The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

ENGLISH

(Songs in Malayalam also)

Joykutty, Detroit Compiled
HOLY MATRIMONY

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(SONGS IN MALAYALAM ALSO)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY

P.P. JOYKUTTY
2686 ATHENA Dr.
TROY, MI-48083-2468

Phone: 248-740-4923
anujanmon@cs.com

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The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

Marriage is a sacrament, a mystery that involves an invitation of two people into a new life. It involves mutual, self-giving love that reflects Christ’s love for his bride, the Church. Just as God blessed the first family, asking Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply, so also the Church gives her blessing to the mystic union of man and woman. Married life is a vocation requiring special grace that is conferred by the sacrament of holy Matrimony.

Our Sacrament of Marriage is a blend of rich biblical traditions, teachings and practices of the early Church Palestine, Syria and the ancient customs of South India. The order of Holy Matrimony, ceremony of the crowning, used by our Church was compiled arranged, and revised by St. James of Edessa (708AD) and other doctors of the holy Church, who had received it from the Holy ancient tradition of the apostolic Church.

The marriage service is solomnised into two parts. The first is the “office of betrothal” (blessing of the rings) and the second is the “office of the crowning” (blessing of the crowns). Formerly these are held separately but now celebrated in immediate succession.

The “office of the betrothal” involves the blessing of the rings and placing them on the bridegroom and the bride by the Priest representing God and the Church. The blessing and exchange of rings through the hands of the Priest is an outward sign that the two partners join in marriage of their own free
will and consent without which there can be no Christian Marriage. The ring is a visible symbol of an invisible contract. It recalls the act of Isaac putting gold ornaments on Rebecca.

In the second part, the Priest blesses the crowns (the ceremony of coronation). Instead of crowns, gold chains with crosses are used. These “crowns” symbolically descend from heaven and are placed on the heads of the bridegroom and the bride by the Priest. On the heads of the bridegroom and bride, the Priest place crowns of gold (here chains with cross) signifies the special grace the couple receives from the Holy Spirit before they establish a new family, or a domestic Church. They are the King and Queen of the family sharing the joy, the responsibilities and the sacrifice involved in “reigning” together.

Two unique aspects of the marriage ceremony of the Orthodox Church in India find their roots in ancient Indian culture. The bridegroom ties a Minnu (a small gold pendant) around the bride’s neck, signifying the life-long inseparable bond established in marriage. The Minnu is a small gold pendant stylized as a heart with cross on it. This is placed on a silk thread made by interweaving seven threads taken out of the “Manthrakodi” the bridal sari given by the grooms family. The silk thread with the minnu on it is tied around the bride’s neck by the groom.

Immediately after this, the place of the bride’s aunt who stands behind the bride, is taken by a cibiling sister of the bridegroom. From now onwards she will be an advisor and close companion of the bride.
The groom then drapes the Manthrakodi (the bridal sari given by the grooms family) on the bride’s, a symbol of providing and protecting the bride by the groom. As well it symbolizes Rebecca who took a veil and covered herself when she first saw Isaac. An act of humility, chastity and devotion to her life-long partner united in marriage by God. (Genesis 24:65). The groom henceforth accepts the responsibility to care for and cherish his bride.

The service ends with an exhortation and the Priest join the right hands of the bride and the groom together, declaring them husband and wife entrusting each to the other in the name of the Lord. The celebrant stand as the mediator between God and the couple while the congregation and the attendants stand witnesses.

The ceremony ends with the Priest entrusting the couple to each other’s care.
THE ORDER OF SOLEMNIZATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY

PART 1

The Blessings of the Rings

Priest: (+)Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Sprit.

People: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

Priest: Holy, Holy Holy, Lord God Almighty, heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Glory be to Thee in the heighest.

People: Blessed is He who has come and is to come in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.

Priest: Holy art Thou, O God.

People: Holy art Thou, Almighty
    Holy Art Thou, Immortal.
    Crucified + for us, have mercy on us.

Priest: Holy art Thou, O God.

People: Holy art Thou, Almighty
    Holy Art Thou, Immortal.
    Crucified + for us, have mercy on us.

Priest: Holy art Thou, O God.

People: Holy art Thou, Almighty
    Holy Art Thou, Immortal.
    Crucified + for us, have mercy on us.
Priest: Lord have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, be kind and have mercy,
      Lord, accept thou our office, and our entreaties
      have mercy on us.

Priest: Glory be to thee, O God,
People: Glory be to thee, O Creator,
      Glory be to thee, O Christ the King who dost pity
      sinners they servants. Barekmore (bless me, my Lord)

Priest: (+) Our Father, who art in heaven
People: Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy
      will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day
      our daily bread. And forgive us our debts and sins, as we
      also have forgiven our debtors. Lead us not in to
      temptation. But deliver us from the evil one. For Thine is
      the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever.
      Amen (+)

Priest: (+) Hail Mary full of grace,
People: Our Lord is with you. Blessed are you among
      women. And blessed is the fruit of your womb, our Lord
      Jesus Christ. O Virgin Saint Lady mary, Mother of God,
      pray for us sinners, now and at always and at the hour of
      our death. Amen (+)

Priest: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
      Holy Spirit.
People: May His grace and mercy be upon us, weak and
      sinful servants, in both worlds for ever. Amen.

PRAYER

Priest: O Lord God, make us worthy for Your everlasting
      joy. May the beginning and the end of our happiness be
      with You and in you. May our souls and spirits rejoice in
You. By Your mercy deliver us from all sufferings. May Your blessings abound so that our goodness may increase. May our thoughts and reflections be enriched by you. May this bridegroom and this bride be made perfect by Your grace. With You and your saints who have pleased You from the beginning, may we rejoice in Your everlasting bliss. In the fellowship of Your saints, we offer praise and thanks giving, O Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always forever and ever.

People: Amen.

**PSALM 51**

*(Please read the Psalm responsively)*

Have mercy on me, God, in Thy loving kindness; in the abundance of Thy 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 Thee only have I sinned and done evil in Thy sight, that Thou may be justified in Thy words and vindicated in Thy judgement. For I was born in guilt and in sin did my mother conceive me.

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

Give me the comfort of Thy joy and gladness, and the bones which have been humbled shall rejoice. Turn away Thy face from my sins and blot out all my faults.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew Thy steadfast spirit within me. Cast not me from Thy presence and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

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

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

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

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

HYMN

Create a clean heart, O God, and renew Thy steadfast spirit within me. Cast not me from Thy presence and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
HOLY MATRIMONY

1. By Thee were those in Heaven and earth filled with joy
   Gladden Thy devotees Me-s-siah, Merciful!
   Which Thy clergy dispenseth-in-Thy Holy Name
3. Messiah by dispensing ring – Hi-s Church-betrothed
   Sacred, most, His body and – blood she-receiveth.
4. Tamar, truly was rescued – from death by the ring
   We may so receive remi-s-sion of debts and sins.
   Barekmor...... Shubaho...... Menolam......
5. Father, Son and Holy Gho-st blessed Trinity
   Earth and Heaven adore thi-s Sacred Mystery.

PRAYER

*Priest*: May Your peace, O Lord, by which the heaven and earth are reconciled, unite our children, and , who have come before You. Let there be unity and harmony between them that they may love and accept each other cheerfully all the days of their lives, and praise You, O Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always forever and ever.

*People*: Amen.

HYMNS

κεκλησίακαὶ τοῖς ἑλικεῖσθαι κατάφορον - ἀστέρεσσαν
καταβεβλημένη ἀπὸ τοῦ καθάρισμα τῆς ὁμογενείας

κατάβαθον ἄγονα τῷ θαυμάσιῳ τήν τοῦ ἄγνωστου
τῆς ἡλικίας τῆς ἀρχής τοῦ ἐκ κόσμου ἀνηλίκου
εὐχαριστήριον καὶ ἀρετὴν ἀλλήλους ἀγαθάν

καὶ τὸ καταβάθον - ἀστέρεσσαν...... ἀναστάς......
Glad tidings my heart overfloweth, Halleluiah
Sayeth that I shall serve my king
Poureth he grace upon Thy lips Halleluiah
Almighty has blessed thee forever.
Barekmor........Shubaho.....Menolam.....

Solomon, seaking through parables
O, fair one! –who is thy –beloved that thou adoreth?
“My dear one-chosen from ten of thousands
Israel, garden His own
Whiter than vine of Jacob
Ruddier than oil Nardin
High in Labanon’s cedar
Reckon Him-Godly one
Worship we Him-renowned is He all-around.

Deacon: StoumenKalos  (Stand well)
People: Kurieeleison  (Lord, have mercy)
Priest: Let us pray and beseech the Lord for grace and mercy.
People: Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and help us.
Priest: Make us worthy, O Lord, to offer You continually, at all times, and in all seasons, praise, thanksgiving, honor, and glory, and never-ceasing exaltation.

PROEMION (PREFACE)

Priest: Glory be to the heavenly Bridegroom who betrothed to Himself the daughters of the gentiles as a Church, and by His blood did purify and cleanse her, making her a bride for Himself, and invited His own people and the prophets, and the apostles, and all the human races to her chamber. To Him be glory, honor, and worship at this time of the blessings of the rings of Your children and at all times, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

SEDRA (PRAYER)

Priest: O Lord God, full of goodness, fountain of grace and source of blessings, You are beyond all human understanding. You are the holy mooron (chrism), exalted above all suffering and death. You have adorned Your creation with diverse gifts and assisted it with Your loving kindness. You have accepted its true faith and bestowed Your imperishable blessings upon Your Holy Church. You have filled her with the sweet fragrance of Your divine wisdom and adorned her with glorious garments and the crown of righteousness. You have betrothed her with water and spirit and made her Your bride. You have her Your Holy Body and Blood and manifested Your covenant and unity with her. By giving her the divine gift of Your ring, You have made her to abide with you forever. You gladdened and enlightened
her with Your glorious light. Through the apostles, You have entrusted to us the holy sacrament of matrimony. It was you who had decided that by means of the ring, the joy of the husband and wife should be perfected, and the betrothal and unity with woman must be accomplished.

O Lord God, bless + these rings which Your unworthy servants bless with joy. Bless + these rings that which were accursed, may by Your mercy become free from curse. O Lord, as You blessed the ring of the Church, bless + these rings also with Your blessings. O Lord God, grant that our son, _____________________, the bridegroom, and our daughter, ____________________, the bride, be filled with divine wisdom. O Lord God, make them happy both in this world and in the world to come, and adorn them with chastity all the days of their lives in this perishable bridal chamber. Lord, lead them kindly into the heavenly bridal chamber where angels and archangels rejoice and praise You continuously.

O Lord, may this congregation which has gathered before You, be free from all impuritied and transgressions. May Your blessings be bestowed upon them that they may glorify You and sing praises to you and to Your Father, and to Your Son and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always forever and ever.

People: Amen.

Priest: From God may we receive pardon of offenses and remission of sins in both worlds forever and ever.

People: Amen.
HYMN

1. Holy Church-to heavenly groom
Betrothed was-sacred and clean
Exhorted, commissioned were
Simon and John-by the Lord then
Simon-to keep the house safe
Gospel-to John was trusted
Lord exhorted them again
This Church, that I bought with all
Mine own Precious,-blood, thou keep safe.

2. Table was-spread out for me.'says
Holy-Church, chaste,-by Almighty
Infidels—never shall touch this
Fatten-ed calf placed on this altar
Those who tend to thy presence
Without sign of baptism
Never let them gaze upon
My-steries our sacred
This spoke to me—God Almighty

3. With her veil, staff and ring, Tamar
Won v-i-c-tory, over Judah
Shepherd’s bag,—using stone and sling
Goliath was felled by young David
Tamar—got condo-ned by three
David — won the day by three
Praises, holy Church,—faithful
Trini-ty, who keeps her safe
Trough her hymns of adoration

4. Why is fear — lurking in thy heart,
Church O -, faithful be not a-fraid
since thou not — taken alien
I too — never will thee gi-ve up
Draweth — this world to—a close
heav’n — and earth al-so pass
You may —still be o-ff danger
Thine altar is abode of
Father — Son an-d Holy Spirit

5. Betrothed — Holy Church unto
First be-gotten — before all things
Her bridal — chamber was prepared
For her — by His — death on the Cross
She stood — by the Cross, humble
She was sprinkled with His blood
She cried Unto Him “Holy,
Holy – Holy art Thou Son –
Perfect image – of Thy Father”.
Moriyo....Rahem...Melei....Nua....Darain...

**ETHRO (PRAYER OF INCENSE)**

*Priest:* O Lord, the Bridegroom of truth and justice, to whom the souls of pure virgins are betrothed, make worthy these servants, who through us, Your imperfect ministers, have been betrothed each to the other and have accepted You as the mediator for their matrimony. Give them Your grace that from them may go forth a sweet fragrance of holy living, and that pure love, peace, goodwill, and inseparable unity may abide with them. Help them, O Lord, to keep themselves pure for each other, both in spirit and in body, and to offer up praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father, and to your Holy Spirit, now and always forever and ever.

*People:* Amen.

**PRAYER**

*Priest:* Glory be to the one God-the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit-who blesses these rings by His grace and abundant mercy.

*The Priest waves his right hand over the rings and says loudly:*

These rings are blessed for the perfection of the joy of the these children of the holy Church.

*People:* Baremore (Bless, my Lord)

*Priest:* In the name of the Father +

*People:* Amen.
Priest: And of the Son +
People: Amen.

Priest: And of the Holy Spirit +
People: Amen.

Priest gives ring to the bridegroom and says:
May the right hand of our Lord Jesus Christ be stretched out upon you in mercy. With this ring of your betrothal, may you receive the grace and blessing of His mercy. May His right hand which is full of goodness and blessing be with you and guard you all the days of your life.
People: Amen.

Priest gives ring to the bride and says:
May the right hand of our Lord Jesus Christ which is full of blessing be stretched out upon you in mercy. Receive this ring of your betrothal from the priest of God as if from the hands of the holy apostles. With serenity of soul and body and with heartfelt joy, may you offer praise to Him and to His Father and to His Holy Spirit, now and always forever and ever.
People: Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE BRIDEGROOM AND THE BRIDE
Priest: May the Lord God who has perfected the joy of His holy Church through His Messiah, fill these our children, __________ and ____________, who have been betrothed to each other, with truth and righteousness. May He grant them heavenly blessings along with these rings they have received. May He adorn them with
chastify and exalt them with meekness. May he perfect their betrothal with the rings of righteousness, as He perfected the betrothal of Isac and Rebekah with ornaments of gold. May this bridegroom rejoice in His great salvation and may this bride be adorned with everlasting robes of beauty. May their purity and righteousness excel even the beauty and glitter of their outward ornamentation. May God make their union and their coming together for the growth of worthy and righteous character. May the Lord keep far from them all impure love, and may their hearts and thoughts be set ablaze by their love for one another. May God deliver them from the hands of evil and envious humans, and from evil spirits who corrupt the purity of Holy Matrimony. May the Lord God bless them with long lives of happiness and prosperity.

Hearken, O Lord, to the supplications of Your weak and sinful servants who stand before Your majesty. Grant Your children, who are united by You, the gift of blessed children and seasons of joy. Confirm them in the true faith and help them to pass it on as inheritance to their children.

O Lord God, may Your peace which has united heaven and earth, unite Your children who have come to be knit together. O Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, united them now and forever, that they may love each other with joy and live in unity with each other, all the days of their lives.

"Amen.

HYMN


cM \[ Vt 3 Vt \] Fjgk \[ aJ BlR \]

\[ LfUk\#frks \] amilMj.
HOLY MATRIMONY

എലിയാർ മറ്റുള്ള മാവിൽ എന്ന് പറഞ്ഞു എന്ന്
ഇഷ്ടിക്കേണ്ടതും ക്ലാൻ എന്നു എന്നു
മാത്രം പ്രതിഫലിക്കേണ്ട മാത്രമായി
എത്തുകയും അതിൽമതിക്കേണ്ട എന്നാണ്.

(മറാത്തവാണ് മായുർ-ഇ) സെ-സെക്ക്
അതിന്റെക്കുറിച്ച് എന്നു എന്നു
പ്രത്യേകാവട്ടമായി എന്നു എന്നു
അതിന്റെയൊന്നേയൊന്നിലെ എന്നു എന്നു.

ഇല്ലാത്ത മരാത്താവുമാവിൽ
അവഞ്ചിയാണ് എന്നാണ്
റപ്തിയെന്നാണ് എന്നു എന്നു
മാത്രം കണക്കാക്കേണ്ട എന്നാണ്.

വിശ്വസിക്കുന്ന മണിക്കുന്ന-ഇ
അറിയിക്കൊടുക്കു എന്നാണ്
നായിക്കുന്ന മാജിക്കുന്ന-ഇ-ഉ-ഉ
ഭവിതത്തിൽ അനുമാനിക്കേണ്ടാണ്.

അവിടെയാണ് ശുദ്ധി-ഇ എന്ന
ഭാവിയിൽ എന്നു-ഇ-ഉ-ഉ-ഉ
അപ്പരിച്ചിലെ ശവത്തായി
ഭാവിയിൽ കെട്ടായി

നായിക്കുന്ന ശവത്തായി എന്ന-ഇ-ഉ-ഉ
നായിക്കുന്ന ശവത്തായി എന്ന-ഇ-ഉ
ഭാവിയിൽ എന്നു-ഇ-ഉ
നായിക്കുന്ന ശവത്തായി എന്ന-ഇ-ഉ.
Church am I, the ho-ly Church
Bride of heavenly – Bridegroom

Holy Church thus speaketh, “who
Is my groom! Blessed am I
Worship I my groom who came
And was betrothe-d to me”

“That day I got be-trothed
Veil’d me anon no-bleness
Creatures were all as-tounded
Dressed in glory, grea-t am I!

Armour spirtual-put on
Me- by holy ba-ptism
Body and blood, sa-cred His
Adorn my finge-r as ring

Traversing ways ha-zardous
Daring robbers on-the way
Came I to River Jordan
Seeking him among-people

Bespake one of them – around
Closely I listene-d to him
“This virgin’s groom li-es thither
Crucified on fol-gotha”

Overcome with grie-f, waiting
I reached Zion to see him
“He was entombed by-the Jews”
People there appri-sed me thus
Laying my head on-the tree
I cried and cried o-ut my heart
Angel thus spake un-to me
“He rose from the de-ad, cry not”

“O fair one, welcome-to thee
By the cross I be-trothed
To my Father do I go
And Holy Ghost sha-ll send”

(HOOTHOMO) FINAL PRAYER

Priest: To you our faithful brethren who have come to witness this betrothal, which has been sanctified by God, may God reward you for all your good works. May the cross of our Lord be with you by day and by night, and protect you from the evil one and his hosts.

People: Amen.

KAUMA

Holy art Thou, O Lord

Holy art Thou, Almighty
Holy art Thou, Immortal
+ Crucified for us Have mercy upon us

(Recite thrice)

Lord, have mercy upon us

Lord, be kind and have mercy
Lord, accept Thou our prayers and entreaties
and have mercy upon us
Glory be to Thee, O God

Glory be to Thee, O Creator
Glory be to Thee, O Christ our King who does pity sinners, Thy servants .... Barekmore.

Our Father who art in heaven

Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace

Our Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, our Lord jesus Christ. O Virgin Saint Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at all time and at the hour of our death. Amen.
THE BLESSING OF THE CROWNS

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

People: May His grace and mercy be upon us, weak and sinful servants, in both worlds for ever. Amen.

PRAYER

Priest: O Lord God, make us worthy of that unending peace and the everlasting bridal chamber of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, invite us also to Your eternal joy along with all Your guests who are invited to the feast. With them we offer glory and praise to the Father, Son and holy Spirit now and always forever and ever.

People: Amen.

HYMN

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

May His grace and mercy be upon us, weak and sinful servants, in both worlds for ever. Amen.
1. Lord who blessed the –righteous ones of old – in His mercy
   Bless these Thy servants O Lord, have mercy on us
2. Lord who blessed Eve-along with Adam –in His mercy
   Bless these Thy servants, O Lord, have mercy on us
3. Lord who blessed Sarah-along with Abram –in His mercy
   Bless these Thy servants O Lord, have mercy on us
4. Lord who blessed Rafka – along with Isaac – in His mercy
   Bless these Thy servants O Lord, have mercy on us
5. Lord who blessed Rachel – along with Jacob–in His mercy
   Bless these Thy servants O Lord, have mercy on us
   Barekmor...... Shubaho...... Menolam.....
   Bless these Thy servants, O Lord, have mercy on us.

**PRAYER**

_Priest:_ O Lord, may Your children who are united to each other be made prosperous by Your bountiful gifts. Fill them with the joy that comes from the observance of your holy commandments. May they rejoice in You and offer unceasing praise to You, O Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always forever and ever.

_People:_ Amen.

**HYMN**

O, Lord, may the king rejoice – Halleluiah Halleluiah
In Thy power and salvation
Granted Thou his heart’s desire Halleluiah Halleluiah
Crown of glory set Thou on his head.
   Barekmor....Shubaho.....Menolam....
Bridegroom thi-ne – blessed Church
Setteth thy chambe-r high above
Seated art thou – as He promised
High up above Saleethono-s-
Hailawos – angels in Heaven!

Deacon: Stoumen Kalos (Stand well)
People: Kurie-eleison (Lord, have mercy)

Priest: Let us pray and beseech the Lord for grace and mercy.
People: Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and help us.
Priest: Make us worthy, O Lord, to offer You continually,
at all times and in all seasons, praise, thanksgiving,
honor, glory and never-ceasing exaltation.

PREFACE

Priest: Glory be to the eternal word, the self-existent One
who and who is and who shall be for all generations, who
is exalted on His throne above all the angels who worship
Him; who though He is high and lifted up, has by His
mercy and compassion for all, turned our human race to
Him; who by His love has made our nature which was
estranged from Him worthy to be brought back to Him;
who cannot be known or comprehended by human
wisdom or by searching out the wisdom of the world,
save that all may worship His self-existence, who
fashions the crowns of the rulers; who looses that which no one can bind, and binds that which no one can loose; who gives crowns of joy to the bridgrooms and brides for the glory of His majesty; he is worthy of glory and honor at this time of the blessing of the crowns of His servants and at all times forever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

**SEDRA**

**Priest:** O Lord God, whom all the heavenly hosts glorify and before whose majesty the multitudes of celestial beings fear and tremble; You in your abounding and ineffable mercy and kindness do rejoice in our feeble praises. Lord, You are always willing to bestow Your gifts upon those who ask of You. you are long-suffering and slow to punish those who are worthy of punishment; O Lord, bless Your children, __________ and __________ who have come here and taken refuge in the shadow of the wings of Your lovingkindness. Keep them safe and healthy and guide them in the path of righteousness through the observance of your commandments. Lord, fill them with Your joy. Grant them grace that they may go along the straight path that leads to the Heavenly kingdom. May they become rich in spiritual gifts and lay up treasures for themselves in heaven. O Lord, enable them to love eternal life and keep themselves free from sin.

Unite their hearts, O Lord and help them to draw near to Your holiness that they may be freed from the power of satan. Help us to labor righteously in Your spiritual vineyard and to observe Your holy commandments. O Lord, make us of one heart with the congregation of Your saints. O Lord, make us of one heart with the
congregation of Your saints. O Lord, comfort our faithful departed and give them joy in Your heavenly Kingdom. We offer up glory, praise and thanksgiving to you and to Your Father and to Your holy Spirit, now and always forever and ever.

Priest: From God may we receive pardon of offenses and remission of sins in both worlds forever.

People: Amen.

HYMN

1. Daughter of Gentiles, thou art – fairest of damsels
   Extollest thee, Solomon, King O Sacred Church
   Lo! from thy lips drops sweet honey comb.
   Spring flowers blush – at thy fragrance sweet
   Holy Church, fairest of tall, spotless, chaste art Thou!
   Thou art always guarded by Christ our Great King, for
   Halleluiah- Thou worship His Cross + – Barekmor
2. Daughter of Gentiles, thou art – fairest of damsels
Thou resemble Sol who lights – whole earth with his rays
   On his forehead – seen is sign of Cross
   Thy holy mouth – raises hymns of praise
   Blood of jesus, Son of God – is seen on thy lips
Thy children do sing His praise – all through the day and night
   Halleluiah Halleluiah
Barekmor…..Shubaho……Menolam……

3. Adore, birds singing at dawn – Almighty Highest
Singers winged are joined by Church with her hymn-s sweet
   Carrying harp – of David renowned
   She sings along – with thy angels
With a lyre of hundred and fifty strings she plays
Adores and entreats her Lord – that His mercy shall-
   Halleluiah – spread through through all the world.

4. Shielded am I by fortress-three, cries out the Church
Evil one who deceiveth – can never get inside
   Those are all three bounden together
   Little room is left between these forts
Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Sacred Trinity
Glorious like a bride I stand – secure within forts.
   Halleluiah – o-Halleluiah
Moriyo….. Rahem……Melei……

**ETHRO**

*Priest:* O true and faithful Bridegroom who was invited to Cana of Galilee for the marriage feast, and who did change the water into good wine, graciously accept this incense we offer unto You. Bless Your children, ________
and __________, who have bowed down their heads before Your holy throne. Protect them by Your right hand of kindness and mercy; give them joy in the spiritual bride chamber. Make all of us worthy of that feast that has been promised to Your saints who have loved You and kept Your commandments. May we and these Your children stand on Your right side and see Your majesty and mercy and offer up glory and thanksgiving to You and to your Father and to your holy spirit, now and always forever and ever.
Paul The Blessed Saint, the Lord’s Apostle, said
If one come to preach to you other doctrine than we knew
Be he man or angel bright, curs’d be he in Church’s sight
Doctrines all diverse arise, shooting up with many lies;
Blest is he who first and last trusts God’s truth and holds it fast.

Deacon: From the Epistle of St. Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians
People: Praise be to the lord of the Apostle and His blessings to upon us for ever.

(The Deacon reads from Ephesians 5: 21-33)
Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior. Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be in everything to their husbands. husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle, or anything of the kind-yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their
own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he cherishs and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a great mystery; and I am applying it to Christ and the church. Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband. 

Halleluiah Halleluiah O, Lord, may the king rejoice
In Thy power and salvation - Halleluiah Halleluiah

Deacon: With calm, awe, and humility, let us listen to the living words of the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus, the Messiah.

Priest: Peace be with you +
People: And with your spirit.

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving proclamation from St. Mathew the Apostle, the preaches life and redemption to the world.
People: Blessed is He who has come and shall come again. We praise the Father who sent Him and pray that His mercy be upon us, forever and ever.
Priest: In the time of the Dispensation of our Lord and our God and our Redeemer Jesus Christ, the Word of life, who had taken flesh of the holy Virgin Mary, these things came to pass.

People: We believe and confess.

The Priest reads the Gospel from St. Mathew 19:3-11

Some Pharisees came to Him, and to test Him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?” He answered, “Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command us to give certificate of dismissal and to divorce her?” He said to them, It was because you were so hard-hearted that Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for unchastity, and marries another commits adultery.”

His disciples said to Him, “If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.” But he said to them, “Not everyone can accept this teaching, but only those to whom it is given.”

Peace be with you +
HYMN

On the cross adorable,  
Church unblemished, did Thee see  
Thou sun of Righteousness, great!  
Moon-like she stood, in order  
And Thy greatness, Lord of all!  
She did proclaim as is meet.

Priest: (Waving his right hand over the crowns)  
Blessed and perfected forever are these crowns and the heads on which they are placed.

People: Barekmore

Priest: In the name of the Father +

People: Amen.

Priest: And of the Son +

People: Amen.

Priest: And of the Holy Spirit +

People: Amen.

The Priest waves the crown ceremoniously three time, in the likeness of the cross, above the bridegroom’s head and chants the following three times:

Priest: Προσκύνησες ναί - εις τον κυριαρχον  
ο θεό ο υπερηφανος ο καθισμων  
ο δαμασκηνος και θεοφανος  
ο αμνομικαχος δαμασκηνος.
Veiled in glory-descends
Crown, by Almighty’s hand
Priest of God doth adorn
Groom with crown of glory

(The crown in our Lord’s hands comes and descends from heaven. Worthy of the bridegroom is the crown that is placed on his head by the priest.)

**People:**  അവനെല്ലാത്തോ-അപ്പൊല്ലത്തിന്, അതിപ്രധാനം-അവധി
മൃഗമധ്‌വി മഫ്‌ലോ-വെഡും, മാതാമാരാണ് മദ്ദാർന്നയാണ്

Fill Thy priests and deacons with joy, good Lord in love
With crown rejoice groom and with chamber, this bride.

**Priest:**  പ്രിയ്ക്കരുവനന്മാരെ് - കളിച്ചുന്മാരെ
മതും എളുപ്പമാണ്-ഞാന്മാരും
ആയിരം എലുമ്പ-മാണ്‌
ആരാധികാരിയും മനുഷ്യ-മാണ്‌

Veiled in glory-descends
Crown, by Almighty’s hand
Priest of God doth adorn
Groom with crown of glory

**People:**  മതിലും-അപ്പൊല്ലത്തിന്, മിഠായിക്കുന്നായിരിരിക്കുന്നതിന്
മലിന്യ പുത്രാദ്യാസി-ആന്താ, കളിച്ചു-മാണിപ്പ്

Through these holy-orders couples are bestowed on-
Crown, this, magnificent fashioned by Christ-the king

**Priest:**  പ്രിയ്ക്കരുവിന്നന്‌ - കളിച്ചുന്നന്‌
മതും എളുപ്പമാണ്-ഞാന്മാരും
Priest: (placing the crown on the head of the bridegroom)  
May the Lord crown you with the crown of righteousness and adorn you with incorruptible garments. May he clothe you with the victorious armor that withstands all the power of the enemy.

Priest: (Elevating thrice the crown of the bride)  

Priest:  

Veiled in glory-descends  
Crown, by Almighty’s hand  
Priest of God doth adorn  
Bride with crown of glory
Holy Matrimony

Fill Thy priests and deacons with joy, good Lord in love
With crown rejoice groom and with chamber, this bride.

Veiled in glory-descends
Crown, by Almighty’s hand
Priest of God doth adorn
Bride with crown of glory

Through these holy-orders couples are bestowed on-
Crown, this, magnificent fashioned by Christ-the king

Veiled in glory-descends
Crown, by Almighty’s hand
Priest of God doth adorn
Bride with crown of glory
Crown that adorns the groom like unto crown of thorns
Bridal crown doth resemble crown of all these chaste ones.

Priest: (Placing the crown on the head of the bride) May the Lord crown you with the crown of righteousness and with incorruptible beauty. May You rejoice all the days of your life, and offer up glory to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and always forever and ever.

People: Amen.

[In accordance with the ancient Indian tradition the Bridegroom ties ‘Minnu’ around the bride’s neck]

**HYMN**

Cross the sign of glory
Cross, flag of victory
We take pride in the cross
That gave us salvation

[Immediately after this, the place of the bride’s aunt who stands behind the bride, is taken by a woman from the bridegroom’s family. From now onwards she will be an advisor and close companion of the bride]

The bridegroom drapes the bride’s head with manthrakodi (المعطكودي) (bridal sari)

Modesty, meekness, fidelity, veil for my beloved
Rebecca did veil herself
Bride this be covered in veil
PRAYER FOR THE BRIDEGROOM AND THE BRIDE

Priest: May the Lord who delights in the lives of His children be pleased with your lives and bless your union. May the Messiah, the Heavenly Bridegroom, seal your marriage with His blessing. May you rejoice in each other as the Messiah rejoices in His Church. May the right hand of His mercy be upon you and abide with you and keep you from all evil. May the angel of peace be with you and keep you from the evil ways of Satan. May the Lord give you the gift of blessed children that you may rejoice as Abraham rejoiced in Isaac, and Isaac in Jacob, and Jacob in Joseph. May the blessing of God who blessed Noah saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth,” abide with you. May the blessing of God who blessed Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob abide with you. May God grant you dew from heaven and all good fruits that the earth produces. May the blessing of those who loved God and have been well-pleasing to Him rest on the crowns that are placed on your heads by the priest. May the people of God rejoice and glorify God. May God enrich you with all riches and all good things. May He forgive your sins. May you become inheritors of the Heavenly Kingdom. May all of your departed ones have remission of their sins. May the Most High, who came down on Mount Sinai to make a covenant with the bride that came out of Egypt bless you and all our generation. We offer up glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always forever and ever.

People: Amen.
HYMN
Thou, planter of Paradise thou art mine own youthful groom
From thy garden for my sake send Thy breeze, cool, refreshing

O, Thou just and true Bridegroom! Lord am I Thy humble bride
Thou only refuge for me let Thy mercy rain on me

Do not go far from me Lord! Keep Thy maiden not away
If Thou shy Thy smile from me I may be tired and will die

By Thy cross+ Thou sealed my share Thy passion did set me free
Free of bondage, to heaven's tables, thou did lead me, Lord!

Day and month and year all long did I waste my time in sin
Hearing Thy Voice, lifegiving I rejoice all brightened up.

HYMN
1. Open Thy door full of mercy, Lord! Unto us-
Hear our prayer and have mercy upon our souls.
2. +Bless Son of God, with Thy right hand, these Thy children
And also these gracious crowns adorning their heads.
3. Call this couple by their names and shower graces +
Thy presence they enjoy in that world of glory!
4. Entreaties of Blessed Mary and all Thy saints
May please you Lord and sanctify + all these people.
5. +Bless the lips of these Thy people, O my Lord God
That on the harp they may praise and glorify thee
6. Lord, who hearkens unto our prayers and pleas
Accept these supplications and have mercy.

FINAL EXHORTATION AND JOINING OF HANDS
Priest: Dearly beloved brothers and sisters, when we stand
in God’s holy temple, we have a custom to admonish the
faithful of those things which we have received from our
holy fathers and which have been handed down to us by
our revered elders. We have to exhort and admonish
these children who stand before us to be watchful and
earnest in truth, righteousness, and in good deeds. Now
our children ________and________, remember that you
are standing in the presence of God, before the altar,
which is the throne of our Lord Jesus Christ, before the
cross, before the Holy Gospel, and before this
congregation. It is not before one who is ignorant of your
thoughts that you stand, but before the One who knows
them. Behold from this time, we entrust you each to other
(here the Priest joins their hands) and pronounce you
husband and wife. God, be the witness between you and
me, that if you break any of the laws of God, I am
guiltless. May the grace and mercy of God be poured out
upon the priests, the deacons, the faithful, the guests, the
hosts, the bridegroom, and the bride. May the right hand
of our Lord Jesus Christ be always over them, through the prayers of the blessed Mother, the Holy Virgin, Saint Mary, Mother of God, and all the saints who have loved our God and kept His commandments.

Again, O you faithful, be it known to you that this commandment is for all of you. Learn for yourself what manner of fellowship each one of you should have toward his wife; for she has left her own people and united herself to her husband. Therefore, he must love her and cherish her. He should love her as himself. Even though he himself be hungry, he must feed her; even if he himself is thirsty, he must give her to drink. She too must serve him as is fitting. She should deal with him in all things with love and affection.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us and with you forever and ever.

_People:_ Amen.

_Priest:_ Our Father, who art in heaven

_People:_ Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from the evil one. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever.

_Amen._

_Priest:_ Hail Mary full of grace

_People:_ Our Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women. And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, our Lord Jesus Christ. O Virgin Saint Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and always and at the hour of our death. _Amen._
THE NICE CREED

Priest: We believe in one, true, God,

People: The Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God; begotten of the Father before all words; light of light; very God of very God; begotten; not made; being of the same substance with the Father, and by whom all things were made; + who for us human, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, + and was incarnate of the holy virgin Mary, mother of God, by the Holy Ghost, and became man; + and was crucified for us, in the days of Pontitus Pilate; and suffered, and died, and was buried; and the third day rose again according to His will; and ascended in to heaven, and sats on the right hand of the Father; and shall come 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 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.
HOLY MATRIMONY

HYMN

See the royal daughter stand, Halleluiah vu Halleluiah
Glorious queen at Thy right hand
Thy Father’s folk and home leave thou Halleluiah vu Halleluiah
The king desires Thy-beauty now

Barekmor
Subahso..... Men Olam.....

Thou who praise the church doth sing
Intercession for us bring,
Unto Him, Thine only Son,
That He may not mercy shun
Stoumen Kalos-Kurielaison

(Inserted)
Peace the bright archangel brought
Hailing Mary fair
Favoured is thy blessed lot
Thou the Lord shall bear.

Barekhmor    Shub’ho Labo......
Like ship did Mary bear-
Laud and honor be-
Him, the captain and the Lord,
God of all the world
Moriyo Rahemelainoovadarain

By Thy cross, O Jesus Lord,
By Thy Mother’s praying word
Take from us and from our path
Punishment and rods of wrath.

_Veritas_
Mary’s memory
Blessing for us be,
May her pray’rs for us
Be a fortress thus.

Barekhmor .... Shub’ho Labo......

Fragrance sweet of smell
Through the air doth swell-
For Virgin Mary,
God’s Mother holy

Moriyo Rahemelain.....

Cease not, thou of grace a fount,
From Thy pray’rs on-our account,
Unto Him thine only Son
That he may not mercy shun

The righteous shall prosper like palm trees, Halleluiah ....
And thrive like the cedars of – Lebanon
In age they shall thrive and be flourishing, Halleluiah ..... Yea, growing both fattened-and pleasing

Barekhmor Shub’ha Labo.... Men’ Olam....
Behold the time of prayer, (O Mor Thoma, St. Gregoios)
Lead thou thy flock as always thou didst lead it;
Stretch forth thy hand like Moses-grant thy blessing
Behold, they hearken humbly to thy praises.

Barekhmor

Shub’ho Labo.....

Praise we the Father-he,(Mor Thoma, St. Gregorios)

Chose thee; and praise the son, who gave thee honored mem’ry
Praise we the Holy Spirit, who didst crown thee;
Let mercy be our always by thy pleading.

Moriyo Raahemelain.....
Plead for us, ye holy saints,
Pray to Him whose will ye did,
That from anger we be spared-
That from scourges we be hid

BENEDICTION

Priest: The Lord who created heaven and earth, bless you. May God bless and sanctify all those who have participated in this spiritual service. May God our Lord grant you and your faithful departed forgiveness of sins.
Father, Son and holy Spirit, may our weak and unworthy prayers be pleasing and acceptable before Thy heavenly throne, now and always forever and ever.

People: Amen.

SIGNING OF THE MARRIAGE REGISTER

RECESSIONAL