

**The Order of Worship
Holy Matrimony**

John Titus

with

Rittu Susan Varkey

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Madras Mar Thoma Syrian Church

No. 38, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai - 600 031



AN INTRODUCTION TO THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY OF THE

MALANKARA MARTHOMA SYRIAN CHURCH

The Mar Thoma Syrian Church recognizes marriage as a Holy Sacrament signifying God's act of uniting a man and a woman to become husband and wife. The ceremony is far more than just a divine blessing of a human contract. The mystery of the relationship between husband and wife is compared to that of Christ's union with the Church.

The Marriage Service according to the Mar Thoma Syrian Rite, is a blend of rich biblical traditions and teachings, practices of the Early Churches and the customs of South India. It is rich in symbolism. Christ is symbolized as the Divine Bridegroom whose Bride is the Church. This is a fitting model of mutual commitment and total faithfulness that is commended to the couple. This symbolism is expressed through chants in Malayalam and hymns as well as prayers in English, both of which strongly communicate the permanence of the unity in marriage as purposed by God. The prayers emphasize that marriage is a sacrament and the family, a divinely blessed institution.

It is an occasion which is both solemn, as we reflect on the seriousness of the decision of the bridegroom and the bride, and festive as we share their joy. By our presence here, we support the decision of **John** and **Rittu** to commit themselves to one another for the rest of their lives. Let us worship God and invoke His blessings upon them.

The order of service has two parts : The Engagement and the Holy Matrimony

THE ENGAGEMENT – BLESSING OF THE RING

Though the couple has already arrived at an undertaking earlier and agreed for this marriage, this is again confirmed in the Church before this gathering. The celebrant priest blesses the rings, which are put on the fourth finger of the right hands of the bride and the bridegroom on behalf of the church, which they accept from him as a token of the givenness of their marriage by God. This is the Service of Betrothal. It recalls the first detailed account of a wedding engagement in the Bible, in which Eleazor, commissioned by Abraham, places ornaments on Rebecca as a mark of her engagement for marriage to Issac.

THE MARRIAGE – BLESSING OF THE CROWN

The blessings of the Almighty are invoked on the bride and the bridegroom as "King" and "Queen". It symbolizes the bestowal of the crown of righteousness upon the couple. The crown is the symbol of the cross and the sacrificial love, and the righteousness and the sanctity of the marriage bond. A gold chain with a cross pendant is used for the crowning. The most important part of this service is the reading of the epistle to the Ephesians in which St. Paul reminds us of the duties of the husband and wife in their life together. Then the Priest joins the right hands of the bridegroom and the bride, and reads a portion from the Gospel of St. Matthew, where Christ emphasizes the inseparable bond into which the bride and bridegroom enter.

In accordance with the Indian tradition, the Bridegroom ties the "*Minnu*" a small gold pendant shaped as a stylized heart with a diminutive cross on it, which is put on a thread made up of seven strands from the Mantrakodi, around the bride's neck. This signifies the life-long inseparable bond established in marriage between the couple. A second Indian tradition is draping the Bride with the "*Mantrakodi*" by the Groom by which the groom henceforth accepts the responsibility to care for and cherish the bride and the chastity of the Bride towards the Groom.

This is the moment when she becomes a member of the husband's family. To symbolize this event, a woman from the family of the bridegroom takes the place of the maid of honour in a gesture of welcome. The service concludes with an exhortation to the bride and groom, and a final benediction by the celebrant priest.



THE GROOM ENTERS THE CHURCH

THE BRIDAL PROCESSION

The Congregation Stands

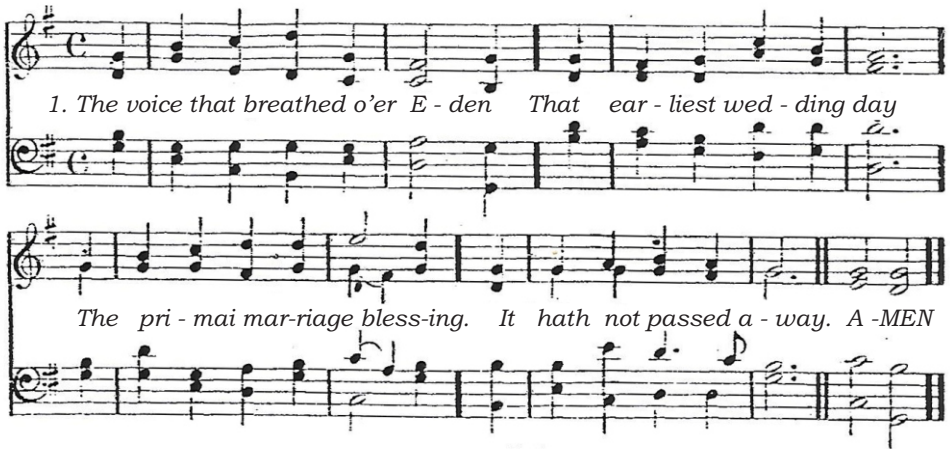
Dearly beloved in Christ,

Christian marriage is instituted by God and therefore it is Holy and Sacramental. You have come in the presence of God to be united in Holy Matrimony. The Lord has guided you until now and so you ought to remember His ways and praise His Holy name. You should confess your sins with your whole heart and mind before the Lord. If you truly repent, He will forgive your sins. This service would be more blessed and meaningful, if you take part in it with that experience of forgiveness. Jesus Christ is the true Bridegroom and the Church is the Bride. He loved the Church and gave Himself for her. We remember this ideal example in the marriage service. Let us pray together for the grace of God, so that, through this married life, you may fully experience the love of God as revealed at the Cross and you may enter into a new fellowship with the Lord. May our Lord give you grace to lead an authentic Christian family life until the last.



OPENING HYMN

THE VOICE THAT BREATHED O'ER EDEN



1. The voice that breathed o'er E - den That ear - liest wed - ding day

The pri - mai mar-riage bless-ing. It hath not passed a - way. A - MEN

2. Still in the pure espousal, of Christian man and maid,
The Holy Three are with us, the threefold grace is said
3. For dower of blessed children, for love and faiths sweet sake
For high mysterious union, which naught on earth may break
4. Be present, Heavenly Father, to give away this bride.
As Eve Thou gav'st to Adam, out of his own pierced side
5. Be present, Son of Mary, to join their loving hands,
As Thou didst bind two natures, in Thine eternal bands
6. Be present, Holy Spirit, to bless them as they kneel.
As Thou for Christ the Bridegroom, the heavenly Spouse dost seal.
7. O spread Thy pure wings o'er them, let no ill power find place.
When onward to Thine altar, their hallowed path they trace.
8. To lay their hearts before Three, in perfect sacrifice,
Till to the home of gladness, with Christ's own Bride they rise.

❧ PART – I ❧

THE ENGAGEMENT

KAUMA [Adoration]

PRIEST: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

CONGREGATION: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be for ever. Amen.

P: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the Highest.

C: Blessed is He who has come and is to come again in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest.

P: Holy art Thou, O God.

C: Holy art Thou, Almighty Lord.

P: Holy art Thou, Immortal Lord

(Repeat Thrice)

C: O Lord, the Messaish, who was crucified for us,
✠ have mercy on us

P: O Lord have mercy upon us.

C: O Lord have compassion and mercy upon us.

P: Lord accept our prayers and worship and have mercy upon us.

C: Glory to You, O God.

P: Glory to You, Creator of all.

C: Glory to You, O King, the Messiah, for You have compassion on Your sinful servants. Bless us, O Lord.

P: Our Father in Heaven,

C: Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. May Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the time of trial, but deliver us from the evil one. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

P: O Lord, make us worthy of eternal joy in Your presence. May our joy and happiness begin and end in You. Let our bodies and souls rejoice in You. Dispel our sorrows by Your mercy and increase our virtues by Your grace. Enrich our lives with Your blessings and grant fulfillment to our bride and bridegroom. Help us to rejoice with You in unfading joy with all the saints who have pleased You from the beginning, with the multitude of Your holy ones and in the assembly of those whom You love. To You, O Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we offer praise and glory for ever and ever.

C: Amen.

Congregation to be seated

CHANT IN MALAYALAM

Vanor bhoovasikaleyum - Santhoshippicha
Anandam aruliya deva - ennekkum sthothram.
Karanakaranam massih-aye - thal savakaraye
Thirumun nilkkum koottathe - santhoshippikka.
Rakshaka valamkai neetti thirunamathil njangal
Pakshamai nalkum mothirangal - vazhtheedaname nee
Mothirathai sabha massihai kai - velikai theernal
Than Thirumeni thiruraktham - kaikondeedunnu.
Pithruputhra vishudhalmavam - three yekavannyan
Vanor bhoovasikal vanni - chaghoshi kkonnu.

Meaning : Blessed is He who causes the inhabitants of heaven to rejoice and satisfies those who are on earth. O Christ, full of grace, make the assembly of those who worship You rejoice. O our Savior, stretch forth Your right hand and bless, by Your grace the rings which the priests give in Your Holy name. The Holy Church was betrothed to the Messiah by a ring, which is the taking upon Him of flesh and blood. Adoration to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the mysterious Trinity, who is worshipped and praised by the inhabitants of heaven and earth.

P: O Lord God, may Your peace that reconciled Heaven and Earth, depth and height, unite **John** and **Rittu** in the bond of marriage. O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, grant them perfect unity that they may love and accept each other with You, all the days of their life.

C: Amen.

PROMION [Preface]

P: Let us pray to the Lord for His grace and mercy.

C: Merciful Lord, have mercy and help us.

P: Help us, O Lord, continually to offer to You praise, adoration, worship, thanksgiving and glory. O, Lord Messiah, Heavenly Bridegroom, You have chosen the daughter of the Gentiles as Your Church and cleansed her from all defilement and transgressions by Your innocent and Holy blood. You offered Yourself as the Bridegroom and betrothed Yourself to the earth-born Church, having redeemed her from bondage of all unclean spirits and set her free from all debts and sin. As we bless the rings of these Your servants, we acknowledge that You are worthy of praise and honour and worship, now and all the days of our life.

C: Amen.

SEDRA [Set of Prayers]

P: O Lord God, who is glorious beyond all human understanding, ever abundant in blessings and high above all evil, source of all divine grace and Giver of all goodness, You are the holy and eternal oil with which we are anointed, free from all suffering and death. You have ordained that, with the ring, the joy of men and women should be perfected and the happiness of those who are betrothed should be completed. Lord God, bless these rings and with them turn what is accursed into a blessing. O Lord, by Your divine blessings, bless these rings even as You blessed the ring of Your Holy Church.



May this bridegroom, our son and this bride, our daughter be filled and perfected in wisdom. Grant, O Lord, that by Your grace their marriage may be free from all defilement and hateful things. Grant them abiding joy in this world and in the world to come. O Lord God, adorn them in every way throughout their life in this transitory world. May they be joyously drawn closer to Your heavenly dwelling where all Your angels and archangels rejoice without ceasing. Lord, by Your love, free this congregation from sin, hatred, defilement and error. May they be blessed and, standing in Your presence, glorify and praise You-Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: O true Bridegroom, You who choose pure and virgin souls for Your wedding, grant that **John** and **Rittu** who have agreed to be joined in marriage and have accepted You as the Mediator of their marriage, through us Your humble servants who stand in Your presence, may spread the sweet fragrance of virtuous deeds. Enable them to cultivate true love, concord, peace and inseparable unity between them. Strengthen them to enable each other to maintain purity of body and spirit. Help them to offer to You O Father, and to the Son, and the Holy Spirit, praise and glory now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING OF THE RINGS

P: Eternal praise be to God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who graciously and abundantly blesses these rings.

C: Amen.

P: For the fulfillment of the joy of the Children of the Holy Church. these rings are blessed in the name of the Father ✠ and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit ✠. Basmo dabo, udabero, wede ruho hayo quadish leolam olmeen, Amen.

C: Amen.

(The sacramental ring is given by the celebrant to the bridegroom on the fourth finger of his right hand.)

P: May our Lord Jesus Christ graciously stretch out His right hand to you. With this ring, which is the token of your betrothal, may you obtain from Him grace and mercy. May blessings and goodness from the hand of Christ be with you and protect you all your life.

Bridegroom and Congregation: Amen.

(The sacramental ring is given by the celebrant to the bride on the fourth finger of her right hand.)

P: May our Lord Jesus Christ mystically stretch out His hand to you. Accept this ring from the hand of the priest as from the hand of the holy apostles, as a sign of your betrothal. With peace and joy of body and spirit, may you offer praise and glory to Him, and to the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Bride and Congregation: Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM

P: May the Lord God, who through His Messiah fulfilled the joy of the Holy Church, perfect with truth and goodness, **John** and **Rittu** who have come together to be married. May they receive heavenly blessings along with these rings. Clothe them with humility. Perfect their marriage with the rings of righteousness, as the marriage of Isaac and Rebecca was confirmed through gold ornaments. Cause the bridegroom to rejoice in his salvation and adorn the bride with treasures that do not grow old and perish. May God enable them always to maintain a good conscience, with gentleness more fragrant than roses. May God save them from the wicked and envious who pervert the human race and from the evil-minded who corrupt the purity of wedded life. May the Lord bestow upon them times of well-being and years of blessedness.

O Lord God, hear the prayers of us Your weak and sinful servants who stand before Your glorious presence, and grant to this couple happy days and the blessing of children. Enrich them with the wealth of virtuous deeds. Confirm them in true faith in You. Give them the grace to remain firm in that faith and to impart it to their children. Confer Your goodness and benefits on all those who have come prepared for this Wedding feast. Perfect the bride and bridegroom with Your victorious Cross. Shower blessings upon us all, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SUGHEESO

CHANT IN MALAYALAM

Njanenuulla vaak dhatham,
Janakam pakkal ninnee-bhagyam
Raja suthan enikkai nalkee,
Sarvam enikkai thanneedunnu.
Ethinal avene vanni-kkunnan,
Vigraba bhakti chutti-chenne.
Kashttam vanchakanam dhushtannu,
Rakshakenam Yesoye sthothram.
Yogyadha thannavanen bhagyam,
Snanathal visudha-tmente.
Aayudhom yenne charthee thaana,
Mamsom raktham mothiramai
Ettuthannan viralinmel,
Manavalan thaana suriya-noppam
Manavatte pakalodu thuliyam,
Parimala vrikshatho-dangane
Virunna sakalavum thuliyam.

Meaning : I worship the King's Son, because He has given me all the blessings, which He brought from His Father's house. Woe to the wicked one who deceived me and led me to idolatry. Glory be to Jesus who saved me. I am blessed because He has armed me with spiritual armor through the water of Baptism, and made me worthy to wear on my finger the rings of His Holy Body and Blood. The Holy Church declared that the bridegroom is like the sun, the bride the day, and those who are hidden a fragrant tree.

BENEDICTION

P: Dearly beloved, who have come to share in this testimony justified by God, may the Lord reward your labours, thirty, sixty and a hundred-fold. Let His blessings be always with you. May the Cross ...of our Lord remain with you day and night and ever protect you from the evil one and his hosts.

C: Amen.

(End of First Part)

HYMN

O Perfect Love

1. O perfect Love, all human thought transcending,
Lowly we kneel in prayer before thy throne,
That theirs may be the love which knows no ending,
Whom thou forevermore dost join in one.
2. O perfect Life, be thou their full assurance
Of tender charity and steadfast faith,
Of patient hope and quiet, brave endurance,
With childlike trust that fears nor pain nor death.
3. Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow;
Grant them the peace which calms all earthly strife,
And to life's day the glorious unknown morrow
That dawns upon eternal love and life. – **Amen**

PART – II

BLESSING OF THE CROWN

- P: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C: Shower upon us, weak and sinful as we are, Your blessings and mercies in this world and in the world to come, now and forever. Amen.
- P: O Lord God, make us worthy of the everlasting marriage feast and of the imperishable bridal chamber. Invite us also to Your eternal joys with those invited to the fellowship of that wedding feast. Grant that together with them and among them we may praise and glorify you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- C: Amen

(The bride and the bridegroom make the sign of the cross as a mark of receiving God's blessing when the celebrant bless them with the sign of the cross during the following chant.)

CHANT IN MALAYALAM

Poorva vishudhare vazhthiya serve-san
Bahula matham than Kripayaal yevare ...vazhthatte
Deva krupa cheyyaname nee
Adam hawah yennivare vazthiya sarve-san, Bahula...
Abraa'm Sara yennivare vazthiya sarve-san, Bahula...
Isahaak Rabukka yennivare vazthiya sarve-san, Bahula...
Yakob Raahel yennivare vazthiya sarve-san, Bahula...
Mezrenin Yowseppine yennivare
vazthiya sarve-san, Bahula...

Meaning : May God who blessed the righteous of old, bless these servants with this abundant grace. May God have mercy upon us. May God, who blessed Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Rachel, Joseph in Egypt, bless these servants with his abundant grace.

P: Lord, exalt with the abundance of Your gifts, these Your servants **John** and **Rittu** who have been united together, and grant them joy. Fill them with joy in Your divine statutes. Grant, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that they sing praises to You in joy and gladness, and rejoice eternally in Your presence.

C: Amen.

KUKLYON

(Psalm 21 : 1 & 3)

Karthane rajan nin balathil Santhoshikum
Ha-Le-Loo Yyaa, Oo Ha-Le-Loo Yyaa,
Thave rakshayil avane-ttam modikkum
Nanmayinanugraham Mun_pitunnavane Nee
Ha-Le-Loo Yyaa, Oo Ha-Le-Loo Yyaa,
Maanyamaam Mutithan Sirassil
Chootunnu-Baarekmaar

Translation : The king shall rejoice in Your Strength O Lord; he shall exult in Your Salvation. For You came to meet him with the blessings of success and placed a crown of gold upon his head.

PROMELON [Preface]

P: Let us pray to the Lord for His grace and mercy.

C: Merciful Lord, have mercy and help us.

P: Help us O Lord, continually to offer to You praise, adoration, worship, thanksgiving and glory. Praise to the eternal and self-existent One, Who is and Who shall be the same from generation to generation, the eternal Word around Whose throne the angels throng to offer worship and adoration, the glorious and exalted One Who has graciously turned our race to Him, and the Holy One who freely gives crowns of joy to brides and bridegrooms. And we bless the crowns of Your servants, You are worthy of the praise, honour and worship, now and throughout our life.

C: Amen.

SEDRA [Set of Prayers]

P: O Lord God, You are glorified by all the heavenly hosts with fear and trembling; the glorious hosts shudder and tremble at Your majesty. Yet out of Your inexplicable mercy and inestimable grace. You delight in the praise of us mortals. Bless Your servants everywhere upon earth, all those who are subjects of Your Divine Majesty and especially those who have come here and sought protection under the merciful shadow of Your gracious wings. Keep them in health and happiness that they may be perfect in all good works. Grant them the grace to run the straight race that leads to the Kingdom of heaven, perfected in all spiritual gifts and enriched by the godly discipline of their bodies and souls. Enable them, O Lord, to love eternal life and keep them from the corruption of sins. Unite and keep them at Your side, free from the bondage of accursed Satan. Make them and us faithful workers in Your Vineyard and help us to observe Your commandments with zeal and true devotion. Make us one in the company of Your saints, loving one another, hating the evil one, and obedient to Your Divine Majesty. Make us to rejoice in Your heavenly Kingdom. We offer praise and glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, because You are good and love humankind. Amen.

CHANT IN MALAYALAM

Jathiyin Puthri neeye sundari-bahu sundari
Slemon rajan thiru sabha yam nine vandi-kkunnu
Then kattakal nin-adharam pozhikkunnu
Ankikal sugandhi-neesan kusumum pol
Sundari sabhaye ninnil maaliyam illethume
Mashiraajan than kurissa ninne- kaattheetunnu
Haalellooyya-Oo-Haleluyya- Baarekmaar

Meaning : O Holy Church, daughter of the Gentiles, how beautiful you are! Solomon sang of you that your lips drip with honey and the smell of your garments is like the perfume of roses in the summer. O Church, you are beautiful and without blemish! The Messiah, the King defends you because you adore His Cross.

- D: From the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians
- C: Praise to You, O Lord of the Apostles. O Lord, grant us grace to discern Your Word.

READING OF THE EPISTLE EPHESIANS 5:20-28

- D: ... Give thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the Head of the Church, the body of which He is the Savior. Just as the Church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands. Husbands, love Your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the Church to Himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind-yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

GOSPEL READING

(The Celebrant joins the right hands of the bride and the bridegroom.)

(The Congregation Stands)

- D: Brethren, Let us stand in silence and reverence and listen to the proclamation of the Living Word of God from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- P: Peace be with you all ☩
- C: May the Lord make us all worthy to listen to His Word.
- P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which proclaims life and salvation to the world, as recorded by Apostle Matthew.
- C: Blessed is He that has come and will come again. Praise to the Father who sent Him for our salvation. May His blessings be ever upon us.

- P: In the days Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Saviour, God incarnate of the Blessed Virgin Mary, He taught in this manner
- C: So we believe and affirm.

READING OF THE GOSPEL

St. Matthew 19:1-6

- P: "When Jesus had finished saying these things, He left Galilee and went to the territory of Judea on the other side of the River Jordan. Large crowds followed Him, and He healed them there. Some Pharisees came to Him and tried to trap Him by asking, "Does our Law allow a man to divorce his wife for whatever reason he wishes?" Jesus answered, "Haven't you read the scripture that says that in the beginning the Creator made people male and female?" And God said, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife. And the two will become one. So they are no longer two, but one. Man must not separate then, what God has joined together."
- P: Peace be with you all ☩
- C: And also with you.

(The Congregation is seated)

BLESSING OF THE CROWNS

- P: These Crowns and the heads that are crowned are blessed and perfected in the name of the Father ☩, and of the Son ☩, and of the Holy Spirit ☩.

- C: Amen.

*(The Priest elevates the Crown three times over the head of the **bridegroom** and chants)*

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| P: Vaanil ninooru makudam | Karthanil ninningirangi |
| Manavalan sirassinmel | Kahana chootteetunnu |
| C: Nathhaa karunyatthaal | Kahanenmaar semsaananmaar |
| Dhampathikaleyum Mutiyaal | Manavarayil santhoshippikka |
| P: Vaannil..... | |

C: Anugraham niranjoru valankai Ivarmel avaa sippicchu
Dampathikaleyum sirasin Mutiyeyum Vaazhththeetaname.

P: Vaannil.....

Translation : A crown comes down from heaven in the hand of our Lord. Worthy is this crown to be placed on the head of the bridegroom by the priest.

*The Priest places the Crown on the **bridegroom's** head and says*

P: May the Lord adorn you with the crown of righteousness.
May the Lord arm you against all the powers of the enemy.

C: Amen.

*(The Priest elevates the crown three times over the head of the **bride** and chants)*

P: Vaanil ninooru makudam - Kartthanil ninningirangi
Manavatti sirassinmel Kahana chootteetunnu

C: Nathhaa karunyatthaal Kahanenmaar semsaanamaan
Dhampathikaleyum Mutiyaal Manavarayil santhoshippikka

P: Vaannil.....

C: Rakshakan neethiyin mutiye Ningalkkaay mutanjeetatte
Pithru puthra vishuddhaathmanu Sthothram paadiduvin

P: Vaannil.....

Translation : A crown comes down from Heaven in the hand of our Lord. Worthy is this crown to be placed on the head of the bride by the priest.

P: May the Lord adorn you with the crown of righteousness and with desirable and imperishable adornment. May you rejoice all your life, offering praise to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

P: May the Lord, who delights in human life, be pleased with your lives and bless your union. May Christ, our Heavenly Bridegroom seal your marriage with the true seal of His love. As Christ rejoices

in His Church, may you rejoice in each other. May the right hand of His blessing be on you and protect you from all troubles. May the angel of peace be with you and keep you from all jealousies that lead to destruction. May He take away all sorrow from you and fill you with joy in each other. As Abraham rejoiced in Isaac, Isaac in Jacob, and Jacob in Joseph, may the Lord rejoice in you and bless you with righteous children. May God grant you all the good things that the earth produces. May the blessing promised to those who love the Lord and please His Holy will, be upon us and upon the crowns placed on your heads by the Priest's hands.

Let the nations rejoice and sing praises, for the Lord's name has been invoked upon you. May God enrich you with all prosperity, wealth and blessings. May He pardon all your sins, like those of the sinful woman. May you also inherit the kingdom of heaven like the thief on the cross. May the Most High God who descended on Mount Sinai, to make a covenant with the bride he had called out of Egypt, bless you and this congregation. Let us offer praises to the Lord of heaven and earth, now and forever more.

C: Amen.

BLESSING OF THE MINNU AND MANTHRAKODI

(This is an ancient tradition, symbolizing mutual trust, love and commitment. The bridegroom ties the Minnu around the bride's neck. The seven threads for the Minnu are taken from the Manthrakodi, the Bride's traditional wedding garment (presented by the bridegroom). The Minnu is tied and the Manthrakodi is given to the bride.)

Eden thottaththinudayoneh!

Enne velkkuvaan vannavan nee
Ilam kaattaththu kondi poka
Ulassom enikkavideyundu.

Karththane, enne velikkaai nee
Nishchayicha manavaattiyaayi njan
Vishudhanaam sathya manavala
Karuna cheikennil, sharanam neeyeh.

Kurishinaal koduththen sthreedhanavum
Kashtappaadal swathandhrathayum
En manavara unnathaththil-
Nin vakayaai vilichenne nee.

Kallanmaar ente saudharyathe-
Kolla cheivaan mohichethirthu
Thiru snehathaal methichavare-
Adimayil ninnum njan swathandhrayaayi.

PRAYER OF MAR JACOB

(The bride and the bridegroom make the sign of the cross as a mark of receiving God's blessings when the Celebrant, with the sign of the cross, blesses them with the following chant:)

Deva suthanealam kaineetivazhthee- dename nee ✠
Manavalaneyum manavattiyeyum sirassinmudiye-yum nee
Vazhthuka nadha dempathikaleyum ✠
Avaravarna-mathil nee,
Vazhthuka evarin jeevithakalam, Velivinloke-nee,
Eeninjanavum ennannekkum Vazhthappedename ✠
Vazhtheedename nee ihaparalokevazhvaalivare-nee
Vazhtheeduka ✠ ninadiyar vaikalin stuthiye nadha nee
Vazhtheeduka veenakalaininne vandanam cheitheeduvan

Translation : O Son of God, stretch out Your right hand and bless the bridegroom and bride and the crowns on their heads. O Lord bless each of them by name. Bless also their years of life together in the world of light. Bless this congregation in the company of all the blessed ones and all the saints. O Lord, bless the mouths of Your servants that they may magnify You and praise You on the harp.

HOOTHAMA (The End)

P: Dearly beloved, we have a custom received from our holy fathers and entrusted to us by our revered predecessors of exhorting the believers as we are all assembled in the House of God. We must firmly bid **John** and **Rittu** standing before us that they should be diligent in truth and justice and zealous in all good works.

Now, our children, dear **John** and **Rittu**, remember that you stand before God's Holy Altar, before the throne of our Lord Jesus Christ and His holy table, before the Cross, before the holy Gospel, before the congregation, and in the presence of God who knows the thoughts of every heart. From this time onwards we have united you to each other. May God be the Judge between you and me. I shall be free from blame for anything you do contrary to the divine law.

May God's mercy and blessing be upon the priests, the deacons, the believers, the bride and bridegroom, the guests and the hosts. May the right hand of our Lord Jesus Christ be upon us all forever.

C: Amen.

EXHORTATION TO ALL

P: Once again, believers, know that this commandment is to you all, that each husband among you should always keep in mind the right relationship he owes his wife, for she has left all her kindred to join her husband. Therefore, he must love and cherish her. He must clothe her even if he has to go naked, feed her even if he has to go hungry, and give her to drink even if he is thirsty. Each wife must also behave towards her husband in the same manner as he does towards her and honour him accordingly. She must treat him with love and affection in all things.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be upon you all for ever.

C: Amen.

EXHORTATION TO BRIDE & BRIDEGROOM

P: God has united you as husband and wife from this day. You are no longer two, but one. Christian family life is a great privilege and a big responsibility. Therefore, love one another, respect each other, be tolerant, be forgiving, hate evil, hold on to all that is good, be patient in tribulation, be constant in family prayer, be diligent in studying the Word of God, practice charity and hospitality, do always what is noble in the sight of all, be active participants in corporate worship and regular partakers of Holy Communion. May God help you to rejoice in such a blessed Christian family life. Remember that you are stewards of God in wealth, time and talents. Therefore, set apart a portion of your income for the needy and the poor and for the Mission of the Church. When you are blessed with children, nurture them in the love of God. May Almighty God help you to rejoice in such a blessed Christian family life.

BENEDICTION

P: You are blessed by the Lord who created heaven and earth. May the Lord bless and sanctify all of you who have attended this divine service with us. May ☩ God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, hear and accept our weak and inadequate prayers before His throne of grace.

C: Amen.



YEHOVAYE BHAYAPETU

Psalm 128

George M. Koshy

$\text{♩} = 100$

Yehovaye Bhayapetu, Avante vaziyikallil Nadakunna Evanum

Bhagyavan Ninde kaikalu dae Adhvana phalam Nee, thi

Num, Nee Bhagya van Ninaku Nanma Ninde Nin de Veetinnakathu

Varum, Bharya

Phalapradamaya, Munithirivallipoleyum Ninde Makkal Ninde

Meshaykku Olivuthaikal Poleyum Erikum, Yehovabakthan

Chuttum

Aaya Purushan, Ingane Anugrahika pettavanakum, Yehova See

.....Yonnil Nin nu Ninne Anugrahikum Ninde Ayush

Kalamokkayum Nee Yerushale minde Nan mayae kannum

Ninde Makkalude Makkalleyum Nee Israelin mel Samadanam

Undakatte, Pithavinum, Puthranum, Parishudhal Mahathuamu

mavinum,

ndakate a diyin galum Epozyum

Ennekum Ullaprakaramthane, karamthane Amen.