



The Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar Diocese of North America and Europe

Diocesan Sunday: March 5, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prayer:

Leader: Eternal God, we come to You with the desire to be filled with Your presence. O Lord, be with us this day; touch us, heal us, and empower us, that we might worship You in spirit and in truth and serve You with our whole hearts. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray.

Congregation: Amen.

Opening Song (Suggested): *O Lord My God When I in Awesome Wonder....*

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.

Adoration:

L: God of eternity, through Your Son Jesus Christ, You have redeemed all of humankind and called and commissioned Your Church to proclaim His Good News to all ends of the earth and to the end of the 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 of the past and to faithfully trust Your power to shape our future. O Triune God, we give You all honor, glory, and praise, both now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Confession:

"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 due to our attitude of indifference and lack of concern for others. For these our sins...

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

L: God of hope, we confess that we do not fully trust and obey You as 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: Lord God, we acknowledge our sins and ask for Your mercy. Forgive us, cleanse us, transform us, and renew us by the power of Your steadfast love. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: **Amen.**

Thanksgiving:

"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, our Metropolitan, Suffragan Metropolitans, our Diocesan Bishop, other Bishops, clergy, deacons, missionaries, 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 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...

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.**

Intercession:

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 the nations at war and the peoples who are undergoing strife. We remember the people of Turkey and Syria who have been devastated by a massive earthquake. We pray for those who are suffering due to poverty and malnutrition. We pray for the sick, the needy, and the homeless and those experiencing various types of pain. May they all receive healing, comfort, and the fulfillment of their needs.

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. May they 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 and remember the Mar Thoma Church. We especially pray for the Diocese of North America and Europe and pray for the blessed leadership of our Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa, Diocesan Secretary, Diocesan Treasurer, Clergy, Diocesan Council members, Diocesan Assembly members, parish office bearers, our lay members, office staff, volunteers, and all those involved in various ministries. We pray for our parishes and congregations in the Diocese, both established and emerging, and pray that they may strive to be agents of change in their communities.

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

L: We pray for the ministries of the Mar Thoma Messenger, Besorah, the Mar Thoma Literature Society, the Mar Thoma Institute of Mission and Culture, and all the special ministerial initiatives taken up by the different Regions of our Diocese. We remember the Diocesan organizations – Edavaka Mission, Senior Fellowship, Sevika Sangham, Sunday School, Young Families Fellowship, Youth Fellowship, Yuvajana Sakhyam, and Choir. We particularly uphold the Mar Thoma Mission Board and our mission initiatives: Native America Mission, Mexico Mission, Neighborhood Mission, India Mission, and Light to Life, and we pray that our mission work continues to be a channel of divine blessings and mercy.

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

Prayer of Dedication (in unison):

Lord God, we earnestly pray that You use our hearts, our hands, and our voices as Your witnesses in this world. We ask for the courage and understanding to share the truth of Your Word with the people around us. We pray that our Diocese continues to grow through spiritual transformation and renewal. Enables us all to bear much fruit for the glory of Your name and the blessings of others. In Jesus' name we pray. 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, bless us all and enable us to fulfill the will of God both now and always.

C: **Amen.**