

ORDERS FOR MORNING AND EVENING WORSHIP

FIRST ORDER OF SERVICE

THE PREPARATION

A hymn or psalm or bhajan may be sung or said

As the ministers come to the Lord's Table, the congregation stands. The presbyter, or one of those with the presbyter, carries in both hands the Bible from which the lessons are to be read, and places it on the Table or on a lectern. The presbyter may stand behind the Table, facing the people.

The presbyter says, the congregation standing:

Let us pray

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

OR

O God, light of the hearts that see you, life of the souls that love you, strength of the thoughts that seek you: to turn from you is to fall, to turn to you is to rise, to abide in you is to stand fast forever. Although we are unworthy to approach you, or to ask anything at all of you, grant us your grace and blessing for the sake of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **AMEN**

OR

O God, you are infinite, eternal and unchangeable, glorious in holiness, full of love and compassion, abundant in grace and truth. Your works everywhere praise you, and your glory is revealed in Jesus Christ our Saviour: Therefore we praise you, blessed and holy Trinity, one God, forever and ever. **AMEN**

OR

Great and merciful God, your life is the source of all life; your mercy is our only hope; your eyes watch over all your creatures; you know the secrets of our hearts. By your life-giving Spirit, draw us into your presence, that we may worship in the true life of your Spirit, who lives moved by your love; through him who has led us to your heart of love, even Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

All sit

Lighting of the lamp

The presbyter says:

As, the light is lit, let us pray that the flame of God's loving presence may spring up in our hearts and transform us by the knowledge of his glory.

*Then, as the lamp is lit by some members suitably selected from the congregation, a bhajan such as **Asatoma sadgamaya, Tamasoma jyothirgamaya, Mrithyoma amrithamgamaya, Shanthi, shanthi, shanthi** is chanted.*

Then all sing or say:

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, hi the glory of God the Father. AMEN

OR

This ancient hymn is repeated thrice:

Holy God

Holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

OR

This litany, with the deacon leading the refrain: Refrain:

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honour, blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Blessing, honour, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

If there has been no special service before the celebration, one or more passages set for the devotion before the Lord's Supper may be read here.

OUR LORD'S SUMMARY OF THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one; and you should love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the great and first commandment. And the second one is: You should love your neighbour as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

Mark 12 and Matthew 22

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

On festive occasions, the full form of the Ten Commandments may be read, instead of the summary of the Law and the Prophets.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Then the presbyter says:

Brothers and sisters, we have come together to hear God's most holy Word. Let us therefore kneel and examine ourselves in silence, seeking God's grace that we may draw near to him with repentance and faith.

All kneel. After a short silence the presbyter continues:

You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and peace with your neighbour, and intend to live a new life, following the commandments of God and walking from now on in his holy ways, make

your humble confession to the compassionate God, that you may be reconciled anew to him through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The deacon leading, all say together:

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbour. We have walked in darkness rather than in light; we have named the name of Christ, but have not departed from iniquity. Have mercy upon us, we ask you; for the sake of Jesus Christ forgive us all our sins; cleanse us by your Holy Spirit; quicken our consciences; and enable us to forgive others; that we may hereafter serve you in newness of life, to the glory of your holy name. AMEN

OR

O God of compassion, we confess that we have sinned against you and our sisters and brothers. We have not been true followers of your new way in Christ. We have not shared in your liberating work in the world. We have fallen short of your glory. In your great compassion, make us clean from our sin, and set us free in the joy of your Spirit, that we may serve you with new life; through Jesus Christ who gave his life that we might live in peace with you and with our fellow creatures. AMEN

OR

O God of mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. AMEN

OR

An alternative litany of this kind may be used:

For taking advantage of people's weakness or powerlessness, for taking people for granted, for directly or indirectly hurting or ridiculing people when God's Word says that we have to encourage, build up, equip and bear one another's burdens

God have mercy and forgive us our sins

For our unwillingness to be reformed, so that we can be transformed as a people, as a church and as a community, when God's Word says Let each one of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others following the example of our Lord Jesus who emptied himself even unto death on the cross.

God have mercy and forgive us our sins

For our lack of honesty and integrity in the life and work of the church, in our society, for our sham and show, for our hypocrisy and double standards, for our lack of priority and perspective, for being preoccupied with life in fragments and at the periphery, when God's Word exhorts us to be occupied with more important matters like justice, mercy and faithfulness.

God have mercy and forgive us our sins

Then the presbyter stands and says: (a selection from the following)

Hear the gracious Word of God to all who truly turn to him through Jesus Christ:

Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. Isaiah 1:18

I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. Jeremiah 31:33-34

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:40

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. John 3:16

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Timothy 1:15

If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. 1John 2:1-2

After a short silence, the presbyter says:

Almighty God, our merciful Saviour, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all who forgive their brothers and sisters and with heartfelt repentance and true faith turn to him: have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen, thanks be to God.

OR

The Saviour of the world, the refuge of the repentant, forgives and strengthens all who truly seek his grace. He accepts you as his sons and daughters, and sets you free from the bondage of your past. For Christ died and rose to new life that we might all share his wholeness and abundant life. A&-God's own people, be merciful in action, kind in heart, humble in mind. Be always ready to forgive as freely as God has forgiven you. And, above everything else, be loving, and never forget to be thankful for what Christ has done for you.

Amen, thanks be to God.

THE PEACE

(All Stand) Then the presbyter says

Having been forgiven and made whole through our Peacemaker, let us live together in Peace. God's Peace challenges us and guides us towards the acts of justice, peace and integration of the whole creation. Let us say **'Shalom'** to one another and give each other a sign of reconciliation and peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you:

And also with you.

(The peace is shared; passed on either by touch of hand, or by the gesture of namaskara or a handclasp).

The congregation kneels.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD OF GOD

The Prayer for illumination

Then the presbyter says

By your Word, O Light of this whole universe, we live, move and have our being. As you have illumined the hearts of people at many times in the past, we pray, eternal God, for your awakening within us.

From delusion to truth, and to your righteous way:

Lead us, source of all, our Father and our Mother.

From darkness to light and into your gracious will:

Lead us O Christ, our Friend and our Brother.

From death to eternal life and into your infinite joy:

Lead us Divine Spirit, enlivening Power within, for we seek your awakening touch.

OR

Your Word is a lamp to guide us.

And a light for our path.

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

(Then the Bible is given to the first reader who takes it to the lectern).

The lesson from the Old Testament is read, and after it the congregation says:

This is your Word, thank you Lord. (Thanks be to you O God.)

A psalm, bhajan or canticle may be sung.

The lesson from the Epistles is read, and after it the congregation says:

We thank you God for speaking to us. (Thanks be to you O God.)

The congregation stands for the Gospel reading and joins in singing Gloria:

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo. Gloria, gloria, Hallelujah hallelujah.

The lesson from the Gospels is read, and after it the congregation says:

The Lord has spoken. Continue to speak to us Lord.

(Praise be to you O Christ.)

The Congregation joins in singing Hallelujah:

**Halle, halle, hallelujah (3)
Hallelujah hallelujah**

The Sermon

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became

incarnate from the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN

OR

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN

OR

We affirm our faith in one God -

Source of all life, greater than all names and forms, source of our being, closer than any. Upon this one God we depend for all we are and for all that ever will be.

And we affirm our faith in Christ -

Who has shown us the way to true life. By breaking the chain of human bondage, through his self-giving life and death and by his rising again, he has given us hope for a new humanity, hope for the healing of earth's life.

And we affirm our faith in the living Spirit of God -

Through whom we awaken to God's purpose for the world, and share in the freedom, joy and peace of the children of God. For by his Spirit God's love has flooded our lives, shaping us into a community of

forgiven and freely accepted brothers and sisters set apart for God's service, risen with Christ we share in his work for God's world of everlasting life, justice and peace. AMEN

OR

I believe in one God who creates, loves, cares and corrects all people, who acts in history, and who promises never to leave us alone.

I believe in Jesus of Nazareth who is Lord, Christ and Redeemer, who wants not to be idealised, but to be followed.

I believe that we live in the presence of the Holy Spirit without whom we are nothing; filled with the Holy Spirit we are able to become creative, free and full of life.

I believe in the church of God in Jesus Christ, a community where we find companions and courage for the struggles of life, where we grow in the understanding of our faith through worship, fellowship and acts of liberation.

I believe that God has called us to a partnership for the continuance of his mission in this time and place, and that, though we live in the midst of confusion, turmoil, exploitation, oppression and in the grip of the forces of death, we are called to be instruments of peace and justice.

I believe that God brings about changes in people, in nature and in the whole cosmos, that God makes the whole creation a new heaven and a new earth of justice, peace, harmony and life in all its fullness. AMEN

The congregation may be seated.

The announcements may be made here, and the offering may be collected. A hymn or lyric may also be sung. An offertory prayer and an appropriate prayer remembering those who have celebrated birthdays, marriage anniversaries and other happy occasions may be said.

Almighty and merciful God from whom comes all that is good, we praise you for your mercies, for your goodness that has created us, your grace that has sustained us, your discipline that has corrected us, your patience that has borne with us, and your love that has redeemed us. Help us to love you, and to be thankful for all your gifts. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share, accept and use our offerings for your glory, and for the service of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God our times are in your hand: look with favour, we pray on your servantswho have celebrated their birthdays, marriage anniversaries, during this week. As they begin another year, grant that they may be showered with all blessings, and may grow in health and strength, wisdom and grace. Strengthen their trust in your goodness, and show them that they live under your protection and care all the days of their life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

INTERCESSION

Litany 1

Almighty God, who has taught us to make prayers and supplications, and to give thanks, for all creation; hear us when we pray: that it may please you to inspire continually the universal church with the spirit of truth, unity and concord:

Hear us, O Lord, we pray.

That it may please you to grant that all those who confess your holy name may agree in the truth of your holy Word, and bear witness to it with courage, and fidelity:

Hear us, O Lord, we pray.

That it may please you to lead the nations in the paths of righteousness and peace:

Hear us, O Lord, we pray.

That it may please you to guide with your pure and peace-loving wisdom those who bear authority in the affairs of humankind, especially the President of the Indian Republic the Prime Minister the Governor of our State the Chief Minister and all those who serve in the Government; that we and all people may be governed with justice and honour:

Hear us, O Lord, we pray.

That it may please you to give grace to all bishops, presbyters, and deacons, especially your servants, . our Moderator, and . our Bishop, that by their life and doctrine they may set forth your true and living Word, and rightly and duly administer your holy sacraments:

Hear us, O Lord, we pray.

That it may please you to bring into one fellowship and union the churches in our land, that together they may maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace and bear witness to the Gospel, especially the churches with which we are in full communion and to guide their councils and leaders, especially the Moderator of the Church of North India, the Metropolitan of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian..... Church and

Hear us, O Lord, we pray.

That it may please you to guide and prosper those who are labouring for the spread of your Gospel among the nations, and to enlighten with your Spirit, all places of education, learning and healing:

Hear us, O Lord, we pray.

That it may please you that through your heavenly benediction we may be saved from death and famine, and may with thankful hearts enjoy the fruits of the earth in their season:

Hear us, O Lord, we pray.

That it may please you to give your heavenly grace to all your people in their several callings, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive your holy Word; truly serving you in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life:

Hear us, O Lord, we pray.

That it may please you of your goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all those who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity:

Hear us, O Lord, we pray.

And we praise you for all your servants who have departed from this life in your faith and fear, asking you to give us grace that we may follow their good examples, and with them be made partakers of your heavenly kingdom:

Hear us, O Lord, we pray.

Litany 2

For the peace that is from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of God's holy churches, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For our bishops and all other ministers, especially .. our Moderator, and our Bishop, and ..the Moderator of the Church of North India, and ...the Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Church that with a good heart and a pure conscience they may accomplish their ministry, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the President of our Republic the Prime Minister ..the Governor of our State the Chief Minister and all those who serve in the Government, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the sick, the suffering, the sorrowful, and the dying, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the hungry, the orphans and the widows, and them that suffer persecution, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For ourselves and all who confess the name of Christ, that we may show forth the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvellous light, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

That, with all his servants who have served him here and are now at rest, we may enter into the fullness of his unending joy, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

Litany 3

In your comforting presence, we remember the poor and the homeless, the widows and the exploited women, the undernourished children and the victims of war, terrorism and unjust socio-economic systems. Where the mind is without fear, where the head is held high, into that haven of freedom O Lord, let our world awake.

Lord hear our prayer; let our cry come to you.

In your comforting presence, we remember those who cannot and may not read and write, those who are denied the power of knowledge and skill, those who are rendered voiceless through exploitation and oppression for being ignorant, those whose questioning faculty has been taken away and the ones who are tormented and mentally ill. Where knowledge is free, where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sands of dead habit, into that haven of freedom, O Lord, let our world awake.

Lord hear our prayer; let our cry come to you.

In your comforting presence, we remember those who work without getting their due, the landless labourers, the child labourers, the bonded labourers, the dispossessed and those who are unjustly treated or falsely accused. Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection, into that haven of freedom O Lord, let our world awake.

Lord hear our prayer; let our cry come to you.

In your comforting presence, we remember the victims of discrimination because of colour, race, class, caste, nationality, religion and traditions. Help our leaders and all those who serve in the Government especially the President of our Republic..... the Prime Minister the Governor of our State,

the Chief Minister to do everything they can to build a society of equality and justice. Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls, into that haven of freedom, O Lord let our world awake.

Lord hear our prayer; let our cry come to you.

In your comforting presence, we remember your church especially ... our Moderator, and our Bishop, and the Moderator of the Church of North India, and the Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Church. Let the Church be a foretaste of the coming reign of God in the world, let her work in partnership with all humanity for reconciliation, justice and peace to make this world an *oikumene* - a happy home for all creation. Where words come out from the depths of truth, where the mind is led forward by you into ever-widening thought and action, into that haven of freedom, O Lord let my world awake.

Lord hear our prayer; let our cry come to you.

Litany 4

Where ignorance, self-love and insensitivity have fractured life in community:

Give your light, O God of love.

Where injustice and oppression have broken the spirit of peoples:

Give your light, O God of love.

Where hunger and poverty, illness and death have made life an unbearable burden:

Give your light, O God of love.

Where suspicion *and* hatred, conflict and war have challenged your goodness:

Give your light, O God of love.

Eternal God, remove the blindness of the nations and peoples so that they may walk in the light of love; remove the ignorance and stubbornness of nations and peoples so that they may drink from the fountain of your goodness. **AMEN**

After the Litany the presbyter says:

Let us pray

Almighty God, the Fountain of all wisdom, who knows our necessities before we ask, and our ignorance in asking: we ask you to have compassion upon our infirmities; and those things, which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, vouchsafe to give us, for the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. **AMEN**

OR

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the church is governed and sanctified: receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before you for all people in your holy church, that every member of the same, in his vocation and ministry, may truly and justly serve you; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **AMEN.**

OR

Eternal God, our Father and Mother, we commit our struggles and sufferings into your Son's wounded hands, our hopes and aspirations into His praying hands, our poor, hungry and exploited people into His just and caring hands, our living and departed into His hands that hold the key to the future. Blessed be the Lord, forever. **AMEN**

A hymn or lyric is sung. During the singing, or directly afterwards, the offerings of the people are collected.

The presbyter may dedicate the offerings in his own words, or he may say:

O God, the Giver of all good gifts, we ask you graciously to accept this offering of your people, and so to bless it and them that peace and goodwill may abound throughout the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

OR

Eternal almighty and loving God, who has not spared your own Son, but delivered him up for us all, and who, with him, has freely given us all things; receive these offerings which we bring and dedicate to you; and enable us; with all our gifts, so to yield ourselves to you, that with body, soul, and spirit, we may truly and freely serve you, and in your service find our deepest joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

The presbyter dismisses the people with a blessing:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **AMEN**

OR

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold onto what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honour all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **AMEN**

OR

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **AMEN**

Closing hymn & Recession

A hymn or lyric may be sung and the ministers go out carrying with them the Bible, the gifts of the people.

The presbyter then prays, people standing. Then says:

Presbyter: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you**

Presbyter: Let us depart in peace

People: **In the name of Christ. Amen**

People may kneel, have silent prayer and quietly go out.