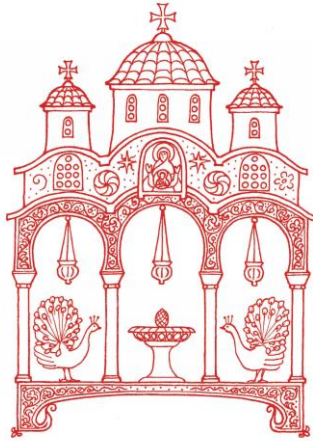


# The Order of Consecration

Of a Church Temple



**Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church**

**2023**

Ministry of Liturgical Resource Development

By the grace of God, this work was completed for the benefit of the English-speaking faithful through the Liturgical Resource Development (LRD) Committee of the South-West American Diocese.

This order for the consecration of a temple of the Holy Church is adapted primarily from the invaluable English translations of Corepiscopos Fr. Kurian Thottupuram. Additionally, some material has been incorporated and adapted from a Syriac manuscript for the order of consecration translated by His Eminence, Mor Ayub Sylvanus of the Syriac Orthodox Church, as well as material from other editions of the consecration service translated by the development team of LRD.

The Syriac tradition contains a number of versions of the service of consecration, some differing from each other in many aspects. As the primary translation by Fr. Kurian has been abridged and adapted from multiple Syriac texts, this order does not always align with the Syriac and Malayalam text most commonly used in the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church at present. God willing, a full translation from the Syriac of this particular order will be completed soon.

<b>BLESSING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE</b>
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*During this service, the bishop blesses and places a stone in the sanctuary to symbolize the Church being founded on Christ, the Chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20; Ps. 118:22–23; Is. 28:16) and Sure Foundation (Is. 28:16). Twelve stones cut from the foundation stone are also placed in the sanctuary, identifying the Holy Church as Israel, the people of God (comprised of twelve tribes in the Old Covenant), and established upon the faith delivered by Christ to the twelve apostles. The rite brings to our minds the Israelites, led by Joshua, crossing the River Jordan toward the land flowing with milk and honey promised them by the Lord. After crossing the river, Joshua built an altar for God, who commanded that twelve stones be laid to serve as an eternal memorial of God's deliverance of the twelve tribes of Israel (Josh. 4: 1–10).*

**† Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit!**

May His mercy and compassion be upon us, weak and sinful, in both worlds, forever and ever. Amin.

*Introductory Prayer*

Make us worthy, O Lord God, to lay the foundation stone of this temple, and to place here these anointed stones with remembrance of Your holy apostles, and to sanctify them with the sign of the holy cross. May this become Your House, so that in it You may dwell. Grant that the lordly sacrifices and pure prayers may be offered in this place unceasingly, and in this place may Your holy name be blessed, our Lord and our God, now and always and forever. Amin.

*Psalm of Repentance*

**[Psalm 51] Have mercy upon me, O God, in Your loving kindness;/ in the abundance of Your mercy blot out my sin.**

Wash me thoroughly from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin./ For I acknowledge my fault and my sins are before me always.

**Against You only have I sinned and done evil in Your sight, / that You may be justified in Your words and vindicated in Your judgment. / For I was born in guilt and in sin did my mother conceive me.**

But You take pleasure in truth and You have made known to me the secrets of Your wisdom. / Sprinkle me with Your hyssop and I shall be clean; / wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Give me the comfort of Your joy and gladness, and the bones which have been humbled shall rejoice. / Turn away Your face from my sins and blot out all my faults.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, / and renew Your steadfast spirit within me. / Do not cast me from Your presence / and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

**But restore to me Your joy and Your salvation / and let Your glorious spirit sustain me;/ that I may teach the wicked Your way / and sinners may return to You.**

Deliver me from blood, O God, God of my salvation / and my tongue shall praise Your justice. / O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall sing Your praise.

**For You do not take pleasure in sacrifices;/ by burnt offerings You are not appeased. / The sacrifice of God is a humble spirit, / a heart that is contrite God will not despise.**

Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion and build up the walls of Jerusalem. / Then shall You be satisfied with sacrifices of truth and with whole burnt-offerings; / then shall they offer bullocks upon Your altar. *And to You belongs the praise, O God! Barekmor.*

**† Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!**

*Unto the ages of ages and forevermore.*

`ENYONO  
(Emo Dkhitho)<sup>1</sup>

Bless'd are you, O Bride of Christ our Lord,  
For all sing praise as this stone is laid.  
O God, have mercy on us!

Come, give thanks to Christ who adorned you,  
Placing your home in the heights above.  
O God, have mercy on us!

Faithful Church, a bridechamber of light  
Was made for you, and heaven sings praise.  
O God, have mercy on us!

Holy Church, all who have been baptized  
Throughout the earth celebrate this feast.  
O God, have mercy on us!

Kings on earth come forth in procession  
To honor you as their King weds you.  
O God, have mercy on us! *Barekmor.*

**† Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!**  
*Unto the ages of ages and forevermore.*

Praise Him who sent His Son to wed you,  
Sanctifying you by His Spirit;  
O God, have mercy on us!

*Stomen Kalos, Kurielaison!*

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<sup>1</sup> Sung like *Oliveenthal...*

**Bishop:** Let us all pray and beseech the Lord for mercy and compassion.

**People:** O merciful Lord, have mercy upon us and help us.

**Bishop:** Glory and thanksgiving, praise and adoration, and unceasing exaltation, truly at all times and hours, may we ascribe unto You, O Lord...

**PROMEON**

**Bishop:** ...(*Glory to You*), the Heavenly Bridegroom, who wed the Holy Church by Your suffering, and for the salvation of souls You erected Your living cross within her. You instituted Your Church and the priestly assembly, and built around her the fortress of hope, and protected her from the severe and wicked wrath of the cruel. O Wise Architect, You erected a mighty tower to destroy the destructive waves beating against her. To You, O Lord, we offer worship and praise at this time of the laying of the foundation stone of this Church temple, and at all festivals, times, seasons, hours, and all the days of our life, forever.

**People:** Amin.

### SEDRO

**Bishop:** Christ our God, the spiritual and fiery hosts invisibly exalt You. With trembling those with burning wings bless You. In the Church of the first-born the incorporeal servants acclaim You with the trice-holy hymn. You graciously willed that the earthly should praise and exult You in the glorious tent of Your Holy Church, which was prefigured by the tent built for Your honor by Moses in the wilderness. That tent was a shadow of Your Holy Church, which was adorned by You, the True Bridegroom, and was built upon the bones of Your beloved ones, and was upheld by the truth of those dear to You. In days of old, the holy prophets spoke of Your Church. One among them offered the sacrifice of fragrance for relief from flood and prefigured the mystery of Your sacrifice. Another went up to the mountain of the Amorites<sup>2</sup> to sacrifice his only son and prefigured the oblation of Your Holy Church. Jacob, the patriarch, erected a stone and anointed it with oil, and pledged his tithe and offerings; this signified the Holy Church. And another erected an altar on Mount Carmel, and as a prefiguration offered the sacrifice. O Lord, visit Your Holy Church. Fulfill Your word that You will be with us unto the end of the world. Look upon her with compassion and fill her with the provisions of Your treasury. Protect her from the deluge of battles. Rescue her from all difficulties and dangers. Extend her thread in all directions and to all places. Appoint in her teachers, true shepherds, priests, and deacons. Comfort the souls of our parents, our brothers and sisters, our teachers and leaders, our departed ones and all the faithful departed. We offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and forever.

**People:** Amin.

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<sup>2</sup> The Syriac translation of Scripture names the place where Isaac was to be sacrificed as the land of the Amorites, rather than Moriah, as in the Hebrew.

## QOLO

(Enono Nuhro Shareero – Seventh Tone)

Come, all people, and hear these words!  
 Isaiah, the glorious prophet,  
 Cried out to the Holy Church:  
 “Wake and rise and be enlightened,  
 For Your Bridegroom is coming!”<sup>3</sup>  
     Day and night, O Holy Church,  
     Your doors shall remain open  
     And they shall never be shut,  
 In you kings will seek refuge,  
 And all nations will praise you! Barekmor.

**† Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!**  
 Unto the ages of ages and forevermore.

“Faithful Church, do not be disturbed,  
 Nor let your mind be troubled!  
 As you have not forsaken Me,  
 I shall never forsake you.”  
     Even at the end of time,  
     When earth and sky pass away,  
     No harm shall come upon you,  
 O Church, for your throne is placed  
 In the mansions of our God.

*Lord, have mercy upon us and help us!*

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<sup>3</sup> Cf. Is. 26:19, 52:1, and 60:1



## ἘΤΡΟ

**Bishop:** O Lord God, accept this fragrant incense offered by us, who are weak, as we lay the foundation stone of this temple. We beseech Your mercy: lead these people with Your precepts, gladden the sinners with forgiveness, heal the sick, bring together all who are scattered, comfort the afflicted and depressed, eliminate all quarrels and conflicts from Your Church, and blot out and forgive the sins of all the departed. May we offer praise and thanksgiving to You, now and always and forever.

**People:** Amin.

## ZUMORO

O Lord, sanctify Your house;  
 Make holy Your dwelling place.  
 Establish it with Your hands  
 And dwell in it forever.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 28: 10-22  
 Joshua 4: 1-24  
 I Kings 8: 1-21

I Peter 2: 1-12  
 Hebrews 9: 1-14

<b>GOSPEL</b>
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*(Pethgomo)*

Halleluyah, Halleluyah  
Remember the Church that You graciously redeemed  
And brought into the inheritance of Your people.  
 Halleluyah

**Deacon:** *Barekmor.* With stillness, fear and purity, let us give heed and listen to the Good News of the living words of God, in the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ that is read to us.

**Bishop:** † Peace be unto you all.

**People:** May the Lord God make us worthy, with your spirit.

**Bishop:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, the life-giving proclamation from St. Matthew the Apostle, who preaches the good news of life and salvation to the world.

**People:** Blessed is He Who has come and is to come; Glory be to Him Who sent Him for our salvation, and may His mercy be upon us all, forever.

**Bishop:** Now in the time of the Incarnation of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God, Who was incarnate of the Holy Virgin Mary, these things did come to pass in this manner. †

**People:** We believe and confess!

*(The bishop reads from the Gospel of St. Matthew 16:13-20)*

**Bishop:** † Peace be unto you all.

<b>BLESSING of the STONES</b>
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**Bishop:** Christ our God, by Your grace and through the prayers of the apostles and all the saints, and in particular the intercessions of the Holy Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, and the supplications of Saint (*Name*), in whose name we establish this Church, bless † † † these stones.

*The bishop anoints the stones with Holy Chrism (Myron) while saying this prayer:*

**Bishop:** In order to become the dwelling of God, these stones which are placed as the foundation of this temple are anointed and purified from all stains of transgressions and blessed:

In the name of the † Father, and of the † Son,  
and of the † Holy Spirit, forever and ever.

**People:** Amin.

*The bishop exalts the consecrated stones three times, saying:*

**Bishop:** For the glory, honor, praise, and exaltation of the Holy Trinity, one in essence, and for the tranquility and building up of the Holy Church, these stones are exalted!

#### HYMN

For the glory and honor  
Of the Holy Trinity;  
For the peace and building up  
Of the Holy Church of God!

<b>BLESSING of the FOUR CORNERS of the WORLD</b>
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*This exaltation of the stones is optional if the consecration of the altar and temple is conducted immediately following the consecration of the foundation stone, as an exaltation is also performed at the end of the consecration of the nave.*

*Turning to the East, the priest shall say:*

**Bishop:** To the One - angels serve,

**Response:** Holy are - You, O God!\_\_

**Bishop:** To the One - cherubim bless,

**Response:** Holy are - You, Almighty!

**Bishop:** To the One - seraphim hallow,

**Response:** Holy are - You, Immortal

**Bishop:** O Sinners, with repentance, entreat say`ing:\_\_

**Response:** O Christ, who was crucified for us sinners,\_\_

have mercy on us!

*Turning to the West:*

**Bishop:** To the One - fiery hosts praise,

**Response:** Holy are - You, O God!\_\_

**Bishop:** To the One - spiritual beings exalt,

**Response:** Holy are - You, Almighty!

**Bishop:** To the One - mortals worship,

**Response:** Holy are - You, Immortal

**Bishop:** Children of the faithful Church, entreat say`ing:\_\_

**Response:** O Christ, who was crucified for us sinners,\_\_

have mercy on us!

*Turning to the North:***Bishop:** To the One - whom the heavens praise,**Response:** Holy are - You, O God!\_\_**Bishop:** To the One - those between exalt,**Response:** Holy are - You, Almighty!**Bishop:** To the One - praised below on earth,**Response:** Holy are - You, Immortal**Bishop:** O Sinners, with repentance, entreat say`ing:\_\_**Response:** O Christ, who was crucified for us sinners,\_\_  
have mercy on us!*Turning to the South:***Bishop:** Lord, have mercy - upon us**Response:** Lord, be kind - and have mercy**Bishop:** Lord, accept our service and our entreaties;\_\_  
Have mercy on us**Response:** Glory to - You, O God**Bishop:** Glory to - You, Creator**Response:** Glory to You, Christ the King, Who has mercy\_\_  
upon us sinners. *Barekmor.**Our Father, who art in heaven...*

*Then the bishop and priests move toward the place where the stones are to be laid as the foundation for the new church temple.*

*During this time the following hymn may be sung.*

### QOLO

*(Hwi Loh Lnafesh – Reesh Qolo)*

Bless`ed is He, who built the Holy Church on His hands  
 And placed as her foundation the prophets, apostles,  
 And the martyrs.  
 He filled her with all peoples who offer – praise by night and day.

He glorified the prophets, apostles, and martyrs,  
 And placed their bones within His Church to serve as lanterns.  
 Bless`ed is He  
 Who exalts their memories; may their prayers – be with us always!

Bless`ed are you, O Church, for the Son's voice protects you;  
 The doors of She`ol shall never prevail against you,  
 For He gave you  
 His Holy Body and Blood to nourish – and sanctify you! *Barekmor.*

***† Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!***  
*Unto the ages of ages and forevermore.*

Earth! O Earth! Hear the Lord's promise He made to His Church:  
 "I vow that I will never leave you or forsake you.  
 O Faithful Church,  
 At all times I guard your walls, and I will – always  dwell in you."

*The bishop places the large stone under the altar, saying the following:*

**Bishop:** This stone is laid as the foundation of this church, which is instituted in the name of Saint (Name)...

...In the name of the † Father, and of the † Son,  
and of the † Holy Spirit!

**People:** Amin.

*The following hymn may be sung while the twelve stones are placed.*

### HYMN

*(Paradayso – Seventh Tone)*

See who comes, O Church, in joy to your feast:  
The slain apostles you are founded on,  
With Zachariah, killed on your altar,  
The head of John, which became an off'ring,  
And the multitudes of all the martyrs;  
For they gave their blood for your building up!

*Laying the stones in their respective places, the bishop says the following:*

**Bishop:** This stone is laid as the foundation of the temple of God...

...In the name of the † Father, and of the † Son,  
and of the † Holy Spirit!

**People:** Amin.

*The Order of the Blessing and Laying of the Foundation Stone is completed.*

## CONSECRATION of the TEMPLE of GOD

*After the prayer of the third hour in the morning the bishop and all the clergy shall be vested and begin this service in the sanctuary of the new church temple. This service may also be conducted after evening prayer, and the first Divine Liturgy on the newly consecrated altar shall be offered in the morning following.*

*King Solomon's dedication of the Temple (1 Kings 8) serves as the model for the consecration of Christian church temples. But the service of consecration offers further significance to the worshipping community beyond the dedication of the physical building to God: The Church, which is the people of God united in the Body of Christ, "manifests herself as the beloved of Christ, and she proclaims His good news to the world. The liturgy of [consecration] reminds and instructs the faithful to purify themselves, and to reconfirm their relationship with God,"<sup>5</sup> as individuals and as the worshipping community of the Church.*

### THE FIRST SERVICE

**† Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit!**

May His mercy and compassion be upon us, weak and sinful, in both worlds, forever and ever. Amin.

#### *Introductory Prayer*

Lord our God, make us worthy to enter into Your courts with purity, move within Your temple with righteousness, approach Your sanctuary with worthiness, obtain Your gifts with sanctity, and to consecrate this altar through Your sanctifying Spirit. May it become fit for administering Your mysteries, and may we offer spotless sacrifice here in this place. O Lord, cleanse us from all stains. We offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Holy Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and forever. Amin.

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<sup>5</sup> H.E. Mor Ayub Sylvanus, "The Rite of Consecration of the Church According to the Syrian Orthodox Tradition," D.Phil. thesis (University of Manchester, 2014).



## QUQLIUN

*(Psalm 122 – Third Tone)*

I rejoiced when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."  
 Halleluyah,  
 O Jerusalem, my feet have been standing at your gates!

Jerusalem was built up as a fortified city.  
 Halleluyah,  
 The tribes of the Lord entered inside it one by one.

It was decreed for Israel to give thanks to the name of the Lord.  
 Halleluyah,  
 The thrones for judgment were set, the thrones of David's house.

*(Seventh Tone)*

Bid peace to Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you!"  
 Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah!

"May peace be within your walls and tranquility in your towers."  
 Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah!

For the sake of the house of the Lord I will say, "Peace within you!"  
 Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah! *Barekmor.*

**† Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!**  
*Unto the ages of ages and forevermore.*

EQBO<sup>6</sup>

The Holy Church built firmly  
 Upon the True Christian Faith  
 Sings glory unceasingly,  
 And she cries out, proclaiming,  
 "The Immortal, Holy God  
 Has come for our salvation!"

STIQUN<sup>7</sup>

(Kad Shlemun)<sup>8</sup>

Solomon - said in his parables,  
 "Who is He - whom you love,  
 Of whom you are so proud, O fair one?"  
 "My True Love, - chosen from the multitudes:  
     More splendid than Jacob's vine;  
     Ruddier than oil of Nardin;  
     Taller than Lebanon's cedars;  
     Whose vineyard is Israel.  
 And He is - the likeness - of God whom we praise,  
 For He is glorious!"

## PRAYER

**Bishop:** Lord our God, remember the Church which You have redeemed. Establish her in true doctrines. Fill her with the abundance of Your gifts. Establish unity between her pastors and flock. For You are powerful and compassionate, and glory and thanksgiving are due to You, along with Your adorable Father and Your living Holy Spirit, now and always and forever.

**People:** Amin.

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<sup>6</sup> May be sung like *Unmayilunnam Thrithwathin...* or like *Vandhya Sleeba...*

<sup>7</sup> The Syriac term *Stiqun*, or *Stiqoro*, is derived from the Greek word *Sticheron*, and in West Syriac hymnography refers to a hymn based on biblical passages.

<sup>8</sup> Sung like *Upamakalaal...*

PETHGOMO

*The Lord has strengthened my heart. I opened my mouth against my enemies, for I rejoice in Your salvation. There is none holy like the Lord. None is mighty like our God. (1 Samuel 2: 1-2)*

ENYONO  
(Yawmono)

Holy Church, gaze above to the highest heights of heaven!  
There your Bridegroom has established  
Your bridechamber and has raised you  
Above all untruths and powers.

Holy Church, bless'd are you, the betrothed of Christ the Bridegroom,  
Who gave you His Body and Blood  
And cleansed you by His baptism  
And sanctified you by His grace!

Holy Church, on this day of consecration all rejoice,  
The heavenly with the earthly,  
For Christ has suffered for your sake  
And has redeemed you, His betrothed! *Barekmor.*

*† Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!  
Unto the ages of ages and forevermore.*

Holy Church, let us sing on this day of your joyous feast!  
With *spiritual* and *corporeal* ones  
We sing glory to the One who  
In His love saved you by His cross!

*Stomen Kalos, Kurielaison!*

**Bishop:** Let us all pray and beseech the Lord for mercy and compassion.

**People:** O merciful Lord, have mercy upon us and help us.

**Bishop:** Glory and thanksgiving, praise and adoration, and unceasing exaltation, truly at all times and hours, may we ascribe unto You, O Lord...

#### PROMEON

**Bishop:** ...(*Glory to You*), who exalted the feasts of Your mother, magnified the memory of Your saints, honored the memory of Your warriors, blessed the chambers of Your beloved, raised the honor of Your ascetics, and elevated the joy of Your worshippers. Glory be to You, O Son of God, who transcend everything and are the most glorious. To You belong glory and honor and dominion at this time of the consecration of this Church temple, and at all festivals, times, seasons, hours, and all the days of our lives, forever.

**People:** Amin.

SEDRO

**Bishop:** Lord God, may the ascetics who worked in Your vineyard from sunrise to sunset and labored in Your glorious presence from beginning to end, along with us and for us, beseech You. May Adam, the root of families and races; Abel, who was murdered in Your hope; Enoch, who pleased Your divinity; Noah, who foreshadowed Your sacred body and blood; Abraham who obeyed Your commandment; Isaac, who saw You while being bound; Jacob, who recognized Your Cross; Job, who was victorious over the temptations; Moses, the great, who foresaw Your majesty; Aaron, the priestly Levite, who administered Your mysteries; Samuel, who observed Your will; David, who sang Your psalms; Elijah, who signified Your ascension; Elisha, who became blessed by Your Spirit; Isaiah, who foretold Your conception; Micah, who prophesied Your birth; Zachariah, who proved your Manifestation; Daniel, who predicted your murder; Ezekiel, who saw Your chariot; Jeremiah, who was purified in the womb; all the prophets, who preached about You in tribulation; the martyrs, who took refuge in You with happiness; the confessors, who achieved glory through their faith; the righteous, who served You with joy; the saints, who kept vigil with gladness; the doctors, who propagated the truth; the pure, who were adorned with Your beauty; the chaste, who kept purity; the lamenters, who imitated Your humility; the monks, who excelled in fasting; the courageous, who were sanctified by their prayers; the anchorites who kept their vigils; the perfect, who were fortified by their canonical hours; and the celibate, who were genuine in the call of their life; and with them the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of God, from whom You had taken body, and who is worthy of blessedness among all races of the earth, intercede to You for us! Help us by their prayers. Be pleased with us through the prayers of Your holy mother and those of Your beloved. Forgive our sins, and remit our debts. Purify our rational faculties. Cleanse us from the stains of our bodies. Illuminate our inner eyes. Open the ears of our minds. Sanctify the speech of our mouths. Purify the praises of our tongues. Fill our mouths with Your praises. Accept our humble oblations and our sacrifices of thanksgiving. Receive our supplications. Answer our prayers. Comfort the faithful departed, who slept in Your hope. May they and we stand on Your right side and receive Your mercy, and offer praise and thanksgiving to You, and to Your Father, and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and forever. **People:** Amin.

## QOLO

*(Quqoyo – Seventh Tone)*

Who is this, the King's daughter of whom David sang,  
 Who stands at the Lord's right hand with such dignity,  
     And her garments – are grandeur and light?  
     Above the clouds – she dwells in glory;  
 Her authority extends to the ends of earth:  
 She is the Believing Church adorned in splendor!  
     Halleluyah, w'Haleluyah!

How beautiful are you, O daughter of gentiles!  
 King Solomon sings your praise, O fair and pure Church:  
     "Your lips are sweet – like drops of honey;  
     You are spotless – and so beautiful;  
 The scent of your garb is like roses in April."  
 Christ the King protects you as you adore His cross.  
     Halleluyah, w'Haleluyah! *Barekmor.*

† *Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!*

The singing Church is like the swallow at morning,  
 Which rises early and sings praise to the Lord God.  
     She lifts her voice – with Watchers above,  
     And in her hand – she hold's David's harp,  
 And with its one hundred and fifty strings she sings  
 That God may shower mercies upon the whole world.  
     Halleluyah, w'Haleluyah!

*Unto the ages of ages and forevermore.*

"Three outer walls safeguard me," says the Holy Church.  
 "The evil one who deceives cannot breach these walls,  
     For these three are – bound to each other,  
     And between them – there is no divide.  
 These three walls are the Father, Son, and the Spirit,  
 In whose midst I am standing as His glorious bride."  
     Halleluyah, w'Haleluyah!

*Lord, have mercy upon us and help us!*

### ETRO

**Bishop:** O Lord God, accept this smoke of fragrance, which we, Your humble faithful, offer before You at this time of the consecration of Your temple. Gladden its subjects with salvation, its sinners with liberation. Grant healing to the sick. Bring back all who were scattered. Comfort those who are afflicted and those who are in sorrow. Eliminate all quarrels and conflicts. Grant absolution and propitiation to the faithful who departed in true faith. We offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and forever!

**People:** Amin.

### ZUMORO

In the city of the Lord,  
As we have heard we now see:  
It is bless`ed forever;  
In God's temple is refuge! (*Cf. Ps. 46: 8-9*)

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 6: 13-22

II Samuel 6: 1-23

I Kings 8: 22-43

Acts 7: 44-53

Hebrews 8: 1 - 9: 14

<b>GOSPEL</b>
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*(Pethgomo)*

Halleluyah, Halleluyah  
Make holy your habitation, O Lord;  
Establish it by Your hands and dwell in it forever\_!  
 Halleluyah

**Deacon:** *Barekmor.* With stillness, fear, and purity, let us give heed and listen to the Good News of the living words of God, in the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ that is read to us.

**Bishop:** † Peace be unto you all.

**People:** May the Lord God make us worthy, with your spirit.

**Bishop:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, the life-giving proclamation from St. Matthew the Apostle, who preaches the good news of life and salvation to the world.

**People:** Blessed is He Who has come and is to come; Glory be to Him Who sent Him for our salvation, and may His mercy be upon us all, forever.

**Bishop:** Now in the time of the Incarnation of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God, Who was incarnate of the Holy Virgin Mary, these things did come to pass in this manner. †

**People:** We believe and confess!

*(The bishop reads from the Gospel of St. Matthew 16:13-20)*

**Bishop:** † Peace be unto you all.



## LITANY

**Archdeacon** (*holding the staff*): Let us stand well, and in voice pleasing to God cry aloud and say, "Lord, have mercy!"

**People:** Kurielaison!

*(Lord, have mercy!)*

**Archdeacon:** Lord God, who confirmed the Church through Your high priests and priests, we beseech You:

**People:** Kurielaison!

*(Lord, have mercy!)*

**Archdeacon:** Lord God, who sanctify and illuminate Your Holy Church with Your divine gifts and graces, we beseech You:

**People:** Kurielaison!

*(Lord, have mercy!)*

**Archdeacon:** Lord God, we beseech You to grant remission of debts and forgiveness of sins to our parents, brothers, and sisters, and the faithful departed and all the departed, and grant them rest in the shining habitations of heaven:

**People:** Kurielaison!

*(Lord, have mercy!)*

**Archdeacon:** Christ our God, so that the pastors who bore Your name and their sheep may not err but stand together before You, we beseech You:

**People:** Kurielaison!

*(Lord, have mercy!)*

**Archdeacon:** Let us cry aloud three times:

**People:** Kurielaison! Kurielaison! Kurielaison!

*(Lord, have mercy! Lord, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!)*

*Here ends the first service.*

*As the second service begins, the clergy are liturgically vested. The bishop stands in front of the new altar turning toward the east. Priests in the presbyteral order stand on both sides of the altar turning toward the west. One of the senior priests holds a bottle containing Holy Chrism (Myron), and another priest holds the Gospel. The deacons should carry the fans and turn toward the east.*

## THE SECOND SERVICE

**† Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit!**

May His mercy and compassion be upon us, weak and sinful, in both worlds, forever and ever. Amin.

### *Introductory Prayer*

O Lord God, make us worthy to stand before Your altar with purity and holiness. We beseech You to remain in our midst and with us at this time. Shower us with the wealth of Your divine gifts in order that we may serve You with the holy angels, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever. Amin.

*Psalm of Repentance*

**[Psalm 51] Have mercy upon me, O God, in Your loving kindness;/  
in the abundance of Your mercy blot out my sin.**

Wash me thoroughly from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin./  
For I acknowledge my fault and my sins are before me always.

**Against You only have I sinned and done evil in Your sight, / that  
You may be justified in Your words and vindicated in Your  
judgment. / For I was born in guilt and in sin did my mother  
conceive me.**

But You take pleasure in truth and You have made known to me the  
secrets of Your wisdom. / Sprinkle me with Your hyssop and I shall  
be clean; / wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Give me the comfort of Your joy and gladness, and the bones  
which have been humbled shall rejoice. / Turn away Your face  
from my sins and blot out all my faults.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, / and renew Your steadfast spirit  
within me. / Do not cast me from Your presence / and take not Your  
Holy Spirit from me.

**But restore to me Your joy and Your salvation / and let Your  
glorious spirit sustain me;/ that I may teach the wicked Your way /  
and sinners may return to You.**

Deliver me from blood, O God, God of my salvation / and my  
tongue shall praise Your justice. / O Lord, open my lips and my  
mouth shall sing Your praise.

**For You do not take pleasure in sacrifices;/ by burnt offerings You  
are not appeased. / The sacrifice of God is a humble spirit, / a heart  
that is contrite God will not despise.**

Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion and build up the walls of  
Jerusalem. / Then shall You be satisfied with sacrifices of truth and  
with whole burnt-offerings; / then shall they offer bullocks upon  
Your altar. *And to You belongs the praise, O God! Barekmor.*

**† Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!**  
*Unto the ages of ages and forevermore.*

ʼENYONO  
(*Emo Dkhitho*)<sup>9</sup>

Holy Church, as we consecrate you,  
Heaven sings praise and earth is gladdened.  
O God, have mercy on us!

Bride of Christ, rejoice and sing glory,  
At this feast of your dedication.  
O God, have mercy on us!

Faithful Bride, sing praises to your Lord  
Who betrothed you and sanctifies you.  
O God, have mercy on us! *Barekmor.*

† *Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!*  
*Unto the ages of ages and forevermore.*

Let us sing glory to the Father,  
Worship the Son, and praise the Spirit!  
O God, have mercy on us!

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<sup>9</sup> Sung like *Oliveenthal...*

*Stomen Kalos, Kurielaison!*

**Bishop:** Let us all pray and beseech the Lord for mercy and compassion.

**People:** O merciful Lord, have mercy upon us and help us.

**Bishop:** Glory and thanksgiving, praise and adoration, and unceasing exaltation, truly at all times and hours, may we ascribe unto You, O Lord...

**PROMEON**

**Bishop:** ...(*Glory to You*), O Creator of the world, who by Your grace has renewed the Holy Church, extolled her by fully adorning her with divine gifts, established her with spiritual ornaments, blessed her with divine beauty, and invited His own people and gentiles into her; who has made them worthy to offer angelic praises within her and to offer perpetual praises to the Father who betrothed her to His Only Begotten Son, and to adore the Son who redeemed her through His blood, and to glorify the living Holy Spirit who dwells in her and sanctifies her; to You belong honor, glory and dominion at this time of the consecration of this Church temple, and at all festivals, times, seasons, hours, and all the days of our life, forever.

**People:** Amin.

**SEDRO**

**Bishop:** Glory be to You, Jesus Christ, the unshakable strong Rock. It is on this Rock that the Holy Church was established. It was not on a loose bed of sand, but on a firm and precious Corner Stone. The rock that supernaturally provided a spring of water for the Israelites to drink prefigured this rock. This was fulfilled when the Church that was established on the Rock was nourished by the Holy Spirit with the spiritual fountain of true doctrines. David spoke of this Church as "the one beautified by inner spiritual ornaments."

This was built with royal garments and the holy baptism, not like the tent of the old covenant which was made of red-colored fur and leather. This was built with spiritual chains and the majesty of the Holy Spirit, not with the cloud- and blood-colored thread. This is supported not by columns of brass and iron but by the prophets, who see the invisible things; and the apostles, who preach the truth; and by the martyrs, who are Christ's followers. This is not the prefiguration of the altar, which was sprinkled upon by the blood of sheep and lambs, but it is the divine and spiritual altar whereon the blood of the blameless Lamb of God is administered. This is not illumined by the seven lamps that lighted the crowd, but by the Sun of justice and by the morning stars that were inspired by the Holy Spirit. The prophets prefigured this Church. Moses, the head of the prophets prefigured her by the tent of the Israelites. Solomon, the ocean of wisdom, saw her in advance. Isaiah, the glorious among prophets, said, "Awake, your light has drawn near! The Lord's light will shine upon you." David sang, "Forget your people and the house of your father, for the king has desired your beauty." Much is written about this Church. Her eyes have become red. Her garments are bright. There are many that praise her. Her architects are wise. Her children are sons and daughters of the King. Her mysteries are hidden and her operations are incomprehensible. The Lord of the universe is her bridegroom. John the Baptist is her servant. Prophets are her guests. Apostles belong to her bridal party. Martyrs are her guests. Her wedding feast took place in darkness and under the cloud. She is hallowed by the Father, extolled by the Son, and protected by the Holy Spirit. Gentiles enter her and sing praise. Along with them do we also cry aloud, "Lord, remember Your Holy Church and elevate her tower of salvation!" May eternal tranquility remain in her. May enriched peace guide her. By Your grace, grant courage to our blessed pastors, motivation to the administrators, righteousness to the leaders, justice to the judges, unity to the priests, purity to the deacons, acceptable repentance to the sinners, and blessed memory to the faithful departed. May You, and Your Father, and Your living Holy Spirit be praised by all, now and always and forever.

**People:** Amin.

**QOLO**

*(Dahto lo Nehete - Reesh Qolo)*

Glory to Christ who – built upon His hands  
 The Church and set up the altar in it,  
 And He laid in it – as its foundation  
 All the prophets, apostles, and martyrs.  
 Halleluyah w’Halleluyah,  
 Bless’d is He who built and confirmed His Church! *Barekmor.*

**† Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!**

The Church built upon – the faith of Simon,  
 Which was set on seventy-two pillars,  
 Is raised high above – the Mount of Cardu;     *(Gen 8:4)*  
 The Architect who built it dwells on high.  
 Halleluyah w’Halleluyah,  
 Bless’d is He who set His altar in it!

*Unto the ages of ages and forevermore.*

At your doors, O Church, – the watchers do stand  
 And guard you from Satan by night and day:  
 The two wise builders, – both Peter and Paul;  
 Your servant John, the friend of the Bridegroom;  
 Halleluyah w’Halleluyah,  
 And David, Harp of the Holy Spirit.

*Lord, have mercy upon us and help us!*

**ETRO**

**Bishop:** Jesus Christ, our Lord and God, You are the Incense of sweet fragrance that reconciled the creation with the Father. We beseech You to accept this incense which we offer to adore Your majesty at this time of the consecration of this temple. O Lord, be pleased with this offering. Shower Your Holy Spirit upon us in order to sanctify the children of Your Church, we pray You. May Your grace flow in this temple. May it become a worthy place where holy mysteries are administered and acceptable sacrifices are offered. We offer praise and thanksgiving to You, Your Father, and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and forever!

**People:** Amin.



**PSALM & `ENYONO**  
(*Qadisho Dashri Skhinteh*)<sup>10</sup>

*[Psalm 150] Praise the Lord in His holy place; praise Him in the firmament of His strength.*

O Holy One, whose Presence  
Had sanctified Mount Sinai,  
Dwell in this sanctuary;  
Sanctify it by Your grace!

*Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him for His abounding greatness.*

God came upon Mount Sinai  
And laid His hands on Moses;  
Moses laid them on Aaron,  
And it was passed down to John.

*Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with lyres and harps.*

May the Spirit who dwelt in  
The prophets and apostles,  
Come and dwell in this temple,  
That it may be sanctified.

*Praise Him with timbrels and drums; praise Him with soft strings.*

May the Spirit who came down  
And rested upon the Son,  
Descend upon this temple  
That it may be sanctified.

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<sup>10</sup> Sung like *Maanavar Vanor Mun Mun Nin...*

*Praise Him with loud cymbals; praise Him with a loud voice and with shouts; let everything that has breath praise the Lord.*

May the Spirit, who took wing  
 And came to the Upper Room,  
 Descend upon this altar  
 That it may be sanctified. *Barekmor.*

***† Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!***

May the Spirit, who hallowed  
 Sam`u`el, while in the womb,  
 Come and dwell on this altar  
 That it may be sanctified.

*Unto the ages of ages and forevermore.*

Praise to the Holy Father  
 Who sent forth His Holy Son  
 Who dwelt in the holy womb  
 And hallowed the holy ones.

**Deacon:** Attend to divine wisdom! Let us all stand well and respond to the prayer of this exalted high priest and say:

### NICENE CREED

We believe in one true God, the Father Almighty, / Maker of heaven and earth / and of all things visible and invisible.

And in One Lord Jesus Christ, / the Only-Begotten, Son of God, / begotten of the Father before all worlds, / Light of Light, / True God of True God, / begotten, / not made / being of one essence with the Father, / and by Whom all things were made; / Who for us men and for our salvation / came down from heaven,

† And was incarnate of the Holy Spirit / and of the Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of God, / and became man,

† And was crucified for us / in the days of Pontius Pilate / and suffered, and died, and was buried,

† And on the third day rose again / according to His Will, / and ascended into heaven, / and sits at the right hand of His Father, / and shall come again in His great glory / to judge both the living and the dead, / whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the one Living Holy Spirit, / the life-giving Lord of all / Who proceeds from the Father, / and Who together with the Father and the Son / is worshipped and glorified, / who spoke through the prophets and the apostles.

And in the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. / And we confess one baptism for the remission of sins / and look for the resurrection of the dead / and the new life in the world to come. Amen.

## SANCTIFICATION OF THE ALTAR

### FIRST SIGNING

*The people should repeatedly chant "Kurielaison" while the bishop silently prays.*

**Bishop** (*Silent Prayer*): Lord God of hosts, who gave us the right to administer this service, who knows the hearts of men, and who examines our understandings and internal senses, hear us out of the abundance of Your mercy. Cleanse us from the stains of our bodies and minds. Do away with our sins like clouds and our error like dew. Fill us with Your power, with the grace of Your Only Begotten Son, and the indwelling of Your Most Holy Spirit. Enable us to become the ministers of Your new covenant. Enable us to perform Your mysteries and to observe the functions of the priesthood in the manner fitting to Your holy name. Leave us not to become partakers of the sins of others, and wipe away also our own sins. As we perform this service, grant Your guidance so that we may not do anything erroneously and carelessly.

**Bishop** (*Aloud*): Because You are kind and compassionate to all who call upon You, we lift up praise and adoration to You, Your Holy Son, and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and forever.

**People:** Amin.

*The bishop offers incense and signs a cross over the altar and the tablet/s without Holy Chrism (Myron) in the name of the Holy Father.*

QUQLIUN

(Psalm 23 – Third Tone)

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.  
Halleluyah,  
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul;  
Halleluyah,  
He leads me in right paths for His name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I fear no evil, Halleluyah,  
For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me,  
Halleluyah,  
In the presence of my enemies;

(*Shuh<sup>u</sup>lopho*)

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah!

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.  
Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah!

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.  
Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah! *Barekmor.*

† *Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!*  
*Unto the ages of ages and forevermore.*

`EQBO<sup>11</sup>

Holy are You, O Lord God,  
 O Fountain of Holiness!  
 You gave to us the priesthood  
 And accept our offe`rings.  
 You absolve the repentant  
 And pour forth gifts in Your grace.  
 O God, by Your sacrifice  
 The sins of all are pardoned.  
 And behold, Lord, all Your priests,  
 Glorify Your Holy Name!

*Stomen Kalos, Kurielaison!*

**Bishop:** Let us all pray and beseech the Lord for mercy and compassion.

**People:** O merciful Lord, have mercy upon us and help us!

## PROMEON

**Bishop:** (*Glory to...*), the Triune God, the One Holy Father, the One Holy Son, and the One Holy Spirit who is worthy of perpetual praise and adoration. This Triune God is without beginning and end, and is the ultimate cause of all things. As the ultimate Being, He is understood by the Church as the Sovereign (of the universe). The Father is incomprehensible, the Son is beyond examination, and the Spirit is not knowable. The Father is not begotten but is the begetter. The Son is not the begetter but is the begotten. The Spirit proceeds from the Father and receives from the Son. The One True God who is eternal and the eternal Son of the Eternal and who proceeds eternally from the Eternal does not possess a nature that is not adorable or an essence that is not venerable. He is three in one, and one in three. In this manner He maintains His Sovereignty. All creations of the past, and of the present, and of the future obey and worship this God. To Him belongs honor, glory, and dominion at this time of the consecration of this temple, and at all festivals, times, seasons, hours, and all the days of our life, forever. **People:** Amin.

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<sup>11</sup> May be sung like *Unmayilunnam Thrithwathin...* or like *Vandhya Sreeba...*

### SEDRO

**Bishop:** Christ our God, the true Bridegroom of our Holy Church!

You erected the indescribable columns of the Church, which rest in Your palms of Your hands that made all things. You erected these columns to remain unto the end of the world. Prophet and King David glorified this Church, saying, "The Lord dwell in it so that it may not shake; in the morning God will help it." The morning symbolized His redemptive coming. At that time You will appear with the holy angels in the glory of Your Father. Because of this we chant this spiritual song on the occasion of the festival of Your beautiful bride, the consecration of Your Church.

Blessed are you, Holy Church, for you are filled with divine assistance. Blessed are you, Holy Church, for you have been named the city of the great King by the prophet David. Blessed are you, Holy Church, for you are the mountain wherein the Lord dwells. Blessed are you, Holy Church, for according to the words of the psalmist Christ the King has arranged in you crowned kings for His adoration. Blessed are you, Holy Church, for as the glorious prophet Isaiah predicted, justice dwells in you. Blessed are you, Holy Church, for Solomon the wise called you "the Ocean of Wisdom." Blessed are you, Holy Church, for you are all-beautiful within. Blessed are you, Holy Church, for you were shown as a shining prefiguration to Moses, the chief among the prophets, on the peak of Mount Sinai. Blessed are you, Holy Church, for the Bridegroom who wed you has promised that the gates of hell shall never prevail against you. Blessed you, Holy Church, for the Heavenly King has determined your boundaries with peace. Blessed are you, Holy Church, for the faith proclaimed by Simon has become your cornerstone and your foundation. Blessed are you, Holy Church, for the divine apostle Paul has become your architect. Blessed are you, Holy Church, for your wedding chamber has been adorned with the triumphant cross of Christ, our Lord. Blessed are you, Holy Church, for your gates are always open all day and night as foretold by the glorious prophet.

And therefore, we beseech You with this fragrant incense: Raise up the towers of the Church. Gladden her shepherds. Cleanse her priests and enlighten her deacons. Protect her faithful members. Bless and sanctify this temple. May your power well up in it. Erect this for Your dwelling place. Accept the sacrifices and prayers offered inside this temple. Eradicate wars and conflicts from the world and from Your Church. May peace and unity reign over the church and the world. May Your gospel be preached everywhere, and may and everyone join together under its banner. May the sinners and criminals be liberated. Accept our supplications. Make us and our departed, and all the faithful departed, worthy to stand at Your right side and sing glory to You, and to Your Father, and to Your living Holy Spirit, now and always and forever.

**People:** Amin.

## SECOND SIGNING of the ALTAR

*The people should repeatedly chant "Kurielaison" while the bishop silently prays.*

**Bishop** *(Silent Prayer)*: O Lord, giver of gifts and internal perfection, You perfect everything and perform everything. You perfected the apostles with the perfect gifts of the Holy Spirit. You sent these to them by the tongues of fire. Even now, pour forth the gift of Your grace upon us. Do away with all misdeeds, all sins, and all the deeds against Your precepts by us. Adorn us with Your holy and perfect gifts, and extol us with Your abundant grace.

**Bishop** *(Aloud)*: Establish always in us the habit of practicing virtues that please Your will. We offer praise and thanks to You, to Your Father, and to Your Holy Spirit, now, always, and forever.

**People:** Amin.

*The bishop offers incense and signs a cross over the altar and the tablet/s without Holy Chrism (Myron) in the name of the Holy Son.*



QUQLIUN

(Psalm 26 – Seventh Tone)

Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in integrity,  
Halleluyah, Halleluyah,  
And in You I have trusted without wavering.

Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my soul and my heart.  
Halleluyah, Halleluyah,  
For Your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in Your truth.

I do not sit with false men, nor do I consort with hypocrites.  
Halleluyah, Halleluyah,  
I hate the company of evildoers, and will not sit with the wicked.

I wash my hands in innocence, and I go about Your altar, O Lord,  
Halleluyah, Halleluyah,  
Singing a song of thanksgiving and telling all Your wondrous deeds;

(Shuh<sup>h</sup>lopho)

O Lord, I love the habitation of Your house  
And the place where Your glory dwells.  
Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah!

Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men.  
Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah!

In whose hands are misdeeds, and whose hands are full of bribes.  
Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah!

But as for me, I walk in my integrity; be kind and have mercy on me.  
Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah!

My foot stands on level ground;  
In the assemblies I will bless the Lord!  
Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah! *Barekmor.*

† *Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!*  
*Unto the ages of ages and forevermore.*

`EQBO<sup>12</sup>

The grace that filled Isaiah,  
 Given by the God of peace,  
 Was also granted to us;  
 For we know and understand,  
 That, Christ, You came to the world  
 To dissolve the enmity  
 Against our God and Father  
 By Your blood poured out for us.

**THIRD SIGNING of the ALTAR**

*The people should repeatedly chant "Kurielaison" while the bishop silently prays.*

**Bishop** (*Silent Prayer*): O Holy Spirit, who searches all things, who knows the hidden truths and mysteries of the heart, purify us from the mortal bitterness of the tree that made our original creation mortal and expelled us from paradise. Fill us with the sweetness of Your living and lordly grace.

**Bishop** (*Aloud*): Perfect Your Church with the help of Your grace and adorn Your congregation without blemish. Protect her from all sorts of wars of the enemies and from the harm inflicted by wretched and wicked people. May she sing divine praises to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and forever.

**People:** Amin.

*The bishop offers incense and signs a cross over the altar and the tablet/s without Holy Chrism (Myron) in the name of the Holy Spirit.*

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<sup>12</sup> May be sung like *Unmayilunnam Thrithwathin...* or like *Vandhya Sleeba...*

PSALM & `ENYONO  
(Bgaw `Idath Qudsho)<sup>13</sup>

*[Psalm 132] O Lord, remember David and his perfect humility. He made a pledge in the Lord, and he offered his vows to the God of Jacob.*

Holy are you, O Lord God,  
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord,  
By whom the heavens are filled;  
And whose glory fills the earth!

*"I will not enter the gate of my house, nor will I take my bed, nor will I give rest to my eyes until I find a house for the Lord and a dwelling place for the God of Jacob."*

Sanctified is this altar  
As the high priest anoints it;  
It is adorned with power  
Of the Most Holy Spirit.

*We heard of it in Ephratha, and we saw it in the fields. Let us enter His tent and worship at His altar. Arise, O Lord, and enter Your ark, which is Your place of rest.*

Sanctified is this altar  
By the Spirit's indwelling,  
As the hand of this high priest  
Signs it with Holy Chrism.

*Your priests shall be clothed in righteousness and Your saints in glory. For Your servant, David's sake, turn not away the face of Your anointed. The Lord swore to David, "In truth I will not turn away from you. Of the fruit of your body I will set upon the throne."*

Make this Your dwelling, O Lord,  
Your holy habitation;  
Establish it by Your hand  
And dwell in it forever!

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<sup>13</sup> Sung like *Shuchiyodushudhyaa Beskudishaa...*

*"If your children keep My law and the testimony that I have instructed, I will establish one of their sons upon your throne forever."*

Keep this temple, O Lord God,  
As Your honorable house.  
This temple shall remain firm  
Only if You dwell in it.

*"Because I have loved this place, I shall remain. I will bless her possessions. I will satisfy her poor with bread. I will clothe her priests with salvation, and her righteous in glory."*

In this temple, O Lord God,  
Grant worthiness to Your priests,  
Modesty to Your deacons,  
And virtue to Your faithful.

*"May every race take refuge in this place. I will raise here a tower for David and will light a lamp for my anointed; I will clothe his enemies with shame, but upon him his crown will glisten."*

Lord, Your bride, the Holy Church  
Beseeches You and cries out:  
"Make Your way straight before me;  
Lead me in the path of truth." *Barekmor.* (Cf. Ps. 5:8)

**† *Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!***

Holy are you, O Lord God,  
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord,  
By whom the heavens are filled;  
And whose glory fills the earth!

*Unto the ages of ages and forevermore.*

Glory be to the Father,  
And the Son and the Spirit:  
One in Three and Three in One,  
The Most Holy Trinity!

**PRAYER**

**Bishop:** O Lord, while You are glorified by the incorporeal hosts, You are pleased to be praised by the mouths of the earthly multitudes. O Lord, who are more holy than all holy ones, sanctify us and our temple with the holiness that sets out from You. Make us perfect with Your mysteries. Make us worthy of Your service in order to praise You and Your Father and Your living Holy Spirit with rational mouths, and with tongues that narrate Your divine attributes, now and always and forever!

**People:** Amin.

## LITANY

**Archdeacon:** Let us stand well with fervor, and in voice pleasing to God cry aloud and say, "Lord, have mercy!"

**People:** Kurielaison!

*(Lord, have mercy!)*

**Archdeacon:** Christ our God, who were pleased to become high priest and redeemer for us, we beseech You:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** O Lord, who are the spotless Lamb of God and who made the life-giving cross an adorable altar, and sanctified it with Your blood, and offered Yourself as a perfect sacrifice to Your Father, we beseech You:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** O Lord, who commanded to sanctify the altar of the tent with the blood of goats and with different kinds of lavations, and who were pleased to sanctify the real spiritual altar of the New Covenant with the Holy Spirit, and the priesthood, and the Holy Chrism, we beseech You:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** O Lord, who in the past sent fire upon the altar of Elijah, and who now sends life to this altar, and sends the grace of the Holy Spirit who is consubstantial with You, we beseech You:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** For peace in the Church, for sanctification of this sanctuary and temple, for the living and departed fathers of the Church, for all the living and departed parents, brothers and sisters, we beseech You:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** Let us cry aloud three times:

**People:** Kurielaison! Kurielaison! Kurielaison!

*(Lord, have mercy! Lord, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!)*

*Upon completion of the Litany, the people should repeatedly chant "Kurielaison" if the bishop is still completing the following silent prayer.*

**Bishop** (*Silent Prayer*): O God our Redeemer, You expressed Your love of humankind in various ways. You arranged Your Church with perfect wisdom and spiritual prudence. You arranged the priestly order to resemble the service of the heavenly angels. You liberated Your creation from the deception of Satan and from vain worship. You made it worthy of worshipping You, who are the only sovereign God. Lord, our King, accept our supplication on behalf of this temple. We are unworthy to perform this; it is the outpouring of Your grace that performs this rite (of consecration). Help us and show us Your mercy. You helped us in many ways through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Your Only Begotten Son. He observed the will of His Father, and offered Himself as a pure sacrifice. He granted absolution to the entire world through His crucifixion and death and His resurrection after the third day as foretold. Even after His resurrection and ascension, He did not leave his disciples. He sent to them the Holy Spirit, who is the Comforter. This real Spirit proceeds from the Father and receives from the Son. From the very beginning the seers and ministers of the Word were filled with this Spirit, and through their gifts built Churches and erected altars. They determined the baptism of adoption, precepts of the Covenant, and the order of rites. They entrusted the priesthood to us to offer the sacrifice offered by Christ as oblation and to perform the other mysteries. Therefore, as instructed by them we perform this service and offer supplications to You, O God the Father, and to Your Only Begotten Son, and to Your Living Holy Spirit, and beseech You: sanctify completely, Lord, this altar with Your grace-filled Chrism, the spiritual and divine Myron. On account of this anointing may the oblation be performed as a bloodless and worthy sacrifice on this altar. We stand in this sanctuary of the throne of Your Kingdom, and pray for ourselves and all Your people: may we receive the sacred body of our Lord Jesus and the lordly blood shed for us. Amen.

**Bishop** *(Aloud)*: O Lord, through Your Holy Spirit, perfect this priestly function which we have already begun. Make this altar a permanent table suitable for the administration of Your heavenly mysteries. Make this sanctuary a harbor of comfort for those who are afflicted, and a place that controls thoughts and deeds that flow from grace, a place of liberation from sins committed knowingly and unknowingly, and an institution of deliverance from offensive actions through our desire for righteous deeds. O God, You and Your Only Begotten Son and Your Holy Spirit are worthy of adoration always. To You, the Triune One, belong glory, honor, and dominion, now and always and forever.

**People**: Amin.

*The people should repeatedly chant "Kurielaison" while the bishop silently prays.*

**Bishop** *(Silent Prayer)*: O God, Lord of all creation and creator of all beings, who move everything for the help and salvation of all human races, and who established the depths and laid the foundation of earth upon purity, in all countries and cities You erected Your churches. You raised altars and ordered the oblations and spotless spiritual sacrifices to be offered on them. Now, O Lord, because of Your love for us, send down Your Holy Spirit. Perfect this altar for the salvation and faithful hope of those who approach You, and for the renewal of our bodies, spirits, and souls.

**Bishop** *(Aloud)*: Because You only are truly compassionate, long-suffering, and rich in grace, glory and thanksgiving are due unto You, O Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever.

**People**: Amin.



## ANOINTING OF THE ALTAR WITH HOLY CHRISM

*The bishop holds the bottle of Holy Chrism (Myron) and ceremoniously elevates it, turning to east, west, north, and south, saying:*

**Bishop** Halleluyah!

**People:** Halleluyah!

*After this elevation, the bishop anoints the altar with Holy Chrism three times along the same lines he has previously drawn over the altar without Chrism.*

### *First Signing*

**Bishop:** In the Name of the Father †...O Lord, sanctify this altar by thy sacred hand, and dwell upon it forever. Halleluyah!

**People:** Halleluyah! *(Repeatedly)*

### *Second Signing*

**Bishop:** In the Name of the Son †...More favorably than Your beloved ones, Your God has anointed You with the oil of gladness (Ps. 45:7). Halleluyah!

**People:** Halleluyah! *(Repeatedly)*

### *Third Signing*

**Bishop:** In the Name of the Holy Spirit †... Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amin. Halleluyah!

**People:** Halleluyah! *(Repeatedly)*

*Then the bishop signs on the altar without Holy Chrism saying the following prayer.*

**Bishop** This altar, which has been anointed with Holy Chrism, is sealed for life eternal: In the name of the Father † and in the name of the Son † and in the name of the Holy Spirit † now and always, and forever and ever.

**People:** Amin.

*The above service is also used to consecrate any tablet(s) for the altar.*

## QUQLIUN

*(Psalm 84 – Fourth Tone)*

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! Halleluyah,  
My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the Lord.

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest, Halleluyah,  
Where she may lay her young at your altars, O Lord God.

Bless`ed are those who dwell in Your house, Halleluyah,  
Ever singing praises to You, my King and my God!

Bless`ed are those whose strength is in You, Halleluyah,  
Whose heart is set on pilgrimage to Zion.

As they pass through the valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs,  
Halleluyah, and it is covered with pools by the rain.

They go from strength to strength; Halleluyah,  
The God of gods will be seen in Zion.

*(Shuhlopho)*

Be our shield, O God, and look upon the face of Your anointed.  
Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah!

For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.  
Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah!

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.  
Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah!

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor.  
Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah!

No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.  
Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah!

O Lord of hosts, bless`ed are those who trust in You.  
Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah! *Barekmor.*

*† Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!  
Unto the ages of ages and forevermore.*

EQBO<sup>14</sup>

The Holy Church brings Chrism  
To seal and anoint this place.  
Likewise, by Your grace, O Lord,  
The faithful are anointed,  
And they receive the Spirit.  
Thus, this temple is hallowed!

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<sup>14</sup> May be sung like *Vandhya Sleeba...*

## LITANY

**Archdeacon:** Let us stand well and cry aloud, "Lord, have mercy!"

**People:** Kurielaison!

*(Lord, have mercy!)*

**Archdeacon:** For this altar, which has been cleansed and sanctified, and filled with grace and divine power, let us again and again beseech the Lord:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** In order for the Holy Spirit to descend and purify and complete the sacraments performed on this altar, let us beseech the Lord:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** For those who offer sacrifices on this altar, and for those who serve at this altar, let us beseech the Lord:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** So that God may accept the services offered on this altar like the oblations of Abel, Noah the righteous, and Melchizedek the high priest, and like sacrifice of Abraham, let us beseech the Lord:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** For our parents, brothers, and sisters, and for those who are far and near, and for all of us and for all who come into this temple to worship, let us beseech the Lord:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** Let us cry aloud three times:

**People:** Kurielaison! Kurielaison! Kurielaison!

*(Lord, have mercy! Lord, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!)*

*The people should repeatedly chant "Kurielaison" while the bishop silently prays.*

**Bishop** (*Silent Prayer*): Lord God of hosts, we thank You for the grace which was given to the apostles and to the fathers, and which was not denied to us but was graciously and compassionately granted us. Though we are still unworthy, make our prayers efficacious for us and for all those mentioned in our prayers. Therefore, O Lord, Your name, along with those of Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, which are more honorable than all, will be glorified, now and always and forever. Amin.

**Bishop** (*Aloud*): O Lord, make us worthy to stand before You in purity and holiness and offer the bloodless living sacrifice over this altar, which was consecrated with piety. May this be not for our punishment or condemnation, but for the building up of the Holy Church, for the growth and prosperity of Your people, and for the glory and exaltation of Your Kingdom. Your name, along with those of Your Father and the Holy Spirit, which is glorious, are worthy of adoration and praise, now and always and forever.

**People:** Amin.

### CONCLUDING PRAYER

**Bishop** Christ our Lord, who are the true high priest, You adorned the Holy Church with all spiritual and holy ornaments. You filled her with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. You exalted her with the holy mysteries. Now, O Lord, extend Your right hand and bless Your people. Pour forth Your grace upon the people who supplicate before You. Give Your glorious gifts to the worshippers who stand with devotion before Your altar, which was blessed through our mediation. Help them to sing along with the angels spiritual hymns and songs unceasingly. With Your power help our pastors. Decorate the priests with Your truth. Bless the deacons with Your affection. Lead the sub-deacons with Your right hand. Strengthen the readers with compassion. Illumine the cantors with Your light. Purify the celibates with Your support. Calm the married with Your grace. Teach the youth Your way of piety. Uphold the elderly who call upon You. Protect the orphans with mercy. Feed the poor from Your treasury. Comfort the widows who are dependent on You. Raise the depressed who rely on Your strength. Give aid to the oppressed who take refuge in You. Have mercy upon those beaten who see You as their hope. Bless the young, sanctify the children, and give growth to infants and strengthen them. Straighten those who have gone astray. Protect women and liberate the bound. With hope Your Holy Church offers glory and thanksgiving to You, to Your Holy Father, and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and forever.

**People:** Amin.

*The bishop blesses and exalts the altar linens, candle stands, and other items pertaining to the altar, saying the following three times:*

**Bishop:** For the glory, honor, praise, and exaltation of the Holy Trinity, one in essence, and for the tranquility and building up of the Holy Church of God!

**HYMN**

For the glory and honor  
Of the Holy Trinity;  
For the peace and building up  
Of the Holy Church of God!

*The priests and deacons cover the altar with linens and place the candlesticks in their proper places. During this time the following Manitho may be chanted.*

**MANITHO<sup>15</sup>**

God spoke to Moses the great,  
And commanded his prophet  
To anoint with holy oil  
The tent and its adornments.  
And with this Holy Chrism  
That brings grace of the Spirit,  
Through the hands of this high priest  
This temple is sanctified,  
For the protection of faith  
And for the worship of God.  
We now offer praise and sing,  
“Praise be to You, Lord of all!”

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<sup>15</sup> May be sung like *Unmayilunnam Thrithwathin...* or like *Vandhya Sleeba...*

**THE THIRD SERVICE****CONSECRATION OF THE NAVE OF THE TEMPLE***(HAYKLO)*

**† Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit!**

May His mercy and compassion be upon us, weak and sinful, in both worlds, forever and ever. Amin.

*Introductory Prayer*

Make us worthy, O Lord God, to stand in Your temple with purity and holiness. We beseech you to remain in our midst and with us at this time. Shower us with the wealth of your divine gifts in order for us to serve you together with the holy angels, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever. Amin.



*Psalm of Repentance*

**[Psalm 51] Have mercy upon me, O God, in Your loving kindness;/  
in the abundance of Your mercy blot out my sin.**

Wash me thoroughly from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin./  
For I acknowledge my fault and my sins are before me always.

**Against You only have I sinned and done evil in Your sight, / that  
You may be justified in Your words and vindicated in Your  
judgment. / For I was born in guilt and in sin did my mother  
conceive me.**

But You take pleasure in truth and You have made known to me the  
secrets of Your wisdom. / Sprinkle me with Your hyssop and I shall  
be clean; / wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Give me the comfort of Your joy and gladness, and the bones  
which have been humbled shall rejoice. / Turn away Your face  
from my sins and blot out all my faults.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, / and renew Your steadfast spirit  
within me. / Do not cast me from Your presence / and take not Your  
Holy Spirit from me.

**But restore to me Your joy and Your salvation / and let Your  
glorious spirit sustain me;/ that I may teach the wicked Your way /  
and sinners may return to You.**

Deliver me from blood, O God, God of my salvation / and my  
tongue shall praise Your justice. / O Lord, open my lips and my  
mouth shall sing Your praise.

**For You do not take pleasure in sacrifices;/ by burnt offerings You  
are not appeased. / The sacrifice of God is a humble spirit, / a heart  
that is contrite God will not despise.**

Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion and build up the walls of  
Jerusalem. / Then shall You be satisfied with sacrifices of truth and  
with whole burnt-offerings; / then shall they offer bullocks upon  
Your altar. *And to You belongs the praise, O God! Barekmor.*

**† Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!**  
*Unto the ages of ages and forevermore.*

`ENYONO  
(*Haw Duhdono*)<sup>16</sup>

He who by His grace placed in His Church  
The altar of *spiritual* life  
For the forgiveness of sins,  
We come to You; Lord, have mercy!

He who showed Moses on Mount Sinai  
The trans`i`tory dwelling  
As a type of the True Church,  
We come to You; Lord, have mercy!

He who placed in her the Spirit's gifts,  
Founding her on the prophets,  
Apostles, and bless'd martyrs  
We come to You; Lord, have mercy! *Barekmor.*

**† Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!**  
*Unto the ages of ages and forevermore.*

Christ who by the blood poured from Your side  
Redeemed Your Church from error,  
Gath'ring her children to You,  
We come to You; Lord, have mercy!

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<sup>16</sup> Sung like *Devesha Mashihā...*

*Stomen Kalos, Kurielaison!*

**Bishop:** Let us all pray and beseech the Lord for mercy and compassion.

**People:** O merciful Lord, have mercy upon us and help us.

**Bishop:** Glory and thanksgiving, praise and adoration, and unceasing exaltation, truly at all times and hours, may we ascribe unto You, O Lord...

**PROMEON**

**Bishop:** ...(*Glory to You*), the Source of every grace. As you are the original being, everything returns to You. You remain in all things and sustain all things. You are the Source of all divine gifts and the Giver of heavenly graces. You have adorned and illuminated Your Church with holy hierarchs and pure priests, who are elevated to Your treasury and given authority over the heights and depths in order to loose and bind. To You belong glory, honor, and dominion at this time of the consecration of this temple, and at all festivals, times, seasons, hours, and all the days of our life, forever.

**People:** Amin.

## SEDRO

**Bishop:** Lord God, who are the awe-inspiring sovereign, exalted, invisible, ineffable, and inscrutable; You are praised as God and blessed eternally. In the heights multitudes of angels glorify You, and heavenly hosts worship You and are always offering You hymns of holy praises; the holy Seraphim, in sweet voice, are singing the Trisagion and are, in indescribable song, continually chanting "Holy, Holy, Holy!" You exist in the divine tent of the Church of the first born. Now You have appointed this earthly, visible Church; Your fingers have fashioned her. You constructed her with Your precious blood. You adorned her with the garment woven by the Holy Spirit. You arranged Baptism as a divine mother. You perfected her with the divine and spiritual decoration of triumphant priests and devoted and victory-proclaiming deacons. You called her "the strong city of salvation (*Is. 26:1*)" and "the resting place of wanderers (*cf. 1 Chron. 17:9*)." You erected in her Your holy cross, which is the altar of sacrifice, and on this altar You broke and distributed Your body and mixed Your blood into the salvific chalice, and by Your grace renewed her. With Your divine gifts, You invited the distant gentiles and brought them to Your holy ones. In this Church they sing due praises to You and venerate Your holy cross and bless Your name. With them we also utter the words of the prophet, "Remember, Lord, the Church You have gained." You bought her with Your blood and liberated her by Your suffering. You redeemed her with Your cross. O Lord, I pray to you for this Catholic and Apostolic Church. May your peace and tranquility reside in her. Erect in her orthodox shepherds who combat for her. Heal the sick in this Church. Comfort the afflicted. Give joy to those who are weeping. Give peace of mind to the sorrowful. Give propitiation and forgiveness to those faithful departed, and give them good memory before the heavenly altar. O Lord, absolve the sins of all of us who beseech You for mercy. Make them and us worthy to offer glory and praise to You, Your Holy Father, and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and forever.

**People:** Amin.

**QOLO**

(Enono Nuhro Shareero – Seventh Tone)

Come, all people, and hear these words!  
 Isaiah, the glorious prophet,  
 Cried out to the Holy Church:  
 “Wake and rise and be enlightened,  
 For Your Bridegroom is coming!”<sup>17</sup>  
     Day and night, O Holy Church,  
     Your doors shall remain open  
     And they shall never be shut,  
 In you kings will seek refuge,  
 And all nations will praise you! Barekmor.

*† Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!  
 Unto the ages of ages and forevermore.*

From heaven the Son descended  
 And betrothed the Holy Church.  
 For her sake He suffered the cross;  
 Glory to Him forever!  
     All the children of the Church,  
     Those faithful saved by His cross,  
     Sing praises and cry aloud:  
 “Holy are you, Son of God,  
 Who redeemed and saved the world!”

*Lord, have mercy upon us and help us!*

**ETRO**

**Bishop:** By Your grace, O Lord, raise the fortress of Your Holy Church, which resembles the spiritual Zion. Build up her community with Your gifts. Gladden her children with Your blessings. Exalt her children with Your mercy. With joy she and her children offer glory and thanksgiving to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever.

**People:** Amin.

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<sup>17</sup> Cf. Is. 26:19, 52:1, and 60:1

**PSALM & `ENYONO**  
(*Qadisho Dashri Skhinteh*)<sup>19</sup>

*[Psalm 150] Praise the Lord in His holy place; praise Him in the firmament of His strength.*

O Holy One, whose Presence  
Had sanctified Mount Sinai,  
Come and dwell in this temple;  
Sanctify it by Your grace!

*Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him for His abounding greatness.*

God came upon Mount Sinai  
And laid His hands on Moses;  
Moses laid them on Aaron,  
And it was passed down to John.

*Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with lyres and harps.*

May the Spirit who dwelt in  
The prophets and apostles,  
Come and dwell in this temple,  
That it may be sanctified.

*Praise Him with timbrels and drums; praise Him with soft strings.*

May the Spirit who came down  
And rested upon the Son,  
Descend upon this temple  
That it may be sanctified.

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<sup>19</sup> Sung like *Maanavar Vanor Mun Mun Nin...*

*Praise Him with loud cymbals; praise Him with a loud voice and with shouts; let everything that has breath praise the Lord.*

May the Spirit, who took wing  
And came to the Upper Room,  
Descend upon this temple  
That it may be sanctified. *Barekmor.*

***† Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!***

May the Spirit, who hallowed  
Sam`u`el, while in the womb,  
Come and dwell in this temple  
That it may be sanctified.

*Unto the ages of ages and forevermore.*

Praise to the Holy Father  
Who sent forth His Holy Son  
Who dwelt in the holy womb  
And hallowed the holy ones.

## LITANY

**Archdeacon:** Let us stand with zeal and cry out, "Lord, have mercy!"

**People:** Kurielaison!

*(Lord, have mercy!)*

**Archdeacon:** For the angel of peace, Christian tranquility, and for mercy at the time of the last judgment, let us beseech the Lord:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** So that God may send His grace to this temple and establish its foundations, and strengthen its walls with righteousness, and make it a haven for the repentant and a harbor of comfort for the afflicted; and so that God may listen to the supplications of those of those who pray with true faith and grant salvation to the repentant and comfort to the faithful departed, let us beseech the Lord:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** For the completion of the consecration of this temple, let us beseech the Lord:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** So that God may fill this temple with His grace and make it His own, let us beseech the Lord:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** For the venerable hierarch(s), priests, and deacons who are present here and for their service of consecration, let us beseech the Lord:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** For all the faithful people present in this temple, let us beseech the Lord:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** For the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church spread all over the world, and for peace and progress in her and in the world, let us beseech the Lord.

**People:** Kurielaison!



**Archdeacon:** Let us remember the holy, great, and ever-virgin Mary, the Mother of God, the holy apostles and prophets, the victorious and blessed martyrs and confessors, the evangelists and the righteous, and all the holy ones who pleased God from the beginning; and to be granted power from God in this and other services through their prayers and intercessions, let us beseech the Lord.

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** For fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters; for all of us and for all those near and far to us, and for this temple which is being sanctified; for the generous people of God who contributed toward the obtaining of this building and property for the worship of God with their words, their body, their mind, their actions, and their wealth, and for all people who helped this church in any manner; and for the welfare of this hierarch(s), *(Name)*, who performs this consecration and our priest, *(Name)*, who shepherds this congregation, let us beseech the Lord.

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** Let us cry aloud three times:

**People:** Kurielaison! Kurielaison! Kurielaison!

*(Lord, have mercy! Lord, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!)*

*The people should repeatedly chant "Kurielaison" while the bishop silently prays.*

**Bishop** *(Silent Prayer)*: Lord God, the author of all spiritual, material, and visible creation, and the creator of all celestials, terrestrials, and subterrestrials, the Church that ministers You, Your Only Begotten Son, and your Holy Spirit You have perfected like the first-born inscribed in the heavenly Church. Even now, O Lord, send Your blessing and sanctify this temple to become suitable for the worship of Your name, which is most honorable among all. May the prayers offered in this temple bear fruit. When Your people do virtuous acts and offer oblations and first-fruits, and beseech blessing in this place, may they receive salvation and remission of sin and be illuminated in indestructible wisdom. May they receive good counsel and share it with others. May they receive eternal bliss through Your Holy Spirit and overcome sorrow and obtain eternal beatitude. When they do good acts for this temple, inscribe their names in heaven. May Your righteous ones rejoice over the sheep that flock to this place, and be aware of Your presence here, and bless You, now and always and forever. Amen.

**Bishop** *(Aloud)*: O Lord, we pray and beseech You: fulfill the word uttered by Your mouth. Fulfill Your sacred promises. May Your Holy Spirit dwell here and perform what is necessary. May the words of the gospel become meaningful in the rites and prayers offered in this place. May the grace, mercy, and compassion of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, Your Only Begotten Son, help us obtain this petition. With Him, You and Your Holy Spirit are worthy of glory, honor, and dominion, now and always and forever.

**People**: Amen.

**Bishop**: Peace be unto you to all.

**People**: And with your spirit.

*The people should repeatedly chant "Kurielaison" while the bishop silently prays.*

**Bishop** (*Silent Prayer*): O King and Savior, holy maker and creator of all, You deposited the seed of wisdom with human nature, so that human beings could develop tools, arts, and useful reason, and do away with irrational thoughts and our lives pertaining to animals. You provide rational knowledge to protect us from hardships due to heavy rains and severe drought. Although You do not lack anything, accept these congregants who glorify You by making this temple for the purpose of priestly worship and services. You demand us to worship and serve You, not because You lack anything or need anything, but in order that those who offer worship may attain growth and prosperity. Long ago, You gave spiritual wisdom to Bezalel to build a tent for Moses. You protected the people who were traveling across the desert, and sanctified them when the tent was blessed. Now, O Lord, by Your mighty hand bless, sanctify, and protect this holy priestly temple, which we consecrate on Your behalf for the purpose of singing praises to You, now and always and forever. Amin.

**Bishop** (*Aloud*): O Lord, we rejoice in Your priestly precepts, divine operation, and celebration of Your heavenly and awe-inspiring mysteries; and we offer glory and thanksgiving to You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever.

**People:** Amin.

*When the bishop and clergy move around the temple to anoint the walls, the clergy and deacons shall carry lighted candles, fans, the book of the gospel, a container with Holy Chrism (Myron), and the censer. The areas of the nave to be anointed are: the three walls (east, north, and south) of the sanctuary; the east walls of the nave near the sanctuary; above the main doors and/or windows of both walls of the nave; above the main door on the west wall of the nave; inside the baptismal font; and other important areas of the walls as needed.*

## ANOINTING OF THE WALLS

*The bishop now anoints the walls of the nave (hayklo) with Holy Chrism and prays:*

**Bishop:** Christ our God, bless us who are weak and this temple through the prayer of Your mother, Mary the Theotokos, and Saint (*Name*), because Your name, along with that of the Father and of the Holy spirit, is blessed, now and always and forever... [**People:** *Barekmor*]

...In the name of the † Father, and of the † Son, and of the † Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amin.

*During the anointing of the walls the following hymns may be chanted, or the congregation may repeatedly chant "Kurielaison."*

### MANITHO<sup>20</sup>

O Lord Jesus Christ our God,  
Through intercession and pray'rs  
Of Mary, Your pure Mother,  
Of Your holy Apostles,  
And of Saint (*Name*),  
Who protects this, Your temple,  
Bless us and bless this temple,  
O Father, Son, and Spirit.  
Your name is worthy of praise  
Now, always, and forever!

OR

*(Hwi Loh Lnafesh – Reesh Qolo)*

Bless`ed is He, who built the Holy Church on His hands  
And placed as her foundation the prophets, apostles,  
And the martyrs.  
He filled her with all peoples who offer – praise by night and day.

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<sup>20</sup> May be sung like *Unmayilunnam Thrithwathin...* or like *Vandhya Sleeba...*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*1 Kings 8: 10–11; 22–50*

<b>GOSPEL</b>
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*(Pethgomo – Psalm 122:1)*

Halleluyah, Halleluyah

I was gladdened when they said to me,  
 “Let us go into the house of the Lord.”

Halleluyah

**Deacon:** *Barekmor.* With stillness, fear and purity, let us give heed and listen to the Good News of the living words of God, in the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ that is read to us.

**Bishop:** † Peace be unto you all.

**People:** May the Lord God make us worthy, with your spirit.

**Bishop:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, the life-giving proclamation from St. John the Apostle, who preaches the good news of life and salvation to the world.

**People:** Blessed is He Who has come and is to come; Glory be to Him Who sent Him for our salvation, and may His mercy be upon us all, forever.

**Bishop:** Now in the time of the Incarnation of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God, Who was incarnate of the Holy Virgin Mary, these things did come to pass in this manner. †

**People:** We believe and confess!

*(The bishop reads from the Gospel of St. John 10: 22–38)*

**Bishop:** † Peace be unto you all.

## LITANY

**Archdeacon:** Let us stand with zeal and cry out, "Lord, have mercy!"

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** Christ our God, who exist in the noblest of places but still are concerned with the lowliest of beings, we beseech you:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** O Lord, whose throne is heaven and whose footstool is earth, and on whom everything is dependent, and who accept those who approach You with faith as your dwelling places, we beseech you:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** O Lord, who remain in the midst of those who come into this temple made by human hands, in order to honor You, we beseech You:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** O Lord, who made this temple made by human hands Your dwelling, and who erected the altar in the place of the manger that had received You and in the place of Golgotha where Your cross was raised up, we beseech You:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** In order for us to be made worthy of seeing Your light in this temple all the days of our lives, we beseech You:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** So that Your power that hallows all things may hover inside this temple, which was made for Your glory and for the worship of Your holy name, and so that we may become worthy of perceiving well your spiritual operations in this temple through our inner eyes, we beseech You, Christ our God:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** So that we may become temples of Your Holy Spirit, Christ our true God, we beseech You:

**People:** Kurielaison!

**Archdeacon:** Let us cry aloud three times:

**People:** Kurielaison! Kurielaison! Kurielaison!

**Bishop** *(Aloud)*: Lord our Good Master, we offer thanksgiving to You and praise Your holy name, which is above all, for all the favors You have granted to us. You have made us worthy to sanctify this priestly temple, which was established for Your glory and for the benefit of our life. Therefore, O Lord, claim this temple, sanctified by us and all people worshiping here, as Your own. May we receive the inheritance of those saved by rejecting worldly desires and evils, and by living a life of righteousness, spiritual maturity, divine submission, and vigilance. Because You are the God who redeems, we offer praise and thanksgiving to You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever.

**People**: Amin.

*The people should repeatedly chant "Kurielaison" while the bishop silently prays.*

**Bishop** *(Silent Prayer)*: Our God, remember all those who have brought to this holy temple their harvests, offerings, sufferings, and labors, and all those who are still contributing to this church according to their ability, and reward them with Your abundant gifts.

**Bishop** *(Aloud)*: O Lord, protect Your devotees by Your divine hosts. Rescue them from diabolical snares and the deceptions of evil people. Bless the work of their hands and multiply their blessings. Lead them into proper paths that please You. Eradicate their diseases and debilities. Because You give joy to those who call upon You, and because You are abundant in grace, You, Your Only Begotten Son, and Your Holy spirit are worthy of honor and dominion, now and always and forever.

**People**: Amin.

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Bishop:** Lord God, we give thanks to You for granting us worthiness to bless Your name before Your presence in this temple. We beseech You, defend and protect us from evil strategies of the enemy. Bless this temple by Your benediction. Sustain this for the purpose of offering spiritual thanksgiving. Make us worthy to receive Your awe-inspiring heavenly mysteries. You have willed to make this Your house, and erected this for the glory of Your name; therefore, come and dwell in this place. Protect it, and by the power of the Holy Spirit be the fortress of this temple, now and always and forever.

**People:** Amin.

*Now the bishop takes the same cross meant to be placed on the altar and leads the exaltation of the cross in the four directions of the world. Upon completion of the exaltation, the cross will be placed upon the altar.*



EXALTATION OF THE CROSS IN THE FOUR DIRECTIONS
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*Turning to the East, the priest shall say:*

**Bishop:** To the One - angels serve,

**Response:** Holy are - You, O God!\_\_

**Bishop:** To the One - cherubim bless,

**Response:** Holy are - You, Almighty!

**Bishop:** To the One - seraphim hallow,

**Response:** Holy are - You, Immortal

**Bishop:** O Sinners, with repentance, entreat say`ing: \_\_

**Response:** O Christ, who was crucified for us sinners, \_\_  
have mercy on us!

*Turning to the West:*

**Bishop:** To the One - fiery hosts praise,

**Response:** Holy are - You, O God!\_\_

**Bishop:** To the One - spiritual beings exalt,

**Response:** Holy are - You, Almighty!

**Bishop:** To the One - mortals worship,

**Response:** Holy are - You, Immortal

**Bishop:** Children of the faithful Church, entreat say`ing: \_\_

**Response:** O Christ, who was crucified for us sinners, \_\_  
have mercy on us!

*Turning to the North:***Bishop:** To the One - whom the heavens praise,**Response:** Holy are - You, O God!\_\_**Bishop:** To the One - those between exalt,**Response:** Holy are - You, Almighty!**Bishop:** To the One - praised below on earth,**Response:** Holy are - You, Immortal**Bishop:** O Sinners, with repentance, entreat say`ing:\_\_**Response:** O Christ, who was crucified for us sinners,\_\_have mercy on us!*Turning to the South:***Bishop:** Lord, have mercy - upon us**Response:** Lord, be kind - and have mercy**Bishop:** Lord, accept our service and our entreaties;\_\_Have mercy on us**Response:** Glory to - You, O God**Bishop:** Glory to - You, Creator**Response:** Glory to You, Christ the King, Who has mercy\_\_upon us sinners. *Barekmor.**Our Father, who art in heaven...**By the grace of God, the consecration of the temple of God is completed.*

