Lord God, we are sorry for these our sins. Forgive us, cleanse us, transform us, and renew us by the power of Your steadfast love. In Jesus' name we pray,

**C: Amen.**

## **Thanksgiving Prayers:**

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

L: Holy God, Shepherd of Your people, thank You for tending to the flock of the Universal Church and equipping her with capable leaders. For Your everlasting grace which has been showered upon the Mar Thoma Church, her Valiya Metropolitan, Metropolitan, Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Evangelists, lay persons, and all those involved in the ministry of our church,

**C: We remember Your faithfulness and give You thanks.**

L: O Lord, for accompanying the pioneers of the Diocese of North America and Europe in the early years of our history, for sustaining our Diocese through several years of change, and for patiently and carefully shaping us into a community of faith,

**C: We remember Your faithfulness and give You thanks.**

L: O Lord, for the sanctified vision of our present Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa, and for the able leadership and contributions of our clergy as witnessed in the growth and renewal of our Diocese,

**C: We remember Your faithfulness and give You thanks.**

L: O Lord, for the gifted laity of our Diocese whose faith, love, and service have laid foundations for ministries that bless people in our land and around the world and especially for all those involved in the mission work of our Diocese among the Native Americans, in Mexico, in India, and in our neighborhoods,

**C: We remember Your faithfulness and give You thanks.**

L: O Triune God, accept our offering of thanksgiving. Help us to remember Your goodness and faithfulness to us. May we humble ourselves before You as we seek Your strength to continue to work for the glory of Your name. In Jesus' name we pray,

**C: Amen.**

### **Intercessory Prayers:**

*Let us intercede. Let us sing together the following stanza of the hymn "Sweet Hour of Prayer."*

*Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!*

*Thy wings shall my petition bear*

*To Him whose truth and faithfulness*

*Engage the waiting soul to bless.*

*And since He bids me seek His face,*

*Believe His Word and trust His grace,*

*I'll cast on Him my every care,*

*And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!*

L: Our Lord and Master, we come before You in humility and unity to intercede on behalf of others. We pray for world peace and remember all nations and peoples who are undergoing strife and experiencing violence, and we pray for those who are suffering due to poverty and malnutrition.

**C: Gracious Lord, hear our prayers.**

L: We pray for our country and its public servants, beseeching Your blessings upon our leaders that they may be strengthened to work for the good of our nation and its people. Enable them to be diligent and faithful in their responsibilities, yielding not to corruption or perverse behavior.

**C: Gracious Lord, hear our prayers.**

L: We pray for the Universal Church. We remember the Mar Thoma Church, our bishops, clergy, and evangelists. We especially pray for the Diocese of North America and Europe and pray for the blessed leadership of our Diocesan Bishop, Diocesan Secretary, Diocesan Treasurer,

Clergy, Diocesan Council members, Diocesan Assembly members, Mandalam members, our lay members, and all those involved in various ministries.

**C: Gracious Lord, hear our prayers.**

L: We pray for the ministries of the Mar Thoma Messenger, Besorah, the Mar Thoma Literature Society, and the special ministerial initiatives taken up by the different Regions of our Diocese. We remember the Diocesan organizations and our mission work. We particularly uphold the Diocesan Edavaka Mission, Senior Fellowship, Sevika Sangham, Sunday School, Young Families Fellowship, Youth Fellowship, Yuvajana Sakhyam, and Choir. We pray that the support these organizations render toward various church institutions, mandirams, marriage aid, educational aid, music enrichment, social upliftment, and other mission work be a channel of God's blessings for others.

**C: Gracious Lord, hear our prayers.**

L: We pray for our churches and congregations in North America and Europe, both established and emerging. We pray that they may be granted a clear vision in order to be agents of change in their communities.

**C: Gracious Lord, hear our prayers.**

**Dedication Prayer (in unison):**

**Lord God, we are grateful that You hear our prayers. Please use our hearts, our hands, and our voices to be Your witnesses in this world. We pray that our passion for the least and the lost will grow and that we will have the courage and understanding to share the truth of Your Word with the people around us. We ask that You open doors to new relationships outside our church walls. We pray that our Diocese continues to grow through spiritual transformation and renewal. May all of our efforts bear fruit so that Your kingdom may come and that Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Benediction:**

L: May the compassion of God, the Father, which enables us to love one another, the grace of Jesus Christ, which daily renews us, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, which unites us in one body, make us eager to obey and fulfill the will of God until we meet again.

**C: Amen.**