

Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church
Department of Sacred Music & Communications
Sacred Music Sunday - May 26, 2024

Order of Worship

(Approved by the Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Church)

Call to Worship:

Praise the Lord. Praise the name of the Lord; Praise him, You servants of the Lord, You who minister in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God. Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing praises to his name, for it is pleasant. (Psalms 135: 1 – 3).

Opening Song: Hymn (*Holy holy holy..*)

Prayer (*Kauma*)

Opening prayer:

Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of music and the songs that remind us of your love and mercy. As you have called us to be the light of the world, prepare us to enlighten the world around us. Thank you, Lord for bestowing us with diverse talents and opportunities to experience your worthiness. We adore your holy name for enabling us to sing songs of praise to you through music and worship. Weak as we are, O Lord, strengthen our hearts and minds so that we may magnify and exalt your holy name. You have called us to be messengers to proclaim your good news to the creation through music, songs, witness, and service. O Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for your gift of salvation through your suffering, death on the cross, and resurrection. We thank you O Lord for sending the Holy Spirit to be our helper, advocate, and guide. O Lord, lead us by the power of the Holy Spirit to worship you in spirit and truth, and to be true witnesses of your love. Triune God, you alone deserve all glory, honour, and praise. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of confession:

Let us come before our Lord with a repentant heart. For the following prayers of confession, our response shall be: **Forgive us, O Lord.**

1. Let us confess our shortcomings in utilising the gifts and talents God has bestowed on us. We confess that we have failed to use our talent of music for your glory and instead used it for our personal fame. We were called to nurture the spiritual growth of the people of God and help in the building of the church by working for the extension of God's kingdom. For all our shortcomings, let us together pray...

Forgive us, O Lord.

2. Lord, we failed to realise that our talents are a blessing from God and depended on our own abilities. We lived in selfishness and failed to consider others and the creation around us. For all our shortcomings, let us together pray...

Forgive us, O Lord.

3. Lord, even though we sing of your love, care, and mercy, we failed to love our fellow beings, forgive the ones who hurt us, and ignored our responsibility of helping the needy. For all our shortcomings, let us together pray...

Forgive us, O Lord.

4. Lord, we confess that sometimes we consider music more important than worship and neglect the purpose and content of worship, including its scriptural and theological foundations. For all our shortcomings, let us together pray...

Forgive us, O Lord.

Prayer of thanksgiving:

"O give thanks to the Lord, for He is Good; and His steadfast love endures forever." After every prayer, let us sing, '**Give thanks with a grateful heart**'.

1. Let us thank God for the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church and its witness to spread the Gospel. Let us also thankfully remember our heritage of worship and liturgies.

‘Give thanks with a grateful heart’.

2. Let us thank God for the songs that we sing to glorify and praise God in the different ministries of our church. Let us remember those who compose and sing melodious songs that renew our faith and hope in the Triune God.

‘Give thanks with a grateful heart’.

3. Let us thank God for audio and visual media, which are being used for the proclamation of salvation through Jesus Christ. Especially, let us remember the DSMC.

‘Give thanks with a grateful heart’.

Intercessory prayer:

For each prayer, our response shall be: **We beseech You, O Lord.**

1. Let us pray for peace and harmony in the world, especially in conflict-ridden regions. Let us pray for the people who are in the context of crisis. Let’s pray that God’s peace prevails over these countries and situations. Let’s pray for the establishment of justice, peace, and the integrity of creation in the world. Let us pray for the removal of discrimination in our society based on caste, colour, and creed.

We beseech You, O Lord.

2. Let us pray for war-ravaged countries, especially Palestine, Israel, and Ukraine. Let us pray for refugees and those suffering due to war. Let us also pray for the leaders and people who are working hard for the restoration of peace...

We beseech You, O Lord.

3. Let us pray for the music ministry of the universal church and the ministry of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church through the DSMC. Let's pray for our Metropolitan Theodosius Mar Thoma, Suffragan Metropolitans, and Episcopas. Let's also pray for Joseph Mar Ivanios Episcopa, the president of DSMC, leaders, musicians, lyricists, and members of parish choirs, who work for the extension of God's kingdom through the music ministry.

We beseech You, O Lord.

Prayer of dedication: *(All together)*

Gracious Lord, you are the Lord of Lords and King of Kings. We thank you for counting us worthy to stand before you and strengthening us to lift our voices to glorify your name. We find our refuge in you alone. We submit ourselves in your holy presence, so that we may praise and glorify you through our services, using the gift of music that you have given us. May we live a life of humility, considering each other in every walk of life. Make us humble and loving in all that we do. May we always be mindful that we have been called by you for a specific purpose. Sanctify our hearts, minds, tongues, lips, and voices, so that we may sing praises to you, O Lord. Shower us with the blessings of your Holy Spirit, so that we may be able to share the truth of the Gospel with everyone. We submit our body, mind, and spirit completely into your presence. Please accept us and bless us as we dedicate ourselves to your mission and ministry. Amen.

Let us sing together the hymn 'Just as I am'.

Just as I am-without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee
O Lamb of God, I come, I Come!

Just as I am-Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea. Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I Come!

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