

# Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar



## *First Communion Order of Service*

## **Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar**

### **ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE FIRST COMMUNICANTS (Candidates-Coming Forward and Kneel)**

Song No : 390 or 391

Lesson : 2 Tim. 1: 3 - 14, 1 Cor. 12 : 4 - 28

#### **Exhortation**

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

In the name of our precious Lord we welcome you all to this divine service.

You should know that, years back when you were small, your parents brought you to the church and dedicated you before the Lord. That was theirs and also the Church's Proclamation of Faith.

Today, you are all grown up and are mature enough to discern things. God the creator of the universe is our Father, God the Son who came down for our salvation is our Saviour and God the Holy Spirit who constantly reveals the presence of God is our Guide and Advocate. Let the living Word of God, which is vital for our salvation lead you to all Truth. May you keep up the true faith and doctrine, which our forefathers received through St. Thomas, the Apostle. Today God is pleased in you to choose you as a medium to hand over this faith to the generations.

(Parents, Godparents may stand in their respective places)

The people who have built you up in Christian Faith namely, your parents, Sunday School teachers, Priests and the church as a whole are praying to God for you today.

Our Heavenly Father is calling you today to be a part of the living body of Christ to bear more fruits. You are called to enter into an active and living relationship with the risen Lord. You are called to proclaim to yourself and to the world that Christ is risen indeed.

Though the sin of Eden lead our forefathers to death, the relationship and participation in the Holy Body and Holy Blood of the incarnated Lord Jesus, who became curse for us, will lead us to life eternal.

Therefore, my dear children you now stand before the throne of God and His congregation. You should now confess the Faith, which once your parents and godparents had proclaimed on your behalf. This you should do with all your heart, all your mind and all your soul and in good faith and seriousness. Please repeat after me.

**I denounce Satan**  
**I whole - heartedly believe in Jesus Christ** }<sup>(3)</sup>

**I accept Jesus Christ as my Lord,**  
**My God and my Saviour.**

Dearly Beloved, Today heaven is rejoicing because of you. Your parents are proud of you. Your godparents are thanking God for you. Not only that, the whole church is welcoming you to this great fellowship.

Through Baptism and by His grace you are already united in Christ. Today, by the proclamation of your faith, your baptism has become more meaningful to you.

By His Grace you are incorporated to the Body of Christ and to the fellowship of the church universal. Through the participation in the Holy Table you now have become a full member of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, which is a part of the Holy, catholic and apostolic church. We praise and thank God for powerfully continuing the work of the Holy Spirit in adding the saved ones, day by day.

Beloved in Christ, as you have come to this church to worship and witness the dedication of our children let us humble ourselves, confess our sins and pray for God's grace so that the full indwelling of the Holy Spirit will be upon them.

### Song

- 1) Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me,  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me:  
Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me -  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me!
- 2) Spirit of the living God, move among us all  
Make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:  
Humble, caring, selfless, sharing  
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love !

### Prayer

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

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

Dear Lord, fill these your children with your divine blessings. We believe that their lives are precious to you. Help them to believe and profess the salvific act of your death on the cross and the resurrection and enter into the kingdom and experience the joy of your salvation. Let their lives bring praise, glory and honor to the Holy Trinity, one in essence, and peace and establishment of the Kingdom of God. Lord, plant them in the center of your vineyard. Bless them with the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Lord, we pray for your mercy, never deal with them according to their sins or the sins of their forefathers. Forgive all their sins. Lord, consume the thorns of sin from their life and help them to be united with you, through your life giving body and blood. Let your priceless body and blood be the life giving yeast and advance for eternal life for us. Help us O' Lord to sing ceaseless praise to you. Let all glory, honour and power be to the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit all the days of our life. Amen.

### Huthoma

May the Lord God bless you and by His grace protect you from all evil and lead you to life eternal. Amen.

(Parents and Godparents to be seated. Candidates come forward and kneel.  
The celebrant place the right hand on each candidate and pray.)

May the Triune God, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit empower you to  
kindle the gift you received and help you to walk in fellowship with  
Him till eternity. Amen.

(Celebrant extends the right hand of fellowship to the candidate, lifts him  
and gives the Word of God and a lighted candle.)

**Dedication Song (All together)**

All to Jesus I surrender,  
All to him I freely give;  
I will ever love and praise Him,  
In His presence daily live.

I surrender all, I surrender all ;  
All to Thee, my blessed saviour, I surrender all..

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Humbly at His feet I bow ;  
Worldly pleasures all forsaken  
Take me Jesus, take me now.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Make me Saviour, wholly Thine ;  
Let the Holy Spirit witness  
I am thine and thou art mine.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Lord I give myself to Thee ;  
Fill me with thy love and power,  
Let thy blessing rest on me.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Now I feel the sacred flame,  
Oh the joy of full salvation !  
Glory, glory to His name !

Go into the world shine as bright lights amidst the encircling darkness in the world. Stand against the forces of death. Christ, the Conqueror over death is with you. Bear fruits according to your repentance and in unison with the living body of Christ. Burn like a candle and reveal to the world the nature of Christ through your sacrificial life. Go in peace and serve the Lord.

### **Prayer**

### **Benediction**

May the creator of the heavens and the earth bless you. May God bless you all who have participated in this divine service. May the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit before His exalted throne hear and accept our prayers of us, weak and sinful people. Amen.

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