

**Epiphany**  
**Ash Monday**  
**Hosanna Sunday**  
**Thursday of the Mysteries**



**Great Friday of the Crucifixion**  
**Saturday of the Light**  
**Resurrection Sunday**  
**Pentecost Sunday**  
**Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

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# Feast of the Glorious Epiphany

(Blessing of the Epiphany Water)

## BLESSING OF EPIPHANY WATER

A table covered with a red cloth is prepared within the sanctuary. Three extra pieces of lighted coals are placed in the thurible. On the table are placed two candles, a vessel filled with water, a sprinkler, and tongs for taking the coals from the thurible to drop them in the water.

After the homily the celebrant and ministers assemble around the table.

**Cel:** O Lord, water is used for the celebration of your Mysteries for the salvation of all people. Hear our prayers and may the power of your blessing ✠ descend upon this water. Through it, may your creation receive the power of your divine grace to resist evil and suffering.

When this water is sprinkled in the homes of the faithful, may they be delivered from evil and saved from harm. May the hidden powers of the enemy and the darkness of the night which disturbs the peaceful rest of those who dwell there be banished. May the peace that we ask for in your holy name dwell in us, and we raise glory to you, to your only Son and to your Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

The celebrant takes the lighted pieces of coal, one at a time, from the thurible and after each proclamation drops a piece into the water:

**Cel:** In the name of the Father be purified.

In the name of the Son be cleansed.

In the name of the Holy Spirit be blessed.

The celebrant then sprinkles the blessed water on the congregation, while the following Scripture verse is sung.

Cleanse me with hyssop and I shall be pure:  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (Psalm 51:9)

Musical score for Psalm 51:9, written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables across measures. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains measures 1 through 6, and the second system contains measures 7 through 10. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: D (measures 1-2), G and D (measure 3), G (measure 4), D (measure 5), and G, A, Bm, Em, A7, D (measures 7-10). Measure 7 begins with a '7' time signature, indicating a 7/4 time signature for the remainder of the piece.

Cleanse me with hys-sop, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be

7 G A Bm Em A7 D  
whi - ter than snow, whi - ter than snow.

**Cel:** Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

**Cong:** And grant us your salvation.

**Cel:** ☩ Peace be with you.

**Cong:** And with your spirit.

## Hymn

### Blest Are You, O Font of Life

Syriac: *fsheeto*

Alleluia!

Blest are you, O Font of life, O River Jordan!  
God the Father showed himself  
when Christ was baptized  
in you this day.

John the Baptist preached upon your banks  
and baptized the Lord.

Both Elijah and Elisha crossed your waters.  
Christ betrothed his Church in you,  
O River Jordan.

Alleluia! Our prayers, Lord, receive.

**Cel:** Holy, eternal, and almighty Lord, hear us. Send your angel from heaven to defend, protect, visit, and strengthen us, through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, and your living Holy Spirit. To you be glory and may your mercy be upon us, for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.



# Ash Monday

(Blessing and Distribution of the Ashes)

## **ASH MONDAY**

### **BLESSING AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES**

A table is placed within the sanctuary for the blessing of the ashes. On the table are placed the ashes prepared from the palms of the previous year, two candles, and holy water.

After the homily the celebrant and ministers assemble around the table.

### **Hymn**

#### **O Lord, I Yearn For Your Pardon**

Syriac: *bo'ooto dmor ya'qoob* (Lent)

1. O Lord, I yearn for your pardon to come to me.  
So grant me tears of repentance while there is time.  
I thirst for your mercy, Jesus, to give me life.  
O Sea of love and compassion, wash over me.
2. O Lord, I have sinned against you; now hear my plea.  
I beg of you to forgive all my sins and faults.  
The great abyss of sin's evil has swallowed me;  
stretch forth your hand lest I perish. Lord, rescue me!
3. We sing your praise, O Good Shepherd, who saved your flock.  
You came to earth and you brought back the sheep that strayed.  
Can anyone truly praise you, O Hidden Son,  
and honor your Father and give your Spirit thanks?

**OR**

## **I Yearn For Your Pardon, O Lord**

**Syriac:** *bo'ooto dmor ya'qoob* (Minor)

1. I yearn for your pardon, O Lord,  
give me tears to repent in this Season of Lent.  
Lord, have mercy.  
I beg for your favors, O Lord,  
for your mercy I thirst, for your kindness and love.  
Lord, have mercy.

2. Against you, O Lord, I have sinned,  
hear the cry of my voice; turn your ear to my prayer.  
Lord, forgive me.  
O wash me, O Lord, from my guilt;  
purify me and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Lord, forgive me.

3. O Jesus our Lord and our God,  
you have saved all your flock in your mercy and love.  
O Good Shepherd!  
You came to return all the sheep  
who had wandered and strayed from the love of our God.  
O Good Shepherd!

## Blessing of the Ashes

The celebrant sprinkles ashes with holy water three times as he says once:

Cleanse me with hyssop and I shall be pure:  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (Psalm 51:9)

Cleanse me with hys-sop, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be  
whi - ter than snow, whi - ter than snow.

The celebrant incenses the ashes three times while the following is sung:

**All:** Lord, have mercy. *Kyrie eleison.*  
Lord, have mercy. *Kyrie eleison.*  
Lord, have mercy. *Kyrie eleison.*

**Cel:** O Lord, hear our prayer.

**Cong:** And let our cry come before you.

**Cel:** ☩ Peace be with you.

**Cong:** And with your spirit.

**Cel:** Eternal and almighty God,  
forgive those who repent  
and have mercy on those who call upon you.  
Send your angel from heaven  
to ✠ bless and ✠ sanctify ✠ these ashes.  
May they be a healing remedy  
for the sufferings of those who call upon your holy name  
and confess their sins in the presence of your divine mercy.  
May those who receive these blessed ashes  
be delivered from their sins,  
and also find healing for their bodies  
and protection for their souls.  
O Lord our God, to you be glory  
now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

### **Distribution of the Ashes**

The priest signs the forehead of each person with the sign of the cross, saying:

Remember that you are dust,  
and unto dust you shall return.

During the distribution of ashes, appropriate hymns are sung such as the following:

## Ash Monday Hymns

### Let Us Seek a Remedy

Syriac: *bsafro salee doneeyel*

1. Let us seek a remedy  
for the sickness of our souls  
and ask pardon for our sins  
with sorrow and tears.  
For the Lord of love calls out:  
“If you wish to live in me,  
repent and seek pardon now  
while there is still time.”
2. At your gate we stand and knock,  
begging you to hear our prayer  
and open your treasury  
of mercy and love.  
Pour your wealth on those in need;  
do not turn your face from us.  
We come with repentant hearts,  
O Merciful One.
3. Look upon your people, Lord,  
and have mercy on your flock  
because of your Mother’s prayers  
and those of your saints.  
May your lasting peace prevail  
everywhere throughout the world.  
O Lord, guard your holy Church  
from evil and harm.

## Since My Sins Are Greater

Syriac: *lbait 'aneedeh*

1. Since my sins are greater than the sins of all,  
I do not know where to turn for refuge, Lord.  
Truly nothing can assist me but your grace,  
which calls to me like a mother with great love.  
Seeking sinners, Lord, your grace goes far and wide  
and calls to them: "Come to me, O weary souls!  
Find true comfort in repentance; turn to me.  
I promise you: I will give you rest and peace."
2. Come, O sinners! Like the Ninevites, repent!  
Come, fast and pray, keeping vigil for the Lord.  
Put on garments of repentance as they did,  
and cleanse your hearts, putting ashes on your head.  
Ask for pardon and forgiveness from the Lord,  
who loves us all, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.  
Beg his mercy while you can, before you die  
and lose your chance, when the door is closed to you.
3. Neither heights nor depths nor mountains could outweigh  
my many sins if you placed them on a scale.  
With a drop of your pure mercy, Christ our Lord,  
deliver me; set me free from all my sins.  
I am troubled by my thoughts; they judge me, Lord.  
Where can I hide, when you seek to punish me?  
In your mercy and compassion, make me pure,  
O Son of God; cleanse me from my guilt and sin.

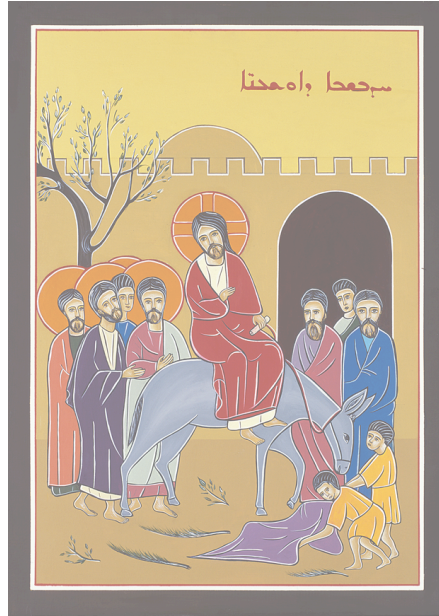
## Concluding Prayer

After everyone has received the ashes, the celebrant returns to the table and says the concluding prayer.

**Cel:** Lord God,  
as we begin this holy season of Lent  
assist us in our Christian battle to conquer all evil.  
Arm us with chastity, abstinence, and purity,  
and we will raise glory and thanks to you,  
now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

The Divine Liturgy continues with the Creed.



# Hosanna Sunday

(Blessing of the Branches)

**March 2013**

## **HOSANNA SUNDAY BLESSING OF THE BRANCHES**

The branches to be blessed are placed on a table within the sanctuary.

After the homily the Celebrant and ministers assemble around the table.

### **Diaconal Proclamation**

**STAND**

Syriac: *korozooto*

Jesus Christ, our Lord, the Son of God.

Stretch forth your right hand  
and bless these branches here  
prepared for your people,  
for the sake of your holy name.

We call out to you in prayer, O  
Lord. Hear us.

**Cel:** O Lord of heavenly powers, the seraphim and cherubim, the angels and archangels, and all spiritual beings tremble before you. They cover their eyes before your majesty. They worship you with reverence and awe, and glorify you without ceasing. Here on earth you are praised by infants, children, and all the faithful with shouts of "Hosanna!" We implore you, O Lord, to pardon our faults in your grace and to forgive our offenses in your mercy. May we live according to your will, and find mercy and compassion in this world and in the next. O Lord our God, to you be glory, for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

**Cel:** ☩ Peace be with you.

**Cong:** And with your spirit.

**Deacon:** Bow your heads before the Lord.

*The people bow their heads in repentance and sing:*

**All:** Lord, have mercy.      *Kyrie eleison.*  
Lord, have mercy.      *Kyrie eleison.*  
Lord, have mercy.      *Kyrie eleison.*

**Cel:** Lord God, you have shown us your plan of salvation. Now in your abundant mercy, bless ☩ these branches that they may bless those who carry them and take them. May they educate children, strengthen the young, and give dignity to the elderly. May churches, monasteries, convents, and homes be filled with their blessings. May they confirm the faithful in the true faith and in good works. Glory, honor, and adoration are due to you, to your Father, and to your Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

The Celebrant blesses the branches three times with the hand cross, saying:

**Cel:** May these branches be blessed and sanctified,  
in the name of the Father ✠,  
and of the Son ✠,  
and of the Holy Spirit ✠.

**Cong:** Amen.

### **Prayer Before the Procession**

**Cel:** Lord God, make us worthy to meet you in this procession on this solemn feast. Remove from us the ways of sin and clothe us with robes of virtue. Purify our hands that we may carry candles and branches leading us to holiness. Open our mouths that we may sing hymns and psalms. Lead us on the path to chastity and angelic purity in this holy procession and all the days of our lives. We praise and glorify you, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

## Procession

The procession begins at the front of the church. It is led by the cross and two candles followed by the ministers and the Celebrant. Two or more persons should be chosen to distribute the branches to the people who join in the procession behind the Celebrant.

The procession circles the church three times, or, if possible, moves outdoors. During the procession, appropriate hymns are sung.

## Concluding Prayer

**Cel:** O Christ our God, yesterday you revealed your divine nature by raising your friend Lazarus four days after he died. Today you reveal your human nature by humbly entering Jerusalem on a donkey's colt, accepting the praises of infants and children.

Bless all the faithful who celebrate this holy feast, purify their hearts and spirits, freeing them from jealousy, hypocrisy, hate, doubt, and all that is sinful. May we be innocent like the children who praised you on this day, and may we conclude this feast with heavenly joy and receive the blessings of these branches.

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. Deliver us from the trials of temptation that we do not have the strength to overcome, confirm us in the true faith, fill us with love for you and for each other, and ground us in hope by your divine blood which you have shed for our salvation. By your grace, and through the intercession of your holy and blessed Mother, guard and protect all Christians who celebrate this feast. Have mercy on the faithful departed who have gone to their rest, hoping in you, and may they dwell in your heavenly kingdom, rejoicing with you, for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

The Divine Liturgy continues with the Creed on **page 748** of the *Book of Offering*

# Hosanna Sunday

(Processional Hymn 1)

## Come, O People, Come Rejoice

Syriac: *z'ooro*

1. Come, O people, come rejoice.  
Let us worship Christ our Lord,  
who is riding on a colt.  
Sing "Hosanna" to our Lord!

2. All the children gathered there  
fill Jerusalem with joy.  
Holding branches, they proclaim:  
Sing "Hosanna" to our Lord!

3. Let us join the cherubim  
and the seraphim on high  
as they praise the Holy One.  
Sing "Hosanna" to our Lord!

4. Come, O faithful Church, rejoice:  
"Holy, holy, holy Lord!  
Son of David, Son of God!"  
Sing "Hosanna" to our Lord!

# Hosanna Sunday

(Processional Hymn 2)

## Rise Up, O Jerusalem

Syriac: *aloho dgableh lodom*

Rise up, O Jerusalem,  
with your joyful hymns of praise  
to the Savior, Christ our Lord.  
Sing "Hosanna, Hosanna!"

From the Sea of Galilee,  
Christ the King, Emmanuel,  
comes to save the world from sin.  
Sing "Hosanna, Hosanna!"

Let us open wide our hearts,  
as we greet the One who comes;  
Son of David, Son of God.  
Sing "Hosanna, Hosanna!"

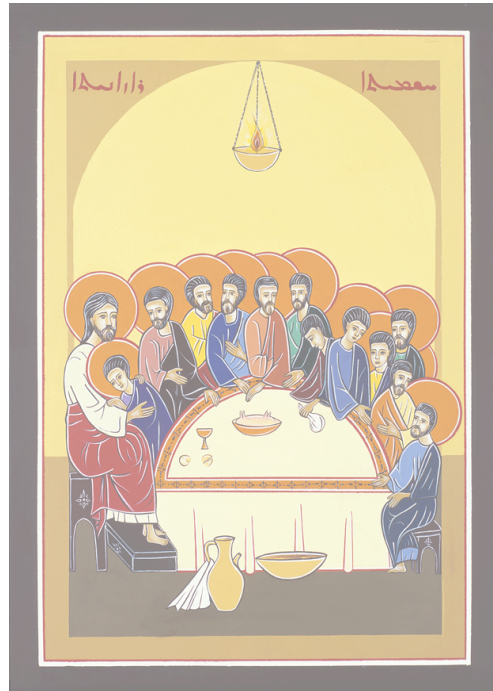
# Hosanna Sunday

(Processional Hymn 3)

## Zion Heard and Was Troubled

Syriac: *areeko*

Zion heard and was troubled;  
she was filled with great wonder.  
Children praised the Lord  
and sang "Hosanna!"  
Jesus Christ, Son of David,  
came as our Savior.  
Cloaks and garments were laid down  
as people praised him.  
We give honor to Jesus,  
Son and Lord of King David,  
who fulfilled what was written,  
humbly riding a donkey.  
Blest be Christ who came  
and gave the world life!



# Thursday of the Mysteries

## (The Washing of the Feet)

## **THURSDAY OF THE MYSTERIES**

### **THE WASHING OF THE FEET**

Twelve chairs are set aside for those whose feet will be washed. They are arranged in two rows of six chairs facing each other. A more solemn chair is provided for the Celebrant.

A pitcher of water, a basin, and towel are prepared.

A priest (or deacon) who is able to sing well is assigned to sing the Gospel.

The washing of the feet is done in four stages. It begins with the three people on the right of the Celebrant and concludes with the last person on the left side of the Celebrant and this person represents Peter.

The Washing of the Feet begins at the Gospel.

## Washing of the First Group

SIT

At the words “And during supper Jesus...”, the Celebrant rises, removes his cope, and ties a towel around his waist. He then kneels before the first person, and washes and dries his right foot. He does the same to the second and third person. After he finishes, he removes the towel, puts on his cope, and is seated.

**Priest/Deacon:**

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him.

And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

The first verse of the Hymn “On This Night” is then sung.

### On This Night

Syriac: *qoom faowlos 3*

#### Verse 1.

On this night, our Lord Jesus Christ  
perfected the signs of the past.  
With the Twelve, he met in the Room;  
he humbled himself in their sight.

Jesus, Lord of hosts,  
angels sing your praise.  
Lord God, you bent down,  
and you served the Twelve.

Christ showed them this most humble way  
that they might, like him, humbly serve.

## Washing of the Second Group

The same procedure occurs for this second group.

**Priest/Deacon:**

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him.

And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

The second verse of the Hymn "On This Night" is then sung.

### On This Night

Syriac: *qoom faowlos 3*

#### Verse 2

Together the Twelve ate with Christ.  
To teach them, our Lord Jesus rose.  
He then tied a towel around his waist  
and bent down to wash all their feet.

Jesus, in your love,  
you washed Judas' feet,  
though you knew his heart  
and what he would do.

We praise you, O Lord Jesus Christ.  
Your great love endured every pain.

## Washing of the Third Group

The same procedure occurs for this third group.

**Priest/Deacon:**

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him.

And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

The third verse of the Hymn "On This Night" is then sung.

### On This Night

Syriac: *qoom faowlos* 3

#### Verse 3

To Peter our Lord spoke these words:

"My will is that I wash your feet."

But Peter, the Head of the Twelve,  
was troubled by his humble Lord:

"Master of the world,  
fear has seized me now!  
If you wash my feet,  
I will be consumed.

I cannot let you do this, Lord,  
since you are a bright burning flame."

## **Washing of the Fourth Group**

The same procedure occurs for this fourth group until the Celebrant reaches the twelfth person.

**Priest/Deacon:**

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him.

And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

When the Celebrant reaches the twelfth person, representing Peter, the following dialogue takes place.

Priest/Deacon:

Jesus came to Simon Peter, who said to him,

Peter: “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

Priest/Deacon:

Jesus answered,

Cel: “You do not know now what I am doing  
but later you will understand.”

Priest/Deacon:

Peter said to him,

Peter: “You will never wash my feet.”

Priest/Deacon:

Jesus answered,

Cel: “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.”

Priest/Deacon:

Simon Peter said to him,

Peter: “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!”

Priest/Deacon:

Jesus said to him,

Cel: “One who has bathed does not need to wash,  
except for the feet, but is entirely clean.  
And you are clean, though not all of you.”

Priest/Deacon:

“For he knew who was to betray him;  
for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

The Celebrant kneels and washes and dries the right foot. After he finishes, he removes the towel, puts on his cope, and is seated. The final verse of the Hymn is then sung.

## On This Night

Syriac: *qoom faowlos 3*

### Verse 4

“O Simon, be not obstinate.  
You cannot resist what I will.  
Learn from me this most humble way.  
O Peter, I ask that you learn.  
    Draw near and be washed.  
    Do as I have done.  
    Be not proud of heart.  
    Pride was Satan’s fall.”  
Christ bent down and then washed his feet.  
He told them to serve one and all.

STAND

Priest/Deacon:

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them,

**Cel:** “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord —and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example that you also should do as I have done to you.

The Celebrant concludes by blessing the congregation with the Book of Gospels, saying:

**Cel:** This is the truth! ☩ Peace be with you.

**Cong:** Praise and blessings to Jesus Christ, our Lord and God,  
for giving us his words of life.

## Homily

SIT

The Divine Liturgy continues with the Creed on **page 748** of the *Book of Offering*



# Great Friday of the Crucifixion

(Anaphora of the Signing of the Chalice)

# **GREAT FRIDAY OF THE CRUCIFIXION**

## **(Anaphora of the Signing of the Chalice)**

### **Preparation of the Chalice**

The Celebrant goes to the table of preparation and pours wine into the chalice and mixes it with water without reciting any of the usual prayers. He covers the chalice with the pall only. The paten is placed on the main altar with the large anaphora veil which would normally cover the chalice. The Celebrant then proceeds to his place in the sanctuary.

### **Opening Prayers**

**STAND**

**Cel:** (standing at the Gospel lectern, he blesses himself)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

**Cel:** Lord God, make us worthy to enter your house with diligence, to knock at your door with confidence and to worship you in your sanctuary with sincerity. Answer us with kindness and respond to our petitions from the treasury of your mercy. Then we shall glorify you with joy, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

## From Psalm 51 (50)

- Cel:** Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your merciful love;  
according to your great compassion,  
blot out my transgressions.
- Cong:** O wash me completely from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
My transgressions, truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me.
- Cel:** Yes, you delight in sincerity of heart;  
in secret you teach me wisdom.  
Cleanse me with hyssop, and I shall be pure;  
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- Cong:** Create a pure heart for me, O God;  
renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence;  
take not your holy spirit from me.
- Cel:** Restore in me the joy of your salvation;  
sustain in me a willing spirit.  
I will teach transgressors your ways,  
that sinners may return to you.
- Cong:** For in sacrifice you take no delight;  
burnt offering from me would not please you.  
My sacrifice to God, a broken spirit:  
a broken and humbled heart,  
O God, you will not spurn.
- All:** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

## Prayer of Forgiveness

The Celebrant first burns incense and incenses as usual.

**Cel:** Let us raise glory, honor, and praise to the Chalice of salvation which was filled on Golgotha. Sinners drank from it, and they were pardoned. With the blood of forgiveness that poured forth from the cross, all people were marked and escaped death. As this Chalice united to his holy Body will be blessed and consecrated for the pardon of faults and the forgiveness of sins for his flock, we raise glory and honor to the Good One, on this day, and all the days of our lives, and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

**Cel:** O Christ our God, in your great and unspeakable love for all people, you became our sacrifice on Golgotha. By offering yourself, you pardoned the sin of the world. You enabled weak and sinful people to receive your Body and life-giving Blood. You have made us worthy of offering you acceptable sacrifices in memory of your saving passion and glorious resurrection. You have given us this sign for the purification of our souls and bodies. With the prophet David, we cry out and say:

“I shall receive the chalice of salvation  
and call upon the name of the Lord.”

Merciful Lord, we now implore your goodness to consecrate this Chalice mixed with wine and water, through the holiness of its union to your sacred Body. May it become a Chalice of thanksgiving and salvation for all those who drink from it and are purified. May it become a Chalice which is a pledge of new life for us. May it become a Chalice which unites us to the guests of your banquet. May it become a Chalice which opens to us the gates of your heavenly kingdom.

May it forgive our faults and pardon our sins. Through it may we share with the faithful departed in the joy which will never end. We raise our voices to thank you, O Christ, and through and with you, your Father, and your Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

***Qadeeshat Aloho***  
(You are holy, O God)

**STAND**

The Celebrant and congregation sing the *Qadeeshat* three times, in Syriac.

<i>qa-dee-shat a-lo-ho.</i>	You are holy, O God.
<i>qa-dee-shat <u>h</u>a-yel-to-no.</i>	You are holy, O Strong One.
<i>qa-dee-shat lo-mo-yoo-to.</i>	You are holy, O Immortal One.
<i>mshee-<u>h</u>o dest-leb-te<u>h</u>-lo-fain,</i>	O Christ, crucified for us,
<i>it-ra-<u>h</u>am 'a-lain.</i>	have mercy on us.

**Cel:** Holy and immortal Lord,  
sanctify our minds and purify our consciences,  
that we may praise you with purity  
and listen to your Holy Scriptures.  
To you be glory, for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

# Readings

## Psalm of the Readings

Syriac: *ramremain 2* (Departed)

SIT

- Cong:** With great honor Joseph took  
our Lord's body from the cross.  
By this action he made known:  
favor passed from Israel.
- Cel:** Hosts of angels stood in awe  
and in fear beheld the sight.  
With great honor Joseph took  
our Lord's body from the cross.
- All:** Angels sang our Savior's praise  
as they stood around his tomb.  
People of the earth proclaimed:  
"Lord, you saved us by your death!"

## Epistle

The reader stands at the Epistle lectern. He introduces the Epistle, saying:

**Reader:**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

(Hebrews 12: 12-21)

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed. Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and through it many become defiled. See to it that no one becomes like Esau, an immoral and godless person, who sold his birthright for a single meal. You know that later, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, even though he sought the blessing with tears.

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, 'If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.' Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, 'I tremble with fear.')

## **Gospel**

**STAND**

The following Gospel (John 19:31-37) is now proclaimed.

**Cel:** Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the Sabbath, especially because that Sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

## **Homily**

**SIT**

## Approach to the Altar

STAND

The Celebrant walks towards the altar, chanting in Syriac:

<b>Cel:</b>	<i>ee-tel-wot ma-deb-<u>h</u>eh da-lo-ho</i> <i>wal-wot a-lo-ho</i> <i>dam-<u>h</u>a-deh tal-yoot.</i> <i>weh-no bsoo-ghod</i> <i>tai-boo-tokh</i> <i>eh-'ool-lel bai-tokh</i> <i>wes-ghoo-deb</i> <i>hai-yek-lod qood-shokh.</i>	I will go to the altar of God, to God who gives joy to my youth. Through the abundance of your goodness I will enter your house and worship in your holy temple.
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<b>Cong:</b>	<i>bdeh-<u>h</u>el-tokh mor-yo</i> <i>da-ba-rain</i> <i>wab-za-dee-qoo-tokh</i> <i>a-leh-fain</i>	Guide me, O Lord, in your fear, and instruct me in your justice.
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**Cel:** (crossing his hands over his chest,  
he turns slightly towards his left and then towards his right)

<i>sa-laow 'a-lai</i> <i>meh-tool mo-ran.</i>	Pray for me to the Lord.
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<b>Cong:</b>	<i>a-lo-ho nqa-bel</i> <i>qoor-bo-nokh</i> <i>oo-net-ra-<u>h</u>am 'a-lain</i> <i>bas-loo-tokh.</i>	May God accept your offering and have mercy on us through your prayer.
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The Celebrant approaches the altar and kisses it in the centre.

## **Diaconal Proclamation**

**Deacon:**

Behold the holy Chalice,  
God's life-giving blood  
which is consecrated for all mortals  
by the apostles.

Behold the Chalice of salvation,  
God's living blood.  
Come forward all peoples and rejoice  
for it absolves those who partake of it.

Behold the Chalice which satisfies  
the thirst of the children of God.  
Those who drink from it are delivered  
from the flames of Gehenna.

Behold the Chalice which was prefigured  
by the chosen nation.  
But when Jesus came in person,  
other nations welcomed him with joy.

The honorable priest Aaron,  
prefigured this Chalice  
when he sprinkled the blood of animals  
to signify the Blood of the Lord.

The prophet Moses prefigured this Chalice  
by the lamb's blood  
which he sprinkled in Egypt  
to deliver the children of Israel.

## Transfer of the Chalice Hymn

### On the Cross the Side of Christ

Syriac: *fsheeto* (Passion)

**Cong:** *Teshboohtol moryo*  
On the cross the side of Christ  
was pierced and wounded.  
Blood and water flowed from him  
to pardon all sins.  
O faithful Church, now draw near to him  
with open hands  
to receive these gifts.  
Blood and water witness to the truth of Jesus,  
that he is true God and Man.  
This Chalice bless, Lord.

**Cong:** *Teshboohtol moryo*  
Moses sprinkled blood and saved  
the first-born children.  
When the angel saw the blood  
upon the door posts,  
they were not harmed.  
By the blood that flowed from his pure side  
Jesus saved his Church.  
Now upon the altar here  
his blood is given  
as a pledge of life to come.  
This Chalice bless, Lord.

## Rite of Peace

SIT

**Cel:** (blessing himself)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

**Cel:** (extending his hands)

Lord God, by your grace make us worthy to clothe ourselves  
with the robe of righteousness, that we may serve your  
Mysteries at the table of your heavenly kingdom, with pure  
thoughts. May our consciences be clothed with holiness, may  
we shine with beauty, and may our souls be crowned with  
faith, hope, and love.

O Lord, may our prayer be acceptable to you. In your  
compassion may it gain entry to your treasury of goodness,  
obtain the abundance of your riches, the forgiveness of our  
sins, and the peace and security of your entire flock, Father,  
Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

**Deacon:**

Let us give the greeting of peace to our neighbor  
with love and faith that are pleasing to God.

The congregation exchanges the greeting of peace with joined hands, in silence and  
with reverence.

The Celebrant and ministers exchange it without the usual liturgical embrace.

## **Blessing with the Anaphora Veil**

The anaphora veil which normally covers the Chalice at the preparation is now fluttered over the Chalice. The Celebrant then raises it to bless the congregation, saying:

**Cel:** You are the solid rock from which flow twelve rivers for the twelve tribes of Israel. May the love of God the Father ☩, and the grace of the only-begotten Son ☩, and the communion and indwelling of the Holy Spirit ☩ be with you, my brothers and sisters, for ever.

**Cong:** And with your spirit.

**Cel:** Make us worthy to praise and adore you, almighty Father, your glorious Son, and your living Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

**Cel:** May the peace of God, the almighty Father, the security of the Son who governs all, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, who sanctifies and pardons all, be with us and among us all the days of our lives, with this altar and our offering, and with your Church and her children, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

**STAND**

**Deacon:**

Let us all stand devoutly to praise and thank our Savior. The sun clothed itself with mourning and rocks melted away when they witnessed the Lord of creation hanging on the cross.

**Cong:** Lord have mercy.

## Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Celebrant bows his head in the form of a cross:

**Cel:** We present this offering, this commemoration, and this prayer to the everlasting God, the Ancient of days, for the living and the dead, for those who are far and those who are near, for churches, monasteries, and convents in every district and region, and for us who are weak and sinful. Though we are unworthy, you have made us worthy to stand before you and to be remembered in your heavenly kingdom. We pray for those whom we remember today and for those here with us in faith, awaiting your abundant mercy. For our fathers and mothers, and our brothers and sisters, and for sinners, we present this pure and holy offering to you, O God the Father, almighty Lord.

**Cong:** It is right and just.

**Cel:** (lifting up his hands and looking upwards)

Yes Lord, it is truly right and just that our minds and hearts be always lifted up to the heights.

**Cong:** They are lifted up to you, O God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, glorious and holy King, for ever.

**Cel:** (extending his hands)

To you, O God of Abraham, Savior of Isaac, Comforter of Jacob, glorious and holy King, for ever. It is right and just to thank, worship, and praise you.

**Cong:** To the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Cel:** (blessing the congregation)

O Lord, sign ☩ us with your cross and make us worthy of your feast when you will appear in glory. Extend the right hand of your mercy over this place and over all its faithful inhabitants. Guard them with your victorious cross from the Evil One and his power. Glory be to you, O Lord our God.

**Deacon:**

In the presence of these divine mysteries, we proclaim:

**Cong:** Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

The Celebrant bows his head to the right and left of the altar, saying:

**Cel:** Glory to you, O praiseworthy and glorious name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You created the world by your grace and its inhabitants in your love and compassion. You have saved all people by your mercy and have given your grace to mortal beings.

Heavenly beings without number worship your divinity. Beings of light and spirit praise you. Cherubim and seraphim bless and sanctify you. O Lord, by your grace, make us worthy to say with them:

**Cong:** Holy, holy, holy, mighty Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your great glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who has come  
and will come in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

[Narrative of the Eucharistic Institution does not take place in this Anaphora of Signing the Chalice]

**Cel:** (extending his hands)

Blessed are you, O Fruit of the Holy Spirit, gathered from the blessed vine of Mary, pressed in the sterile city of Jerusalem, mixed in the Chalice of salvation, and offered for the holy Church. Those who pressed it were scattered and prevented from drinking it. But those who drink it rejoice and sing praises.

O most Holy One, allow us to approach these Holy Mysteries and accomplish this Eucharist of the saving passion of your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. May we remember his death, proclaim his resurrection, and complete his entire mystery of salvation with true thanksgiving. For your living and holy name is blessed and worthy of all praise, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Have mercy on us, Almighty Father. Have mercy on us.

We praise you. We bless you. We adore you.  
We glorify you. We profess our faith in you and we ask you:  
Have compassion on us, O God. Have mercy on us and hear us.

O Lord God, remember Mary,  
and through her pure and holy prayers,  
have mercy and compassion on us and answer us.

**Deacon:**

How awesome is this moment, my beloved, for the living Holy Spirit descends and rests upon this Eucharist to consecrate it. Let us stand with reverence as we pray.

<b>Cong:</b>	Lord, have mercy.	<i>Kyrie eleison.</i>
	Lord, have mercy.	<i>Kyrie eleison.</i>
	Lord, have mercy.	<i>Kyrie eleison.</i>

**Cel:** (silently)

O King of the ages, we implore the depth of your grace, that the reception of your Holy Mysteries be not for our condemnation, but that they purify and forgive us. You are the source of good in every life, you are the one who assists those who have lost all hope, and you are the salvation of those who pray to you. O Christ our God and Savior, you have mixed this Chalice of wine and water for us, and you have given us your most holy Body for the pardon of sins, the purification from all evil, and for the protection and purity of our lives.

(aloud)

Through these Holy Mysteries, may we observe your commandments and be justified before your throne. Make us worthy to spend all the days of our lives without confusion, distress, or trouble. Through your grace and the assistance of your blessed Father, may we please you by doing good. For this reason, we implore you and glorify you, O God our Father, your only Son, Savior of all, and your living Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

## Intercessions

SIT

**Cel:** (joining his hands)

We pray and implore you, O Lord God, at this solemn and holy moment. For our fathers who lead us in this life and for those who govern the Church: **N.**, the Pope of Rome, **N.** Peter, our Patriarch of Antioch, **N.**, our Bishop, and all the bishops of the true faith. We pray to you, O Lord.

**Cong:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:**

We remember all true and faithful Christians, our brothers and sisters who have asked us, weak though we are, to pray for them. We remember those who are subject to difficulties and who take refuge in you. Visit and deliver them. We pray for this place which God guards and for the peace and spiritual growth of those who live here, and that they may live in prosperity. We pray to you, O Lord.

**Cong:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:**

We remember all true Christian leaders who have built churches, monasteries, and convents in all parts of the world. We pray for all Christians in their public activities and services, the clergy, and all the faithful, that they may lead holy lives. We pray to you, O Lord.

**Cong:** Lord, have mercy.

Deacon:

We remember the blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. With her we remember the prophets, apostles, evangelists, disciples, martyrs, and confessors; John the Baptist, the messenger and forerunner of the Savior; Stephen, the archdeacon and first martyr, and all the saints. We pray to you, O Lord.

Cong: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon:

We remember those who have died and are among the saints, especially those who have preserved and given us this apostolic faith. We proclaim the four holy ecumenical councils of Nicea, Constantinople, Ephesus, and Chalcedon. We remember our glorious fathers and faithful doctors of the Church who dwell with God; Saint James, Brother of the Lord, the illustrious apostle, martyr, and bishop; Ignatius, Dionysius, Athanasius, Basil, Gregory, Timothy, Eusthatius, John, and especially Cyril, the tower of truth; the chosen of God, Saint Maron, our blessed father; Saint James and Saint Ephrem, both pillars of our holy Church. And for all those who kept the true faith and passed it on to us. We pray to you, O Lord.

Cong: Lord, have mercy.

Cel: We also remember all the faithful who have died in the true faith and who dwell with you. We implore Christ our Lord, who has called them, to pardon their sins and faults, and to lead them and us to his heavenly kingdom. We proclaim three times:

Cong: Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

*Kyrie eleison.*  
*Kyrie eleison.*  
*Kyrie eleison.*

## Invocation of the Holy Spirit

**Cel:** (kneeling on both knees and extending his hands)

Hear us, O Lord. Hear us, O Lord. Hear us, O Lord. Open the gates of heaven that the Holy Spirit may be revealed to us from the heights of your holiness. May the Holy Spirit rest upon this Chalice to bless and consecrate it by the mystery of your Holy Trinity.

The Celebrant then rises and continues:

May this Chalice pardon the debts and remit the sins of all who receive it. May they be worthy of this Chalice reserved for the blessed and everlasting feast, for they will praise your glorious Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

## Eucharistic Procession

STAND

The Celebrant now processes to the place where the Eucharist has been reserved. He is accompanied by deacons and the other ministers. The procession is led by ministers with candles and the thurible. The Celebrant carries the Eucharist in procession around the church. Meanwhile, an appropriate Eucharistic hymn is sung.

### O Bread of Life

Syriac: *Bo'oto dmor ya'qoob*

Eng. Adapt. Fr. Mansour Labaky

O Bread of Life, O Food of Souls, God's joy unsealed.  
The Son of God, now Son of man, God's love revealed.  
The angels stand before your face with awe and fear  
How then shall we poor sinful men dare draw so near?

The ocean's depths of God's great love became a flood  
The night he gave his precious food, his flesh and blood.  
Our bodies take, our souls receive this awesome Lord.  
O mystery that shows how God should be adored.

For mercy, come with rev'rent love, O penitent.  
To God who gives, and given is, in sacrament.  
My hope, my grace, my happiness, God's only Son;  
Receiving you is promise of salvation won.

## **Diaconal Proclamation**

SIT

During the Diaconal Proclamation the Celebrant performs the Fraction, Signing, Sprinkling, Mingling and Elevation, silently:

**Deacon:**

Behold the holy Chalice!  
From the side of the Father's Son the living are born.  
From his side, open on the cross by a lance,  
our thirst is satisfied.  
Behold, the Church tells the priests  
to carry it above the altar  
for the pardon of her children.

Behold the holy Chalice!  
From it we receive salvation.  
From it we drink and are made worthy of  
the pardon of our faults.  
Behold, today it is accomplished  
through the ministry of the true priests,  
that all nations are saved.

Behold the holy Chalice!  
King David foretold it, stating:  
"I will receive the chalice of salvation,  
and I will call upon the name of the Lord."  
Behold, today it is completed on the table of life,  
that mortals are promised eternal life.

## Fraction, Signing, Sprinkling, Mingling and Elevation

The Celebrant takes the host in his right hand and breaks it over the chalice into two parts; then he breaks a piece from the edge of the half remaining in his left hand saying silently:

**Cel:** We have believed and have approached  
and now we seal ✠ and break this oblation,  
the heavenly bread, the Body of the Word,  
who is the living God.

He dips the small piece into the chalice in the form of a cross:

We sign this chalice of salvation and thanksgiving  
with the forgiving ember  
which glows with heavenly mysteries:

He dips the Body in the Blood three times and continues:

In the name of the Father ✠,  
the Living One, for the living;  
and of the only Son ✠,  
the Holy One, begotten of him,  
and like him, the Living One, for the living;  
and of the Holy Spirit ✠,  
the beginning, the end, and the perfection  
of all that was and will be in heaven and on earth;  
the one, true, and blessed God without division  
from whom comes life for ever.

He sprinkles the Body three times, using the small piece that has been dipped into the Blood:

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
is sprinkled on his holy Body,  
in the name of the Father ✠,  
and of the Son ✠,  
and of the Holy Spirit ✠.

He drops the small piece into the Blood:

You have united, O Lord,  
your divinity with our humanity  
and our humanity with your divinity,  
your life with our mortality  
and our mortality with your life.  
You have assumed what is ours  
and you have given us what is yours  
for the life and salvation of our souls.  
To you be glory for ever.

The Celebrant joins the two halves of the Body and holds them in his right hand over the chalice which is held in his left hand. He elevates them and prays with the congregation:

All:

STAND

O Lord,  
you are the pleasing Oblation,  
who offered yourself for us.  
You are the forgiving Sacrifice,  
who offered yourself to your Father.  
You are the High Priest,  
who offered yourself as the Lamb.  
Through your mercy,  
may our prayer rise like incense  
which we offer to your Father through you.  
To you be glory for ever.

**Cel:** Lord God, we are not worthy to stand in your presence, but through the priesthood you have made us worthy to stand before you and present this offering to your name. The cherubim and seraphim who were created to serve you dare not approach you. Isaiah witnessed a seraph lifting a coal with tongs from the altar to his lips. You have shown us your great mercy when you lowered yourself, and in your love you came down to the level of our weakness.

**Cel:** (blessing the congregation)

Lord Jesus Christ, may your cross ✠ be our guard against the Evil One and his power, for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

### **Lord's Prayer and Penitential Rite**

**Cel:** (extending his hands)

O Lord, purify us from every stain of soul and body, that we may be united to you in purity and holiness. You loved us and brought us back to you, that we may stand before you and call upon you with the pure and holy prayer you taught your disciples:

**All:** (with extended hands)

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 those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

**Cel:** (extending his hands)

O Lord, we ask you, through your grace, to place your truth in our hearts, your love in our consciences, and your mercy in our souls. May we share in your kingdom with the guests of your feast, clothed with your body, the white robe of joy. Having conquered Gehenna and having been delivered from death, let us dwell in your light with the saints. We raise glory to the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

**Cel:** (blessing the congregation)

✠ Peace be with you.

**Cong:** And with your spirit.

**Deacon:**

Bow your heads before the Lord.

**Cel:** (extending his hands)

O Lord, we bow our heads before you, before your forgiving altar and before the Body and Blood of your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We worship the glorious Trinity, and we ask, through your grace, love, compassion, mercy, the compassion, for the forgiveness of our sins. Hear our prayers and be attentive to our petitions. Answer our requests from the abundant treasury of your mercy.

Make us worthy to come forward, in all purity and holiness, to receive the Body and Blood of your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We shall praise the glorious Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

**Deacon:**

Let each one of us look to God with reverence and humility  
and ask him for mercy and compassion.

## **Invitation to Communion**

**Cel:** (elevating the paten in his right hand and the chalice in his left)

Holy Gifts for the holy,  
with perfection, purity, and sanctity.

**Cong:** One Holy Father, one Holy Son, one Holy Spirit!  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
for he is one in heaven and on earth;  
to him be glory, for ever.

**All:** (with extended hands)

Make us worthy, O Lord God,  
so that our bodies may be sanctified  
by your holy Body  
and our souls purified  
by your forgiving Blood.  
May our communion be  
for the forgiveness of our sins  
and for new life.  
O Lord our God, to you be glory, for ever.

## Thanksgiving

SIT

The Celebrant consumes what remains of the Mysteries and performs the ablutions.

**Cel:** (extending his hands)

We give you thanks, O living Lamb of God. You came down to earth from heaven, clothed yourself with the body of our humanity, and died for the life and salvation of all people. Prophets and kings yearned to see you but were unable. Yet, you let us weak sinners receive you in our human hands and be purified by you. We praise you for your awesome majesty and your goodness toward us.

You are the burning fire carried by our hands and the living ember touched by our lips. Purify, O Lord, the mouths, lips, and hands of those who held your Body. Sanctify the bodies, souls, and spirits of those who received your Blood. Purify their hearts, thoughts, spirits, and all their senses. Mark them with the seal of your cross and place within them your hidden power. O Lord our God, to you be glory, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

**Cel:** (blessing the congregation)

✠ Peace be with you.

**Cong:** And with your spirit.

## Communion

### The Hosts of Angels

Arabic: *'asakiroo sama*

**Cong:** The hosts of angels  
have come to stand with us  
at the holy altar.

They sing in chorus  
and carry Christ, the Lamb,  
sacrificed before us.

O come, receive him,  
the saving Lamb of God,  
who will grant forgiveness.

**Cel:** (praying silently)

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ is given to me for the  
forgiveness of my sins and for eternal life.

The Celebrant reverently consumes the Body of Christ.

**Cel:** (praying silently)

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is given to me for the  
forgiveness of my sins and for eternal life.

The Celebrant reverently consumes the Blood of Christ.

The concelebrants receive Communion.

The faithful then approach for Communion.

Before receiving the Body and Blood of Christ, each one bows and makes the sign of  
the cross, and the Celebrant says:

**Cel:** The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ are given to you  
for the forgiveness of your sins and for eternal life.

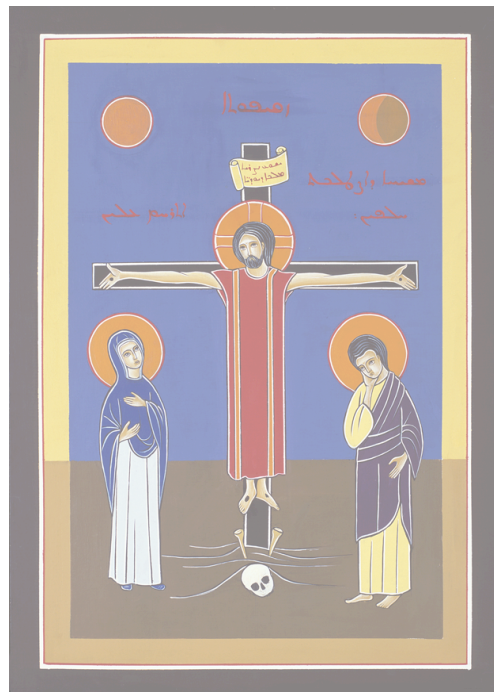
## Final Blessing

STAND

**Cel:** May God bless ☩, sanctify, forgive, and protect the faithful who have participated in this divine Service of the Holy Mysteries. May God forgive them ☩, their brothers and sisters and their departed. May God save us from confusion and shame before him on the day of judgment, for ever and ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

The Celebrant and ministers leave the sanctuary.



# Great Friday of the Crucifixion

(Adoration of the Cross)

## **GREAT FRIDAY OF THE CRUCIFIXION**

### **(Adoration of the Cross)**

A dark cloth is placed outside the sanctuary in the central aisle of the church. It will later be used as the shroud. The faithful should be encouraged to bring flowers and place them on the cloth before the service begins.

If possible, a cross is used which has a removable body. Otherwise a small crucifix is used. If a large cross is used, the body is removed from it, placed in the shroud, and carried around the church. If a crucifix is used, it is placed in the shroud, carried around the church, and buried in the tomb.

An unlighted candle is placed on each side of the cross. A tomb should be prepared which will receive the shroud after the procession.

## Opening Prayers

STAND

**Cel:** (standing at the Gospel lectern, he blesses himself)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

**Cel:** Grant us, O Lord, the resplendent colors of your compassion and mercy to paint in our hearts the image of you hanging on the cross, out of love, between two thieves. When we will have imprinted the awesome vision of your passion in our spirits, then we will be worthy of the glory of your resurrection and the gift of your grace. And we shall worship and praise you for your mercy toward us, with your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

## Psalm 22 (21)

- \* My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you far from saving me,  
so far from my words of anguish?
- \*\* O my God, I call by day and you do not answer;  
I call by night and I find no reprieve.
- \* Yet you, O God, are holy,  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.  
In you our forebears put their trust;  
they trusted and you set them free.
- \*\* I can count every one of my bones.  
They stare at me and gloat.
- \* They divide my clothing among them,  
they cast lots for my robe.
- \*\* But you, O Lord, do not stay afar off;  
my strength, make haste to help me!
- \*/\*\* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen

OR

## Hymn

SIT

### On the Cross Our Lord and God

Syriac: *mshalem noohreh deemomo*

1. On the cross our Lord and God took possession of the earth.  
In the center of the world, he revealed that we were saved.  
When his voice resounded, tombs were opened wide,  
and the dead were raised.
2. Jesus cried: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"  
Then he gave his spirit up into his own Father's hands.  
In this way he saved us and fulfilled all things  
that were said of him.
3. Amos spoke in prophecy that the sun would set at noon.  
On this day it was fulfilled; darkness covered all the land.  
For the sun was darkened when it saw its Lord  
dying on the cross.
4. Christ our Lord was lifted high, crucified between two thieves,  
like a lamp that brightly shines in the middle of a house.  
By his light he guides us on the path of life  
and true blessedness.
5. In these two thieves on each side, we behold a mystery:  
on the left the realms of hell, heaven's kingdom on the right.  
One was filled with hatred for the Lord of all,  
one had faith in him.
6. Who can praise you, Lord our God, for the pains that you endured,  
nailed upon a cross of shame for the sake of Adam's race?  
Blessèd are the faithful who now worship you  
and adore your cross!

7. When the sea beheld the staff that the prophet Moses held,  
it divided in two parts, so the people could pass through.

This foreshadowed Jesus and his holy cross  
saving us from sin.

8. God's own Son stretched out his hands on the cross for love of us.  
Conquering the Evil One, he subdued our Enemy.

He defeated Satan and the powers of hell  
by his mighty cross.

9. Cross of shame and suffering! Cross of glory and of love!

On your wood Eve's curse was nailed, and from you all blessings come!  
Though you stripped our Savior, yet you clothe us now  
with a robe of light.

10. We adore your cross, O Lord. Through your death we rise to life.  
By your cross we can return to the paradise we lost.

We bow down and worship your life-giving cross,  
Savior of the world!

## Prayer of Forgiveness

STAND

**Cel:** (placing incense in the thurible, he says:)

To the glory and honor of the Most Holy Trinity.

The Celebrant, or someone appointed by him, chants the Prayer of Forgiveness. Meanwhile, either the Celebrant, or another priest or deacon, incenses the cross three times three (in the middle, to the right, and to the left), the four corners of the altar, the clergy, and the congregation.

**Cel:** Let us raise glory, honor, and praise to the heavenly Peacemaker who was hung on the wood of the cross. He opened his arms and gathered all people and nations. The Lord became flesh and by his cross has saved the world. He received true glory and worship from all corners of the earth. The good Shepherd showed his goodness to his flock by caring for his sheep. He proved how much he loved them by offering himself. To the Good One be glory and honor, all the days of our lives, and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

**Cel:** We worship, thank, and praise your divinity, O God, for you created us in your image and formed us in your likeness. We praise your salvation, O Lover of all people. On this Friday you gave us life by your cross and set us free by your death. In the beginning, you completed our creation on a Friday, the sixth day. Your holy hands formed mortal Adam from the dust of the earth, and you molded and created him in your image.

From your own mouth you breathed the breath of life into him. Thus he was fashioned in beauty and perfected in knowledge - a marvelous creation! But in his ignorance, Adam wandered, neglected your command, and was delivered up to judgment. Death now entered to distort the image of your creation.

But even after this, O compassionate and loving Lord, your mercy prevailed. On the sixth day, another Friday filled with mysteries, your hands were nailed to the cross; you were humiliated and mocked and your side pierced in order to give new life to the work of your hands, through the blood and water which flowed from your side.

On this Friday of your saving passion and the commemoration of your life-giving cross, the Church petitions you through the mouths of her children with the fragrance of this incense. As in the beginning, you created out of love and then returned to save and give new life, now grant your mercy upon us, the work of your creation.

By your cross, grant peace to the whole universe.

By your cross, remove anger and put an end to wars.

By your cross, eliminate dissension.

By your cross, curb violence and pacify the angry.

By your cross, humble the proud, expose the self-serving, and remove the enemy.

By your cross, establish your Church in strength and make her monasteries and convents firm.

By your cross, purify your priests and exalt the deacons.

By your cross, sustain the elderly, subdue the haste of youth, and educate the young.

By your cross, pardon sinners, forgive wrongdoers, and guard your flock which now worships you, honors your passion, embraces your wounds and is glorified and exalted by your crucifixion.

Save us and save all your people. Completely perfect us in your strength. Visit us and revive us, so that our image may be renewed and our likeness recovered. May your comfort take away the sadness of our hearts and your compassion dry our tears.

Then we shall wear your glory and be clothed in your light.  
Make us worthy to meet the day of your resurrection as heirs  
in the kingdom. Then without ceasing, we shall raise glory to  
you, now and ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

## **Hymn**

**SIT**

### **Come, O Faithful Church, Bow Down**

**Syriac:** *mshēhō natareh l'eedtokh*

Come, O faithful Church, bow down and adore the holy cross,  
for upon its sacred wood God, who made the trees, was raised.  
Indeed, all created things now envy it  
for this dignity.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, he whom cherubim revere  
and dare not draw near,  
suffered on the cross for us.

On this day the children of the faithful Church  
venerate the saving cross.

Blest are you, O faithful Church, for your refuge is the cross.  
It has reconciled all things, both in heaven and on earth.  
Indeed, it has conquered death and Satan's power  
and has given hope.

In the world the cross now shines; darkness flees before its  
light.

Give praise to the Son, who laid down his life for us!  
He brought back a people who had gone astray,  
giving them the light of faith.

**OR**

## On Golgotha Our Redeemer Has Died

Syriac: *ehmar qayso*

1. On Golgotha our Redeemer has died.  
Awesome indeed is this great mystery.  
Christ our God shed his blood for us;  
from his heart blood and water flowed.  
O what love has been shown  
by our Savior and Lord.
2. Savior of all, how could they not have known?  
Giver of life, why were you not adored?  
With your truth fill our hearts, we pray.  
With your light guide us on our way.  
Both in life and in death  
keep us faithful, O Lord.
3. Great was your love, that you suffered for us.  
Since we had sinned, you were hung on the cross.  
On your lips bitter wine was placed  
when you chose to be crucified.  
Draw us close to your heart,  
O Redeemer and Lord.
4. Savior of all, pure Oblation for sins,  
you pardon souls and give hope to our lives.  
Fill our hearts with a living faith,  
as we die to ourselves each day.  
May we take up our place  
in your kingdom, O Lord.

**Cel:** O Lord and High Priest, fragrant incense of forgiveness, you offered yourself on the wood of the cross for foolish sinners. You sacrificed yourself for our sake. Now, O Lord, cancel the debt of our guilt and save us from retribution. Remove the scourge of anger and all suffering from us. Encourage us with your joyful hope and your healing remedy. In your compassion, pardon the faithful departed, and we shall praise you with them, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

## **Readings**

### **Psalm of the Readings**

*Syriac: 'onokh yeshoo'*

**SIT**

**Cong:** Praise the Mighty One who carries  
all creation.  
For he willed to carry his cross  
and endure pain.

**Cel:** Praise the Mighty One who carries  
earth and heaven.  
For he willed to carry his cross  
and endure pain.

**All:** On this day the Sun of Justice  
gripped a pillar,  
while the children of the darkness  
stood and scourged him.

## Epistle

The reader stands at the Epistle lectern. He introduces the Epistle, saying:

Reader:

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians.

(Galatians 2:17 – 3:14)

But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly exhibited as crucified! The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh? Did you experience so much for nothing?—if it really was for nothing. Well then, does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard? Just as Abraham ‘believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness’, so, you see, those who believe are the descendants of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you.’ For this reason, those who believe are blessed with Abraham who believed.

For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law.' Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law; for 'The one who is righteous will live by faith.' But the law does not rest on faith; on the contrary, 'Whoever does the works of the law will live by them.' Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree'— in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Praise be to God always!

## **Gospels**

**STAND**

**Cong:** *hem oo-hem*

**Cantor:**  
Exalt the Lord our God;  
bow down before his footstool.  
(Psalm 99:5)

**Cong:** *hem oo-hem*

The following Gospel (Luke 23:33-47) is now proclaimed.

**Cel:** When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

The candle to the right of the cross is now lit.

The following Gospel (John 19:25-30) is now proclaimed.

**Cel:** Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

**Homily**

**SIT**

## **Diaconal Proclamation**

Syriac: *korozooto*

1. Jesus Christ, our Lord, the Son of God.

O Crucified One, lifted high on the cross,  
you raised up creation to its wondrous Creator on high.

We call out to you in prayer, O Lord.  
Hear us.

2. Jesus Christ, our Lord, the Son of God.

You were stripped and nailed to the wood of shame  
that we may be clothed with glory and victory.

We call out to you in prayer, O Lord.  
Hear us.

## Removal of the Body from the Cross

If the body is removed from the cross, the following hymn is sung.

### The Church Saw the Son of God

Syriac: *hdaow zadeeqeh*

The Church saw the Son of God  
crucified upon the cross on Golgotha.  
She drew near her saving Lord  
and received his Body to forgive her sins.  
Kyrie Eleison! Have mercy, Lord!

O Church, come approach the cross.  
Come adore the banner of your holy Groom.  
And sing hymns of praise to him,  
for he suffered on the cross for love of you.  
Kyrie Eleison! Have mercy, Lord!

## Procession with the Shroud

The procession now takes place, led by the thurible and two candles.

The procession circles the church three times, or, if possible, moves outdoors.  
During the procession, appropriate hymns are sung.

## O My People, Friends

Arabic: *ya sha'bee wa sahbee* (verses 1 & 4)

O my people, friends, where is the faith and the love  
that you pledged to me? What crime have I done?  
Why do you treat me with great contempt and with scorn?  
Now in shame I die in between two thieves.

Mother, do not cry. This only adds to my grief.  
Leave me. Go your way. Do not weep for me.  
Father, why am I here, all alone, in my pain?  
I am choked with tears; Father, hear my plea!

## Blessed Mary, David's Daughter

Arabic: *qamat maryam* (verses 1, 2 & 6)

Blessèd Mary, David's Daughter, stood by the cross,  
weeping for Christ, crucified there, on Golgotha.  
Like a lance sorrow pierced her heart;  
filled with grief, she was overwhelmed.  
She beheld him and cried out:  
"O my Son, whom I love!"

Jesus, my Son, I implore you to speak to me.  
Should I not weep  
when I see you upon the cross?  
All your wounds pierce your mother's heart  
and your pain fills my soul with grief.  
How can I live if you die?  
So I cry: "O my Son!"

Mother of Christ, and the Daughter the Father loves,  
Mary, the Bride of the Spirit, O Blessèd One,  
may we share in the pain of Christ  
and be clothed with abundant grace.  
Let us give thanks all our days  
and with you sing God's praise.

## O Belovèd

Melody: *Lorsqu'un Dieu daigne répandre*

Arabic Text: Fr Michel Hayek

O Belovèd, O Belovèd,  
on the cross you died for us.  
We received life and forgiveness  
from the wounds that you endured.  
Those who died have life eternal;  
all are joined to you, O Lord.  
On this day death was abolished  
by your promise of new life.

Has a love like our Belovèd's  
been revealed on earth before?  
Or what lord has shown his glory  
on a cross known for its shame?  
All creation is astonished  
and all people are in awe.  
In the Church we can encounter  
Truth and Peace in Christ our Lord.

Love has led you, O Belovèd,  
to the cross on Calvary.  
For my sake you suffered greatly  
and you died to save my soul.  
Now I hope to spend my life, Lord,  
meditating on your law  
and the myst'ry of redemption  
and your love for one and all.

## Incensing of the Shroud at the End of the Procession

The shroud is returned to its place at the front of the church. The Celebrant incenses the shroud as the following hymn is sung:

### At the Cross the Church Looked Up

Syriac: *fsheeto* (Passion)

*Tesh-booh-tol mor-yo* (To God be glory!)

2. At the cross the Church looked up and saw her Savior,  
Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, who gives the world light.  
She saw his wounds,  
which the nails and lance had made in him,  
and she grieved deeply.  
Drawing close, the Church knelt down to worship saying:  
We adore you, Christ our Lord,  
who died to save us.

The Celebrant now recites the following prayer from the same place in front of the shroud.

**Cel:** Lord Jesus, we worship you for you have filled the world with the fragrance of your incense. Your cross is a spiritual censer and creation has been reconciled to your Father by its fragrant smoke. But in place of a fiery coal, there is your blood, and rather than fragrant smoke, there is your love. The smoke which rose from your cross was offered to your Father, through the priesthood of your human nature. Now accept this incense from our unworthy hands. Grant forgiveness to all your flock and eternal rest to the faithful departed, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

## Metany and Adoration of Christ

The following invocation is sung three times.

During each invocation, the Celebrant and ministers make a *metany* before the shroud by kneeling on both knees, touching their foreheads to the floor, and then rising to their feet.

**All:**

*mshee-ho dest-leb-teh-lo-fain,    O Christ, crucified for us,  
it-ra-ham 'a-lain.                      have mercy on us.*

The faithful come forward to adore Christ while the following hymn or the Litany of the Passion, *Ana l-oomool Hazeena* is sung.

### How Blest, O Lord, Is Your Passion

*Syriac: boteh dhasho*

1. How blest, O Lord, is your passion and humble state.  
You have suffered,  
O Christ our God;  
your faithful Church now shares your pain.  
Make her joyful when you are raised;  
let her sing praise.

2. How blest this day, this great Friday, that gave us hope  
when our Lord died.  
The holy Church  
sings praise to Christ, the Son of God,  
who was stretched out upon the cross  
and endured pain.

3. You died for us, O Redeemer, and gave us life  
in abundance.

O Christ our God,  
you showed your love for all the world  
when you suffered upon the cross.  
O what great love!

4. We glorify God: the Father, who sent his Son  
to redeem us,  
the Son, who came  
and suffered death upon the cross,  
and the Spirit, who gives us life;  
one and true God.

## **Burial**

The shroud is now placed in the tomb and the tomb is closed while the following supplication  
is sung.

## Supplication

### Mary Then Approached the Cross

Syriac: *bo'ooto dmor afrem* (Passion)

*moran itrah̄am 'alain.* [Lord, have mercy on us all.]

1. Mary then approached the cross on the heights of Golgotha.  
When she saw her only son; tears of sorrow flowed from her.  
She began a sad lament, giving forth a mournful cry.  
Her companions wept with her, when they saw her grieving there.

*moran itrah̄am 'alain.* [Lord, have mercy on us all.]

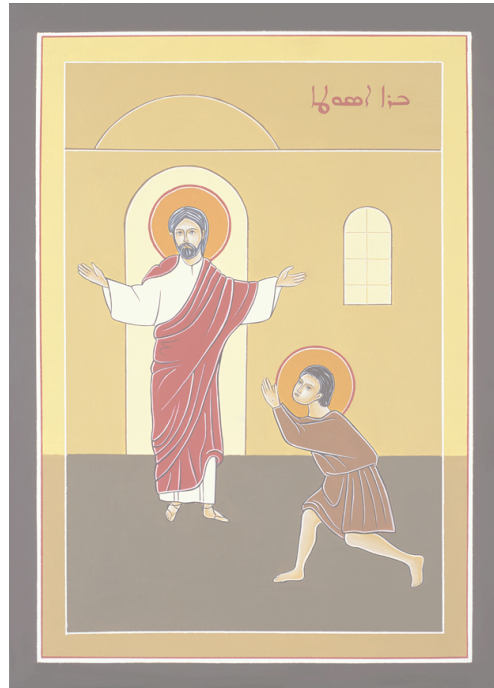
2. Mary's eyes were filled with tears and her voice was sorrowful.  
Clothed in mourning for its Lord, all creation wept with her.  
Mary spoke these words of grief to her dear, beloved son:  
“Jesus, give me eagle's wings; I will fly throughout the world.”

*moran itrah̄am 'alain.* [Lord, have mercy on us all.]

3. “I will summon everyone to the banquet of your death.  
Let each one compose a song, so to mourn your bitter pain.  
O my son, before your tomb, I shed tears; yet I rejoice.  
Tears for those rejecting you; gladness for those who believe.”

*moran itrah̄am 'alain.* [Lord, have mercy on us all.]

4. Praise to you, O great High Priest, who became the Offering;  
and your Father we adore and your Holy Spirit thank.  
Pour your mercy on our souls; pardon all our sins and faults.  
Blest are you, O Sacrifice! You have given sinners life.



# Saturday of the Light

(Prayer of Forgiveness)

# Saturday of the Light

## Prayer of Forgiveness

### Entrance Hymn

### Opening Prayers

**Cel:** (standing at the Gospel lectern, he blesses himself)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

**Cel:** O Hope of the living and Harbor of rest where the weary in  
this world find rest, may we be received into the harbor of  
reconciliation and the place of rest with all those who pleased  
your divine will, and we raise glory and thanks to you, now  
and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

**Cel:** (blessing the congregation)

✠ Peace be with the Church and her children.

**Cong:** Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace  
and good hope to all.

**Cel:** Lord, have mercy on us and save us.

O Christ our God, inflame our hearts with love, that we may love you and each other. Fill us with faith and confirm us in true and firm hope. May we persevere in good deeds, that we may be justified by you, please your will all the days of our lives, and glorify and thank you, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

## **Psalm 51 (50)**

**SIT**

**Cel:** Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your merciful love;  
according to your great compassion,  
blot out my transgressions.  
O wash me completely from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

**Cong:** My transgressions, truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight, I have done.  
So you are just in your sentence,  
without reproach in your judgment.

**Cel:** O see, in guilt I was born,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.  
Yes, you delight in sincerity of heart;  
in secret you teach me wisdom.  
Cleanse me with hyssop, and I shall be pure;  
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Cong:** Let me hear rejoicing and gladness;  
that the bones you have crushed may exult.  
Turn away your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my guilt.

**Cel:** Create a pure heart for me, O God;  
renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence;  
take not your holy spirit from me.

**Cong:** Restore in me the joy of your salvation;  
sustain in me a willing spirit.  
I will teach transgressors your ways,  
that sinners may return to you.

**Cel:** Rescue me from bloodshed, O God,  
God of my salvation,  
and then my tongue shall ring out your justice.  
O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**Cong:** For in sacrifice you take no delight;  
burnt offering from me would not please you.  
My sacrifice to God, a broken spirit;  
a broken and humbled heart,  
O God, you will not spurn.

**Cel:** In your good pleasure, show favor to Sion;  
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.  
Then you will delight in right sacrifice,  
burnt offerings wholly consumed.  
Then you will be offered young bulls on your altar.

**All:** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

**OR**

## O Lord, I Have Truly Sinned

Syriac: *ngeedo*

1. O Lord, I have truly sinned.  
Who can claim more sins than I?  
I know you can pardon me.  
Since you came to seek the lost,  
bring me back into your fold.
2. I ask for your mercy, Lord,  
since I have offended you.  
Convert me and bring me home.  
Let me be a penitent,  
knocking at your door of love.
3. O Just One, who judges all,  
do not cast me from your sight.  
I know that my sins are great.  
You alone are perfect, Lord.  
Pardon all my sins and faults.
4. O Lord, you commanded us  
to forgive each other's sins  
again and again with love;  
then your Father, in return,  
will forgive our sins and faults.
5. By love have the saints been known,  
witnessing from age to age.  
By love has the Father sent  
his only-begotten Son,  
who has died to save the world.

## Prayer of Forgiveness

STAND

The Celebrant burns incense and incenses as usual.

**Cel:** Let us raise glory, honor, and praise to the Gate of Mercy, open to sinners who knock on it; the Hyssop, who purifies the impure who come close to him. To the Good One be glory and honor, on this day, and all the days of our lives, and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

**Cel:** Glory to you, O holy One. You descended from the heavenly dwellings to the earthly depths. In your compassion you took the form of a slave to forgive your servants. You walked on the waves of the sea in order to sanctify Adam, who was created in the image of your majesty.

O Lord, you sanctified those who are impure and with your hyssop you purified sinners and made them whiter than snow. Through your powerful grace, forgive me and your servants, who ask you for the pardon of their faults and the forgiveness of their sins. As you forgave the family of Cornelius through the hand of Simon Peter, the Apostle, in the same way, may pardon of sins descend upon us and upon all the children of your flock, who have been redeemed by your precious blood. We glorify you, your Father, and your Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

## Lord, Accept These Prayers

Syriac: *fsheeto*

1. Alleluia!

Lord, accept these prayers we raise  
to give you honor,  
as you did the sacrifice  
that Abraham made in ages past.  
Hear us as you heard the thief's request;  
show your mercy, Lord.  
As you once accepted Zechariah's incense,  
now we ask you to accept what we have offered.  
Alleluia! Forgive us, O Lord.

2. Alleluia!

Beautiful indeed are prayers  
and fragrant incense!  
As they rise to realms on high,  
they give the angels delight and joy.  
He who knows the secrets of all hearts  
welcomes them and says:  
"Come in peace, O prayers that rise from earth to heaven.  
I will hear and answer you; behold my mercy."  
Alleluia! May God grant us peace.

3. Alleluia!

"Three strong towers keep me safe,"  
the Church of God says.

"They surround me with their walls;  
no thief can enter to do me harm.  
All three towers interlock so well  
that no gap is seen.

These great towers are the Father, Son, and Spirit;  
I am placed within their midst, a bride of glory."  
Alleluia! Our prayers, Lord, receive.

4. Alleluia!

Who has seen a covenant like that of Jesus?  
Given to his holy Church, it had been written  
with his own blood.

With the cross he sealed it, then he rose  
and made known its words.

Adam read the covenant and found this promise:  
"When a sinner turns from sin, the Lord rejoices."  
Alleluia! Forgive us, O Lord.

5. Alleluia!

The apostle Paul declared:  
Love has no equal.

Blest are those who grow in love  
for they shall see God in Paradise.

Moses and the martyrs saw the Lord  
since they lived in love.

At the cross, the faithful Church beheld her Savior,  
and with love, both day and night, she sings his praises.  
Alleluia! Forgive us, O Lord.

**Cel:** (standing at the Gospel lectern)

O heavenly High Priest, you died because of our sins. You are the forgiving Sacrifice who offered yourself to your Father. You are the sanctifying Hyssop who cleansed our wounds in your compassion. You are the Treasures of your Father. Through you and with you our supplications are heard, our faults are forgiven, our souls are protected, and on the glorious day of your second coming mercy will be given to us, and we will raise glory and thanks to you, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

## **Psalm of the Readings**

*Syriac: ramremain*

**Cong:** The true love of the father  
far surpassed his son's great sin.  
He ran out to embrace him  
when at last his son came home.

**Cel:** "I have sinned against heaven  
and before you," said the son.  
"Though my heart now condemns me,  
you are greater than my heart."

**All:** When the just offered worship,  
you were pleased, O Lord our God.  
Now be pleased with our worship;  
in your mercy, hear our prayers.

## Epistle

### Reader:

A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians. Your blessing, Father. (2 Corinthians 5:16-21)

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Praise be to God always!

## Gospel

STAND

**Cong:** Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Cantor:**  
Blessed are those who have their transgressions forgiven  
and their sins forgotten.

**Cong:** Alleluia!

**Deacon:**  
Before the proclamation of the Gospel of our Savior,  
announcing life for our souls, we offer this incense and ask for  
your mercy, O Lord.

**Cel:** ☩ Peace be with you.

**Cong:** And with your spirit.

**Cel:** From the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint  
Matthew, who proclaimed life to the world. Let us listen to the  
proclamation of life and salvation for our souls.  
(Matthew 18:15-22)

**Deacon:**  
Remain silent, O listeners, for the Holy Gospel is about to be  
proclaimed to you. Listen and give glory and thanks to the  
Word of the living God.

**Cel:** The Lord Jesus says:  
“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

“Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.”

**Cel:** This is the truth! Peace be with you.

*He kisses the Book of Gospels.*

**Cong:** Praise and blessings to Jesus Christ, our Lord and God, for giving us his words of life.

**Homily**

**SIT**

## Supplication

### O Hearts Full of Anger

Syriac: *bo'ooto dmor ya'qoob* (Minor)

1. O hearts full of anger, take heed.  
Go make peace with your foes  
and embrace them with love  
and compassion.  
Engrave on your souls Jesus Christ.  
As he humbled himself,  
you should humble yourselves  
and grant pardon.
2. Does anger still reign in your hearts?  
Then you turned from the Lord,  
Christ, who died on the cross,  
your true teacher.  
If love for your neighbor is gone,  
then you hate Jesus Christ,  
who taught mercy and love  
and forgiveness.
3. Let Christ be our teacher and guide,  
for he showed us the way  
to forgive from our hearts;  
imitate him.  
All foes will be turned into friends  
and together, in peace,  
will sing praises to him  
who forgave us.

## Concluding Prayers

STAND

The Celebrant, facing the altar, bows deeply as he says:

**Cel:** Let us confess, adore, and praise  
the most holy and glorious Trinity;

He rises and makes the sign of the cross as he continues:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

### *Qadeeshat Aloho*

(You are holy, O God)

The Celebrant and congregation sing the *Qadeeshat* three times, in Syriac.

*qa-dee-shat a-lo-ho.*  
*qa-dee-shat ha-yel-to-no.*  
*qa-dee-shat lo-mo-yoo-to.*

You are holy, O God.  
You are holy, O Strong One.  
You are holy, O Immortal One.

*mshee-hod qom*  
*men bet mee-teh,*  
*it-ra-ham 'a-lain.*

O Christ,  
risen from the dead,  
have mercy on us.

## **Lord's Prayer**

**All:** (with extended hands)

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 those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

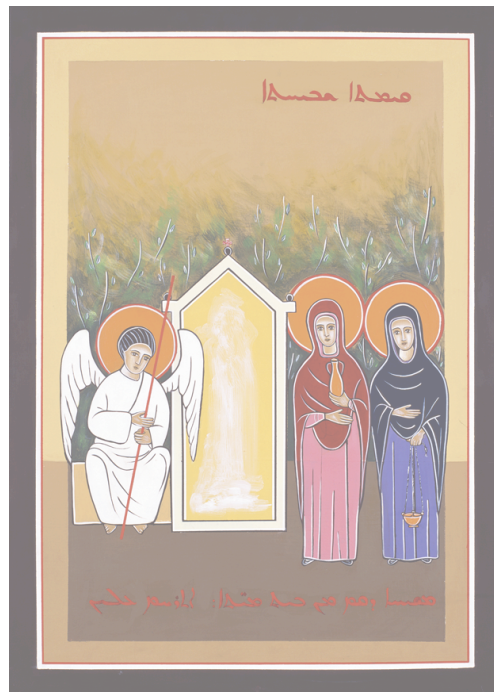
**Cel:** O Christ our Lord, accept the penance we now offer to you and one another. May the grace and power of your Spirit come to purify, sanctify, and save us. May your life be a model for our own lives so that we may live imitating your life, your death, and your resurrection. May we reach that day which will unite us to you and to each other, and we raise glory and thanks to you, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

## **Acclamation**

**Cel:** Christ is risen!

**Cong:** Christ is truly risen!



# Resurrection Sunday

(Rite of Peace)

# **Resurrection Sunday**

## **Rite of Peace**

The Rite of Peace is celebrated after the Homily.

### **Diaconal Proclamation**

**STAND**

Syriac: *korozooto*

Jesus Christ, our Lord, the Son of God.

You are our Lord, Jesus Christ;  
you saved us from the slavery of Satan.  
Grant peace and security to the children of your Church.

We call out to you in prayer, O Lord.  
Hear us.

## Removal of the Glorious Cross from the Tomb

The Celebrant opens the tomb and incenses it. The following invocation is sung three times. During each invocation, the Celebrant and ministers make a *metany* before the open tomb by kneeling on both knees, touching their foreheads to the floor, and then rising to their feet.

*mshee-hod qom  
men bet mee-teh,  
it-ra-ham 'a-lain.*

O Christ,  
risen from the dead,  
have mercy on us.

## Procession with the Glorious Cross

The cross which bore the body of Christ (or the crucifix that was placed in the tomb) on Great Friday is draped with a white cloth. The procession is led by the processional cross and two candles, followed by the other ministers. The Celebrant follows carrying the Resurrection cross, but he is preceded by a minister who incenses this cross during the procession. The Congregation, holding lighted candles, follow behind the Celebrant.

The procession circles the church three times, or, if possible, moves outdoors. During the procession, appropriate Resurrection hymns are sung.

## Blessing with the Glorious Cross

After the procession has returned to the sanctuary, the Celebrant raises the cross and blesses in each direction.

**Cel:** (facing East, he blesses and prays:)

May the peace of God the ☩ Father,

(facing West, he blesses and prays:)

and the security of the ☩ Son,

(facing South, he blesses and prays:)

and the reconciliation of the Holy ☩ Spirit,

(facing North, he blesses and prays:)

be with us and among us all the days of our ☩ lives.

**Cong:** Amen.

**Cel:** (holding the cross, he continues:)

O Lord, you are the source of peace and security and the great treasure of reconciliation. Bestow upon us and among us your peace and security. Extend your merciful right hand on this holy place and on this congregation here present, as they bow their bodies and souls before you. Bless them with your heavenly blessings. Bind us together and make us worthy to continuously glorify you, your Father, and your Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

## Concluding Prayer

**Cel:** Lord Jesus Christ, you have saved us from going astray, by your life-giving cross, and have given us a way to heaven.

By your cross, worshipers are kept safe night and day  
and are protected from the Evil One and his power.

By your cross, sustain the elderly, subdue the haste of youth,  
educate the young, and nurture children.

By your cross, sanctify priests and purify deacons.

By your cross, heal the sick and the suffering.

By your cross, establish your Church in strength  
and make her monasteries and convents firm.

By your cross, may all people live in peace and harmony.

By your cross, guard us from all distress  
and lead us to perfection.

By your cross, grant eternal rest to the faithful departed.

In purity and holiness, we celebrate the feast of your resurrection, and at your second coming make us worthy to meet you in joy. We raise glory and thanks to you, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

## Adoration of the Glorious Cross

The members of the congregation now come forward to adore the cross and each person is given a flower from the tomb by a minister. Appropriate Resurrection hymns are sung.

For reasons of convenience, however, the adoration may take place at the end of the Divine Liturgy rather than at this time.

The Divine Liturgy continues with the Creed on **page 748** of the *Book of Offering*

## Resurrection Litany

*(mar-yam koo-feel boo-ká.)*

Melody: Traditional

1. Like the bright sun, Jesus rose.  
Darkness has fled; day is here!

Refrain:

Mary, wipe away your tears. Christ the Lord rose! Truly rose!

2. Like a man rising from sleep,  
Christ the Lord rose from the dead.

3. On the third day Jesus rose,  
faithful and true to his word.

4. Tears and sadness pass away;  
joy and gladness now prevail.

5. A sweet fragrance fills the earth;  
Christ the Lord lives and gives life.

6. Peter and John, at the tomb,  
saw the Lord's shroud and believed.

7. Fearful death where is your sting,  
for your dark realm lost the fight?

8. Lord, your rising shows itself  
like a bright light on a hill.

9. Come, O Thomas, touch my wounds.  
Truly, I rose from the tomb.

## Resurrection Hymn 1

### Women Gathered at the Tomb

Syriac: *qooqoyo* (Joyful)

1. Women gathered at the tomb heard news of great joy.  
Christ is risen from the dead! Death has been conquered!  
Come behold the place where they laid him.  
Come and see the linens that bound him.  
Go tell his disciples now: "Jesus is risen!"  
And he goes to Galilee; there you will see him.  
Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

2. Christ the bridegroom rose at night; death could not hold him.  
Going forth, he left the tomb; angels remained there.  
Then at sunrise, he showed his glory  
to his pure Bride, who had been grieving.  
"Weep no more: behold, I live; true to my promise!"  
Filled with joy the Church proclaimed: "Praise to my Savior!"  
Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

3. On the first day of the week, Christ overcame death.  
By his rising from the tomb, Christ conquered Satan.  
On a Sunday, hope has been given;  
the departed now see salvation.  
The disciples all rejoiced; they saw their Savior.  
And the Upper Room was glad and sang his praises.  
Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

## Resurrection Hymn 2

### Risen is Our Lord Jesus Christ!

Syriac: *qoom faowlos 2*

Risen is our Lord Jesus Christ!  
He has conquered death by his might.  
Christ the Light now shines in the world,  
bringing hope and peace to all souls.  
Sadness disappears;  
tears dry in our eyes.  
With joy we proclaim:  
"Jesus has been raised!"  
Gladness fills the Church on this day.  
Grace has come to earth from on high.

Now the world is filled with great joy,  
for the One who died lives again.  
Jesus truly rose, clothed with might.  
He has conquered death, granting life.  
"Mary, weep no more.  
Mary, dry your tears.  
See me standing here, risen from the dead.  
Go and tell my friends this good news:  
I, the Lord of life, truly rose!"

## Resurrection Hymn 3

### I Am like a Grain of Wheat

Syriac: *ngeedo*

1. I am like a grain of wheat,  
and I died so I might live.  
True love poured out from my side,  
when my blood and water flowed,  
satisfying those who thirst.

2. Our Lord said: Why are you sad?  
Dear disciples, do not grieve;  
the Spirit will come to you.  
He will strengthen you in faith,  
for you truly love your God.

3. In truth, I am Light from Light.  
From a sea of brilliant light  
my day dawns majestically.  
Let my triumph and great might  
be a sign from age to age.

## Resurrection Hymn 4

### He Who Gives Life

Syriac: *ehmar qayso*

1. He who gives life has again come to life.  
Still incorrupt, he returned from the dead.  
He released those held captive there  
and destroyed death for evermore.  
So we sing and rejoice:  
Christ has saved all the world.

2. Christ rose from death clothed in glory and might.  
He slept in death and gave hope to the dead.  
He destroyed death and its domain,  
then awoke in great majesty.  
He was freed from all pain  
and in triumph was clothed.

## **Resurrection Hymn 5**

### **Our Lord Jesus Christ Is Truly Risen**

Melody: Fr Mansour Labaky

Our Lord Jesus Christ is truly risen from the dead,  
granting pardon to all souls.  
With joyful faith we sing to him: "Blessed are you, Lord!  
You have saved us by your cross.  
O holy are you, Jesus, holy are you.  
We glorify you, Christ our King."

His mother, Mary, we commemorate this day,  
and we sing with her our praise.  
We remember all the holy ones, the saints of God,  
and those who have died in faith.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## Resurrection Hymn 6

### O Rejoice, Queen of Heaven

Arabic Hymn: J. Labaky

Text: *Regina Caeli*

O rejoice, Queen of Heaven, sing with joy.

O rejoice, Mary, on this day.

Christ, your Son, is risen; truly risen from the dead.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O rejoice, Queen of Heaven, sing with joy.

O rejoice, Mary, on this day.

Christ, your Son, is risen; truly risen from the dead.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## Resurrection Communion Hymn 1

### Our Lord Jesus Christ, the King

Arabic: *be sirri qiyamatil maseehi rabbina.*

Melody: Fr Joseph Khoury OLM

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the King,  
is risen from the dead, granting pardon to souls.  
With joyful faith we sing to him:  
“Blest are you, O Savior,  
you have saved us by your holy cross.  
O holy are you, holy, holy are you.  
Jesus, you are truly risen!”  
In every place on earth  
the memory of his Mother Mary is glorified.  
We commemorate all the holy ones  
and the faithful souls who sleep in hope.  
Alleluia!

## Resurrection Communion Hymn 2

### Our King, Christ Jesus

Arabic: *'asakiroo sama*

Our King, Christ Jesus, is risen from the dead,  
granting souls forgiveness.

In faith we sing praise: "O Savior, Holy One,  
by your cross you saved us."

We honor Mary and all the saints of God,  
and the souls departed.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!



# Pentecost Sunday

(Rite of Adoration)

## **RITE OF ADORATION ON PENTECOST SUNDAY**

A table is prepared within the sanctuary. On it are placed two candles, a vessel filled with water, and a sprinkler.

The Rite of Adoration takes place after communion of the Celebrant and before that of the faithful. After receiving communion, the Celebrant covers the Mysteries with the large veil.

### **ADORATION OF THE FATHER**

The Celebrant faces the congregation and says:

**Cel:** Let us kneel before the Lord on the left knee.

The Celebrant and congregation kneel on the left knee.

**Deacon:** Let us kneel and ask the Lord for mercy.

Kneel and adore the Most High God and receive the pardon of your faults from the Holy Spirit. In the likeness of tongues of fire he was sent to the Upper Room so that, by his hovering, you may receive happiness and confidence.

**Cel:** Lord God, Father of Mercies, we give you thanks. On Pentecost, you filled the disciples, who were in Jerusalem awaiting the promise of their Lord, with the Holy Spirit. Suddenly there came from heaven a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and a tongue of fire rested upon each of them. All those who were in Jerusalem were filled with awe and glorified you, O Giver of all that is good. You sanctified and sent your holy apostles to bring all people to the knowledge of your divinity, baptizing them in your name, O Father, and that of your only Son, and of your Holy Spirit. We worship, thank, and glorify the Holy Trinity, one God, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

The Celebrant stands.

**Cel:** By the power of God, stand up.

The congregation stands.

**Cel:** Behold the day of salvation and consolation when the Father, through the Spirit, poured forth the gift of new languages upon the apostles, bringing the people back from error. Rejoice on this day, and with the apostles let us adore and praise the Son, so that he may pardon our faults. We thank and glorify him, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

## **ADORATION OF THE SON**

The Celebrant faces the congregation and says:

**Cel:** Let us kneel before the Lord on the right knee.

The Celebrant and congregation kneel on the right knee.

**Deacon:** Let us kneel and ask the Lord for mercy.

With the angels who worship him in fear, we kneel and adore the Father of truth, for he is our maker and Lord. Before him every knee shall bend and every tongue shall give him praise. Come, let us worship the true Son, sent by the Father of Light. Having had mercy on us, he knelt on our behalf, offered prayer for our sake, and raised us up from our fall from grace. Let us worship the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, and kneel before him. On this day, he was sent from the Father, who was not seen, and came to us, resting upon us. He took away our sins and clothed us with glory and victory.

**Cel:** O Christ our God, may we offer you true and perfect adoration, in purity and holiness, at this time when the holy and glorious gifts of the Paraclete are given to us. We raise glory and thanks to you, to your blessed Father, who sent you for our salvation, and to your living Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

*The Celebrant stands.*

**Cel:** By the power of God, stand up.

*The congregation stands.*

**Cel:** This is the day when heaven rejoiced and earth was glad, the cherubim sang, the seraphim cried out, and the apostles exulted for having received the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete. On this day, the divine unction, taken away from Adam our father because of his disobedience, was restored to us. With it the disciples were anointed, people were forgiven, and all nations were granted salvation. O Lord our God, to you be glory, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

## ADORATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Celebrant faces the congregation and says:

**Cel:** Let us kneel before the Lord on both knees.

The Celebrant and congregation kneel on both knees.

**Deacon:** Let us kneel and ask the Lord for mercy.

Bow your heads and worship God, the Holy Spirit, who spoke through the prophets, made himself understood through interpreters and visionaries, revealed hidden things, and announced things to come. He descended upon the apostles in the likeness of tongues of fire.

**Cel:** O Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, may we become pure temples of your glory to serve you, for you perfect and sanctify our souls with your grace. We worship you, O Holy Spirit, and the Father and the Son from whom you proceed, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

The Celebrant stands.

**Cel:** By the power of God, stand up.

The congregation stands.

**Cel:** Lift up your heads and bless yourselves with the cross of light. Place in your souls the assistance and salvation that come from the Holy Spirit, whom you have worshipped in faith, with the Father and the Son, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

## BLESSING AND SPRINKLING OF WATER

**Cel:** Now Lord God,  
by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
bless ☩ this water,  
so that it may turn all that is evil away from us.  
May those who use it  
for drinking, washing, sprinkling,  
or in any other way  
receive healing for their souls and bodies.  
We praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

The Celebrant then sprinkles the blessed water on the congregation, while the following Scripture verse is sung.

Cleanse me with hyssop and I shall be pure:  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (Psalm 51:9)

7

D G D

Cleanse me with hys-sop, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be

G A Bm Em A7 D

whi - ter than snow, whi - ter than snow.

The musical notation is for a song in D major (two sharps). The first line contains 6 measures of music with lyrics 'Cleanse me with hys-sop, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be'. The second line starts with a '7' above the first measure, indicating a 7/4 time signature. It contains 4 measures of music with lyrics 'whi - ter than snow, whi - ter than snow.' Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, G, D, G, A, Bm, Em, A7, D.

**Cel:** O Lord, in your mercy shower the grace of your Holy Spirit upon us, as you did on your apostles in the Upper Room. Teach us as you taught them, when you filled them with your divine mysteries and made them able to speak in new languages to bring the people back from error. Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon your servants, who worship you here and everywhere, so that they may receive your heavenly gifts and walk on your spiritual path.

And now, my beloved, on this blessed fiftieth day of the Easter season, we ask our Lord and God to pour forth his Holy Spirit upon you and your children, and upon your homes and all of your endeavors. May the Spirit fill you with all the blessings of heaven and earth. May he forgive your sins, protect you from your enemies, heal the sick, console widows and orphans, and provide for the needs of the poor. And after this life, may he lead you to eternal life, for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

The Communion of the faithful follows.



# The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

(Rite of Blessing)

## RITE OF EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

A table, covered with a white cloth, is prepared within the sanctuary. On it are placed a large cross (without the body on the cross), a vessel filled with water, and a hand cross.

The rite of the exaltation of the cross takes place after the homily.

### Supplication

SIT

Syriac: *bo'ooto dmor afrem*

1. When the cross of light appeared, Constantine was filled with awe.  
He took heart and gained new strength and he fought triumphantly.  
Now the faithful Church, O Lord, looks upon your saving cross.  
May it be her strong defense in her fight with Satan's power.

2. Lord, today your holy Church honors and exalts your cross.  
Lift her head above all fears and the worship of false gods.  
Blessèd be your flock, O Lord, for the gifts you gave to her:  
She is guarded by your cross and is served by faithful priests.

3. We exalt the cross of life and the standard of our King.  
From the cross God's mercy flows here and in the world to come.  
All in heaven and on earth, come rejoice with us today!  
Glorify our Lord and God, who has saved us by his cross!

4. Praise the Father, who has sent his only-begotten Son.  
Let us thank the Son, who died; by his cross he saved the world.  
To the Holy Spirit sing, for he fills our hearts with joy.  
Glorify the Trinity; may his mercy shine on us.

## PROCESSION

The priest holds the cross, draped with a white cloth, and carries it in procession. All process around the church three times, while the cross is incensed. The following or other appropriate hymns are sung until the end of the procession.

### Hymn

STAND

Syriac: *z'oooro*

1. On this day the blessèd Church  
sings with joy throughout the world.  
She rejoices in the cross.  
Come exalt the cross of life!
2. By the cross we have been saved;  
death and Satan have been crushed.  
Hope is given to the world.  
Come exalt the cross of life!
3. Let us praise the Son of God,  
who was crucified for us.  
By his death we are redeemed.  
Come exalt the cross of life!
4. Children of the Church, proclaim:  
“Lord, have mercy on us all!”  
Praise our Savior, Jesus Christ.  
Come exalt the cross of life!

# SOLEMN BLESSING WITH THE GLORIOUS CROSS

## Blessing of the East Side of the Altar

**Cel:** May your salvation, O Lord, reach your Church who believes in you and is glorified by your cross. By its sign, may Christians be protected from all enemies, seen and unseen. We now implore your mercy and cry out three times:

**All:** Lord, have mercy.      *Kyrie eleison.*  
Lord, have mercy.      *Kyrie eleison.*  
Lord, have mercy.      *Kyrie eleison.*

## Hymn

**Syriac:** *lhodaow etqaba'*

1. All the earth shook,  
quaked, and trembled,  
when the Lord, on the cross, died.  
For the people  
crucified him,  
Jesus Christ, King of Glory.  
Death was fearful  
when it saw him,  
and the dead rose to praise him.  
Now the Church sings  
and gives honor  
to the cross of her Savior.

She cries out today in faith:  
"Grant your mercy, Lord, we pray!"

## Blessing of the West Side of the Altar

**Cel:** O Lord, the Church, your bride, sings your glory, and with your living cross she signs your children. She overcomes evil, her enemy, with your strength and awaits a complete victory. We now implore the Son who was crucified on the cross: "Be gracious, O Lord, to your people and do not forget your inheritance." We cry out three times:

**All:** Lord, have mercy.      *Kyrie eleison.*  
Lord, have mercy.      *Kyrie eleison.*  
Lord, have mercy.      *Kyrie eleison.*

## Hymn

**Syriac:** *lhodaow etqaba'*

2. Paul and Peter;  
all Apostles,  
on this day sing God's praises!  
For all nations  
were converted  
when you taught them the Gospel.  
They give honor  
and raise glory  
to the cross of their Savior.  
As they praise it,  
with the angels,  
they sing hymns of rejoicing.

They cry out today in faith:  
"Grant your mercy, Lord, we pray!"

## Blessing of the South Side of the Altar

**Cel:** With the sign of the cross of light Moses divided the sea for the Israelites, he raised up the bronze serpent to heal poisonous snake bites, and he extended his hands on high and defeated Amalek and his people. O Lord, may we overcome all arrogance against your Church, for she was saved by your cross. We now implore your mercy upon us and cry out three times:

**All:** Lord, have mercy.      *Kyrie eleison.*  
Lord, have mercy.      *Kyrie eleison.*  
Lord, have mercy.      *Kyrie eleison.*

## Hymn

**Syriac:** *lhodaow etqaba'*

3. On this day, Lord,  
we give honor  
to your cross that has saved us.  
And with great joy  
we exalt it  
through the hands of your priests, Lord.  
By your cross, Lord,  
you defend us  
from all harm and from evil.  
Now the Church sings,  
while rejoicing,  
for the cross is her refuge.

She cries out today in faith:  
“Grant your mercy, Lord, we pray!”

## Blessing of the North Side of the Altar

**Cel:** By raising the life-giving cross to the east, west, south, and north, the whole universe is sanctified. All those who seek refuge under its wings are delivered from the power of evil. May our souls, minds, and bodies be marked as were the thresholds of the houses of the children of Israel. We now implore you and cry out three times:

**All:** Lord, have mercy.      *Kyrie eleison.*  
Lord, have mercy.      *Kyrie eleison.*  
Lord, have mercy.      *Kyrie eleison.*

## Hymn

**Syriac:** *lhodaow etqaba'*

4. Signs and symbols  
have prefigured,  
Lord, your cross of salvation.  
Moses showed us,  
as did Aaron,  
that your cross has true power.  
For they triumphed  
over evil  
by the sign of your cross, Lord.  
In the Church now  
its great power  
is proclaimed to all peoples.

We cry out today in faith:  
“Grant your mercy, Lord, we pray!”

## BLESSING AND SPRINKLING OF WATER

The Celebrant and the ministers assemble around the table where a vessel of water has been placed.

**Cel:** Lord God,  
by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
bless ✠ this water,  
so that it may turn all that is evil away from us.  
May those who use it  
for drinking, washing, sprinkling,  
or in any other way  
receive healing for their souls and bodies.  
We praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

The Celebrant uses the hand cross to sprinkle the blessed water on the congregation, while the following Scripture verse is sung.

Cleanse me with hyssop and I shall be pure:  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (Psalm 51:9)

D G D

Cleanse me with hys-sop, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be

7 G A Bm Em A7 D

whi - ter than snow, whi - ter than snow.

## **Concluding Prayer**

**Cel:** O Lord, we pray on behalf of this holy Church and for every city and place throughout the world. With this water, spare us from the ravages of war and hunger and from every human and natural disaster. Answer our petitions, have mercy on your people, and save your inheritance, for you are gracious and the Lover of all people. O Lord our God, to you be glory, now and for ever.

**Cong:** Amen.

The Celebrant invites the members of the congregation to come forward and reverence the cross. However, for reasons of convenience this may take place at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

## **Creed**

Please turn to page 748 of the Book of Offering