

The Holy  
Matrimony of  
Sanoj J. Titus  
& Binu K. Abi

May 15th, 2021

Saint  
Mark's  
Episcopal  
Cathedral



**Presiding Officiant**

Reverend Christopher Daniel

**Officiating Clergy**

Reverend Canon Jennifer King Daugherty

**Layperson**

Joseph Mathew

**Groom**

Sanoj J. Titus

**Bride**

Binu K. Abi

**Parents of the Groom**

Thomas Titus & Omana Titus

**Parents of the Bride**

Abi Kurian & Jessy Abi

**Best Man**

Manoj Titus

**Maid of Honor**

Lisa Mathew

**Groomsmen**

Noble Mathew  
Shawn John  
Jason Lao  
Kunal Thadani  
Deebu Abi

**Bridesmaids**

Dhanya Jayan  
Kaydee Tran  
Erica Diamantides  
Jessica Liu  
Ann Abi

**Pianist**

Ronnie Roy

**Flower Girl**

Jillian Titus

**Liturgical Ministers**

Rebecca Haley, Paul Haley,  
Michael Perera, Christopher Brown

# INTRODUCTION

The Order of Service of Marriage, according to the Mar Thoma Rite, is a blend of rich biblical traditions and teachings, practices of the early Church in Palestine and Syria, and the customs of South India. The wedding service is far more than a contract between two individuals. The service focuses on the sacramental character of God, bringing together man and woman as husband and wife. The prayers and chants are rooted in the Bible, drawing on many biblical references and examples. The service underlines the significance of the family in God's plan, recognizing it as a divinely blessed institution.

The wedding service consists of two parts. The first part of the service is the engagement or the blessing of the rings. This is a service of betrothal. The officiating priest blesses the rings, which are put on the fourth finger of the right hands of the bride and the bridegroom on behalf of the Church as a blessing given by God to remain committed to their married life. The ring is also the symbol of the mutual responsibility of the couple to live together as husband and wife.

The second part of the service is the service of Holy Matrimony or the crowning ceremony. During the blessing of the crowns, the blessings of the Almighty are invoked on the bride and the groom as "king" and "queen." It symbolizes the bestowal of the crown of righteousness upon the couple. This is also an invocation of divine love upon the couple, so that they may serve each other with a self-sacrificing spirit. A gold chain with a cross pendant is used for the crowning.

The most important part of the service is the reading of the Gospel, before which the priest joins together the right hands of the bride and the bridegroom. The reading of the Gospel symbolizes Christ's affirmation of the sanctity of the marriage bond. This reading is followed by the tying of the minnu (a small gold pendant shaped as a stylized heart with a cross on it) and the adornment of the manthrakodi (bridal sari). The minnu is tied around the neck of the bride by the bridegroom with seven strands of thread from the manthrakodi. This is a symbol of the marriage bond. Then, the manthrakodi is placed on the bride's head. This is the moment when the bride becomes a member of the husband's family. To symbolize

this event, a woman from the bridegroom's family takes the place of the maid of honor in a welcome gesture. The service concludes with an exhortation to the young couple and a final benediction.



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MALANKARA MAR THOMA SYRIAN  
CHURCH ORDER OF SERVICE OF HOLY  
MATRIMONY

*PROCESSIONAL*

*THE BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM SIGN THE ENGAGEMENT REGISTER*

**Song – “Come Thou Fount”**

Come Thou fount of every blessing  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace  
Streams of mercy never ceasing  
Call for songs of loudest praise

Teach me some melodious sonnet  
Sung by flaming tongues above  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it  
Mount of Thy redeeming love

Here I raise my Ebenezer  
Here by Thy great help I've come  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure  
Safely to arrive at home

Jesus sought me when a stranger  
Wandering from the fold of God  
He to rescue me from danger  
Interposed His precious blood

Here's my heart  
Oh take and seal it  
Seal it for Thy courts above



# PART I – ENGAGEMENT

## Introduction

Dearly beloved in Christ,

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

## Kauma (Prayer of Adoration)

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

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

P: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty! Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

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

P: Holy art Thou, O God.\*

**C: Holy art Thou, Almighty Lord.\***

P: Holy art Thou, O Immortal Lord.\*

**C: O Thou, that was crucified for us †, have mercy upon us.\***

*\*Repeat three times*

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C: O Lord, have compassion and mercy upon us.**

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

**C: Glory be to You, O God.**

P: Glory be to You, O Creator of all.

**C: Glory be to You, O King the Messiah, for You have compassion on your sinful servants.**

P: Our Father who art in heaven . . .

**C: Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power and glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

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

**C: Amen**

*THE CONGREGATION IS SEATED*

## Chant (in Malayalam)

Vaanor bhoovaasikaleyum - santhoshippiccha  
Aanandam aruliya deva - ennekkum sthothram

Karunakaranam massihaye - thal sevakarkaye  
Thirumun nilkkum koottathe - santhoshippikka

Rakshaka valankai neetti thirunaamatthil njangal  
Pakshamaayi nalkum mothiringal - vaazhttheedaname nee

Mothiratthaal sabha masihaaykaayi - velikkaayi theernaal  
Than thirumeni thiruraktham - kaikkonteedunnu

Pithru puthra vishudhaathmaavaam - three-yekan vandyan  
Vaanor bhoovasikal vannittaaghoshikkunnu

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

P: O Lord, our God, may Your peace that reconciled heaven and earth, depth and height, unite this bride and bridegroom in the bond of marriage. O God, Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, grant them perfect unity that they may love and accept each other with you, all the days of their life.

**C: Amen.**

## Promeon (Preface)

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

**C: Merciful Lord, have mercy and help us.**

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

**C: Amen.**

## **Sedra (Series of Prayers)**

P: O Lord God, who is glorious beyond all human understanding, ever abundant in blessings and high above all evil, source of all divine grace and giver of all goodness, You are the holy and eternal oil with which we are anointed, free from all suffering and death. You have ordained that with the ring the joy of men and women should be perfected and the happiness of those who are betrothed should be completed. Lord God, bless these rings and with them turn what is accursed into a blessing. O Lord, by your divine blessing, bless these rings even as you blessed the ring of your holy Church. May the bridegroom, **Sanoj**, and the bride, **Binu**, be filled and perfected in wisdom. Grant, O Lord, that by your grace their marriage may be free from all defilement and hateful things. Grant them abiding joy in this world and in the world to come. O Lord God, adorn them in every way through their life in this transitory world. May they be joyously drawn closer to your heavenly dwelling where all your angels and archangels rejoice without ceasing. Lord, by your love, free this congregation from sin, hatred, defilement and error. May they be blessed and standing in your presence glorify and praise you - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

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

**C: Amen.**

## Blessing of the Rings

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

**C: Amen.**

P: For the fulfillment of joy of the children of the Holy Church, these rings are blessed in the name of the Father †, and of the Son †, and of the Holy Spirit †

**C: Amen.**

*THE PRIEST PUTS THE RING ON THE FOURTH FINGER OF THE  
RIGHT HAND OF THE BRIDEGROOM AND SAYS...*

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

**Bridegroom and Congregation: Amen.**

*THE PRIEST PUTS THE RING ON THE FOURTH FINGER OF THE  
RIGHT HAND OF THE BRIDE AND SAYS...*

P: May our Lord Jesus Christ mystically stretch out His hand to you. With this ring, which is the token of your betrothal, may you obtain from Him grace, mercy and blessings. With peace and joy of body and spirit, may you offer praise and glory to Him, and to the Father and to the Holy Spirit.

**Bride and Congregation: Amen.**

## Prayer for the Bride and Bridegroom

P: May the Lord God, who through His Messiah fulfilled the joy of the holy Church, perfect with truth and goodness these our children who have come together to be married. May they receive heavenly blessing along with these rings. Clothe them with humility. Perfect their marriage with the rings of righteousness, as the marriage of Isaac and Rebecca was confirmed through gold ornaments. Cause bridegroom to rejoice in his salvation and adorn his bride with treasures that do not grow old and perish. May God enable them always to maintain a good conscience, with gentleness more fragrant than roses. May God save them from the wicked and envious who pervert the human race and from the evil-minded who corrupt the purity of wedded life. May the Lord bestow upon them times of wellbeing and years of blessedness. O Lord God, hear the prayers of us Your weak and sinful servants who stand before Your glorious presence and grant to this couple happy days and the blessings of children. Enrich them with the wealth of virtuous deeds. Confirm them in true faith in You. Give them the grace to remain firm in that faith and to impart it to their children. Confer Your goodness and benefits on all those who have come prepared for this wedding feast. Perfect the bride and the bridegroom with Your victorious Cross. Shower blessings upon us all, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### Sugheeso (Chant in Malayalam)

Njaanennulla vaagdattham –  
Janakan pakkal ninnee – bhaagyam

Rajasuthan enikkaay nalkee  
Sarvam enikkaay thanneedunnu

Athinaal avane vandikkunnen  
Vigraha bhakthi chutti-cchenne

Kashttam vanchakanaam dushtannu

Rakshakanaam eesoye sthothram

Yogyatha thannavanen bhaagyam.  
Snaanatthaal vishuddhaath-mante

Aayudham enne chartthee than  
Mamsam raktham mothiramaay.

Ittu thannaan viralinmel-  
Manavaalan Thaan soorya-noppam

Manavaatti pakalotu thulyam  
Parimala vrikshatthotangane  
Virunnaasakalavum thulyam.

Translation: I am the Church and bride of the Most High, says the Church, and I am blessed because He has married me. I worship the Bridegroom who came and espoused me. All creation rejoices, for in my poverty I was made rich on the day He betrothed Himself to me. I am blessed for He has prepared for me a bridal chamber above where, with my friends, I enter and remain. It is happiness to me to glorify Him who took me from the house of idols, taught me hidden mysteries, and promised to be with me to the end of the world. I worship the King's Son because He has given me all the blessings, which He brought from His Father's house. Woe to the wicked one who deceived me and led me into idolatry. Glory be to Jesus who saved me. I am blessed because He armed me with spiritual armor through the water of baptism, and made me worthy to wear on my finger the ring of His holy Body and Blood. The holy Church declares that the bridegroom is like the sun, the bride is like the brightness of the day, and the wedding feast is like the fragrance of the sweet-smelling tree.

## **Benediction**

P: Dearly beloved, who have come to share in this testimony justified by God, may the Lord reward your labors, thirty, sixty, and a hundred fold. Let His blessings be always with you. May the cross † of our



Lord remain with you day and night and ever protect you from the evil one and his hosts.

**C: Amen.**

## **Message from Rev. Christopher Daniel**

## PART II - HOLY MATRIMONY

P: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**C: Shower upon us, weak and sinful as we are, Your blessings and mercies in this world and the world to come, now and forever. Amen.**

P: O Lord God, make us worthy of the everlasting marriage feast and of the imperishable bridal chamber. Invite us also to your eternal joys with those invited to the fellowship of the wedding feast. Grant that together with them and among them we may praise and glorify you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Chant (in Malayalam)

P: Poorva vishuddhare vaazhtthiya sarvesan

**C: Bahulamathaam † than krupayaal ivare  
Vaazhtthatte devaa krupa cheyyanamae nee**

P: Aadam hawwaa ennivare vazhtthiya sarvesan...

**C: Bahulamathaam † . . .**

P: Abraam saaraa ennivare vaazhtthiya sarvesan,

**C: Bahulamathaam † . . .**

P: Issahaak rabukkaa ennivare vazhtthiya sarvesan,

**C: Bahulamathaam † . . .**

P: Yaakkob raahel ennivare vaazhtthiya sarvesan,

**C: Bahulamathaam †. . .**

P: Mesremil youseppine vaazhthiya sarvesan,

**C: Bahulamathaam †. . .**

Translation: May God, who blessed the righteous of old, bless these servants with His abundant grace. God have mercy on us.

May God, who blessed Adam and Eve, bless these servants . . .

May God, who blessed Abraham and Sarah, bless these servants . . .

May God, who blessed Isaac and Rebecca, bless these servants . . .

May God, who blessed Jacob and Rachel, bless these servants . . .

May God, who blessed Joseph in Egypt, bless these servants . . .

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

**C: Amen**

## **Kuklyon (Psalms 21:1, 3)**

Karthane rajan nin bhalathil santhoshikkum halleluiah oo halleluiah  
Thava rakshayil avanettum mothikkum

Nanmayin anugraham munpidunnavane nee halleluiah o halleluiah  
Manyamaam mudithan sirasil choodunnu barekmor.

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

## Promeon (Preface)

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

**C: Merciful Lord, have mercy and help us.**

P: Help us O Lord, continually to offer to you praise, adoration, worship, thanksgiving and glory. Praise to the eternal and self-existent One who is and who shall be the same from generation to generation, the eternal Word around whose Throne the angels throng to offer worship and adoration; the glorious and exalted One who has graciously turned our race to him and the Holy One who freely gives crowns of joy to brides and bridegrooms. As we bless the crown of Your servants, **Sanoj and Binu**, You are worthy of the praise, honor and worship, now and throughout our life.

**C: Amen.**

## Sedra (Series of Prayers)

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

kingdom. We offer praise and glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit because You are good and love humankind.

**C: Amen.**

## Chant (in Malayalam)

Jathiyin puthri neeye sundari – bahu sundari  
Slemon rajan thirusabhayam ninne varnni–kkunnu

Then kattakal nin – adharam pozhikkunnu  
Ankikal sugandhi – neesan kusumam pol

Sundari sabhaye ninnil malinyam ille–thume  
Mashiharajan than kurishal ninne – katheedunnu  
Halleluiah – oo – Halleluiah – Barekmor.

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

## Reading of the Epistle

D: From the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians.

**C: Praise to You, O Lord of the Apostles. O Lord, grant us grace to discern Your Word.**

## Ephesians 5:20-28 (NRSV)

D: ...Give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior. Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their

husbands. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

*THE PRIEST JOINS THE RIGHT HANDS OF THE BRIDE AND  
BRIDEGROOM*

## Reading of the Gospel

*THE CONGREGATION STANDS*

D: Brothers and sisters, let us stand in reverence and listen to the proclamation of the living Word of God from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

P: Peace † be with you all.

**C: May the Lord make us all worthy to listen to His Word.**

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which proclaims life and salvation to the world, as recorded by the Apostle Matthew.

**C: Blessed is He that has come and will come again. Praise to the Father who sent Him for our salvation. May His blessings be ever upon us.**

P: In the days of Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior, God incarnate of the Blessed Virgin Mary, He taught in this manner.

**C: So we believe and affirm.**

## Matthew 19:1-6 (NRSV)

P: When Jesus had finished saying these things, He left Galilee and went to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. Large crowds followed Him, and He cured them there. Some Pharisees came to Him, and to test Him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?” He answered, “Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

P: Peace † be with you all.

**C: And with you also.**

*THE CONGREGATION IS SEATED*

## Blessing of the Crowns

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

**C: Amen.**

*THE PRIEST ELEVATES THE CROWN (A GOLD CHAIN WITH A CROSS PENDANT) OVER THE BRIDEGROOM’S HEAD AND CHANTS*

P. Vaanil ninnoru makudam- kartthanil ninningirangi  
Manavalan than sirassil-kahana choodeedunnu

**C. Nathhaa karunyatthaal - kahanenmaar semsaanamaar  
Dhampathikaleyum-mutiyaal - Manavarayil santhoshipikka**

P. Vaanil ninnoru makudam- kartthanil ninningirangi  
Manavalan than sirassil-kahana choodeedunnu

**C. Anugraham niranjoru valankai - ivarmel aava-sippicchu  
Dampathikaleyum – sirasin- mutiyeyum vaazhththeetaname**

P. Vaanil ninnoru makudam- kartthanil ninningirangi  
Manavalan than sirassil-kahana choodeedunnu

*Translation: A crown is coming down from Heaven in the hand of our Lord. Worthy is this crown to be placed on the head of the bridegroom/ bride by the priest. O Lord, in Your mercy, make joyful the priest and deacon, and the bridegroom and bride in their bridal chamber. O Lord, stretch forth Your right hand full of blessings and bless this bridegroom and bride, and the crowns placed on their heads. May this bridegroom and bride, with their companions, be blessed with the blessings that You bestowed upon Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. O Lord, stretch out Your right hand and bless this couple who bow their heads before You. O Lord, open the doors of Your bountiful treasury, which is filled with immeasurable wealth, and send the blessing of perfection to this bridegroom and bride. O Lord, protect them with Your mighty right hand, and make them walk in paths of righteousness according to Your will. O Lord, keep them under the shadow of Your blessing, so that they may complete their lives in purity and holiness.*

**THE PRIEST PLACES THE CROWN ON THE BRIDEGROOM'S HEAD  
AND SAYS...**

P: **Sanoj and Binu**, may the Lord adorn you with the crown of  
righteousness. May the Lord arm you against all powers of the enemy.

**C: Amen.**

**THE PRIEST ELEVATES THE CROWN OVER THE BRIDE'S HEAD AND  
CHANTS**

P. Vaanil ninnoru makutam-kartthanil ninningirangi  
Manavatti sirassinmel-Kahana choodeedunnu



**C. Nathhaa karunyatthaal - kahanenmaar semsaanamaa  
Dhampathikaleyum-mutiyaal - Manavarayil santhoshippikka**

P. Vaanil ninnoru makutam-kartthanil ninningirangi  
Manavatti sirassinmel - Kahana choodeedunnu

**C. Rakshakan Neethiyin – moodiye-Ningalkkayi medanjeedatt  
Pithuputhra vishudhaathmanu - Sthothram paadeeduvinn**

P. Vaanil ninnoru makudam- kartthanil ninningirangi  
Manavalan than sirassil-kahana choodeedunnu

*THE PRIEST PLACES THE CROWN ON THE BRIDE'S HEAD AND  
SAYS...*

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

**C: Amen.**

*THE PRIEST PLACES THE CHAIN AROUND THE BRIDEGROOM'S  
NECK*

## **Prayer of Blessing**

P: May the Lord, who delights in human life, be pleased with your lives and bless your union. May Christ our heavenly bridegroom seal your marriage with the true seal of His love. As Christ rejoices in His Church, may you rejoice in each other. May the right hand of His blessing be on you and protect you from all troubles. May the angel of peace be with you and keep you from all jealousies that lead to destruction. May He take away all sorrow from you and fill you with joy in each other. As Abraham rejoiced in Isaac, Isaac in Jacob, and

Jacob in Joseph, may the Lord bless you with righteous children so that you may rejoice in them. May the blessing that God gave to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob dwell with you. May God grant you dew from heaven and all the good things that the earth produces. May the blessing by which Jacob blessed his son, Joseph, be upon you. May the blessing promised to those who love the Lord and please his holy will, be upon us and upon the crowns placed on your head by the priest's hands. Let the nations rejoice and sing praises, for the Lord's name has been invoked upon you. May God enrich you with all prosperity, wealth and blessings. May He pardon all your sins, like the sinful woman. May you also inherit the kingdom of Heaven like the thief on the cross. May the Most High God who descended on Mount Sinai, to make a covenant with the bride he had called out of Egypt, bless you and this congregation. Let us offer praise to the Lord of heaven and earth, now and forever more.

**C: Amen.**

## **Blessing of the Minnu and Manthrakodi**

*THE BRIDEGROOM TIES THE MINNU AROUND THE BRIDE'S NECK  
AND THEN PLACES THE MANTHRAKODI ON THE BRIDE'S HEAD.*

*THIS IS AN ANCIENT TRADITION, SYMBOLIZING MUTUAL TRUST,  
LOVE, AND COMMITMENT.*

### **Chant (in Malayalam)**

Eden thottathin udayone, Enne velkkuvan vannavan nee  
Elam kattathu kondu po-ka, Ullasam enikkavidheyundu

Karthane enne velikkai nee, Nischayicha manavattiyay njan  
Vishudhanam sathya manavala, Karuna cheikennil saranam neeye

Kurissinal kotutthen sthreedhanavum, Kashttappadal  
swathanthrathayum  
En manavara unnathathil, Nin vakayai vilichenne nee

Kallanmar ente saundaryathe, Kollacheivan mo-hichethirthu

Thirusnehathal methichavare, Adimayil ninnu njan swathanthra–yayi.

*Translation: You are my husband, O glorious one who established the Garden of Eden and caused its pleasant breeze to blow upon me. Lord, I am the bride, Your wife, betrothed in Your name. O Bridegroom of truth and righteousness, have mercy upon me, for I take my refuge in You alone. My dowry You paid with Your Cross. You set me free by Your suffering and have prepared a bridal chamber for me on high. You have called me to be Yours. Thieves attacked me and sought to spoil me of my beauty, but by Your love You defeated them and freed me from their slavery.*

## Petition of Mar Jacob (Chant in Malayalam)

De–va suthane valamkai neeti vazhthee–dename nee †  
Manavalaneyum manavattiyeyum sirassin mudiye–yum nee

Vazhthuka nadha dempathikaleyum † avaravar na–mathil nee  
Vazhthuka evarin jeevithakalam, velivin loka – nee.

Ee nin janavum ennannekkum vazhthappedename †  
Vazhtheedename nee iha para loka vazhvaalivare – nee

Vazhtheeduka † nin adiyar vaikalin stuthiye nadha nee  
Vazhtheeduka veenakalal ninne vandanam cheithee–duvan.

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

## Hoothama

P: Dearly beloved, we have a custom received from our holy Fathers and entrusted to us by our revered predecessors of exhorting the believers as we are all assembled in the house of God. We must firmly bid **Binu and Sanoj** that they should be diligent in truth and justice and zealous

in all good works. Now our children, remember that you stand before God's holy altar, before the throne of our Lord Jesus Christ and His holy table, before the Cross, before the holy Gospel, before the congregation, and in the presence of God who knows the thoughts of every heart. From this time onwards, we have united you to each other. May God be the judge between you and me. I shall be free from blame for anything you do contrary to the divine law. May God's mercy and blessing be upon the priest, the deacon, the believers, the bride and bridegroom, the guests and the hosts. May the right hand of our Lord Jesus Christ be upon us all forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Exhortation to All**

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

C: Amen.

## **Exhortation to the Bride & Groom**

P: God has united you, **Sanoj and Binu**, as husband and wife from this day. You are no longer two, but one. Christian family life is a great privilege and responsibility. So love one another, respect each other, be tolerant, be forgiving, hate evil, hold on to all that is good, be patient in tribulation, be constant in family prayer, be diligent in studying the Word of God, practice charity and hospitality, do always what is noble in the sight of all, be active participants in corporate worship and regular partakers of Holy Communion. May God help

you to rejoice in such a blessed Christian family life. Remember that you are stewards of God in wealth, time and talent. Therefore, set apart a portion of your income for the needy and the poor and for the mission of the Church. When you are blessed with children, nurture them in the love of God. May Almighty God help you to rejoice in such a blessed Christian family life.

## Final Blessing

### THE CONGREGATION STANDS

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

**C: Amen.**

*THE CONGREGATION IS SEATED. HERE ENDS THE SERVICE OF  
MARRIAGE.*

## Song - "As the Deer"

As the deer panteth for the water  
So my soul longs after You  
You alone are my hearts desire  
And I long to worship You

You alone are my strength, my shield  
To You alone may my spirit yield  
You alone are my hearts desire  
And I long to worship You

I want You more than gold or silver  
Only You can satisfy  
You alone are the real joy giver  
And the apple of my eye

You alone are my strength, my shield  
To You alone may my spirit yield  
You alone are my hearts desire  
And I long to worship You

You're my friend and You're my brother  
Even though you are a King  
I love You more than any other  
So much more than anything

## Signing of Marriage Register

*THE BRIDE, BRIDEGROOM, AND WITNESSES FROM THEIR FAMILIES  
SIGN THE MARRIAGE REGISTER*

## Offertory

*THE BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM GIVE OFFERTORY PROVIDED TO  
THEM BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THEIR FAMILIES*

## Presentation of the Couple

## Recessional

## Announcements

# THANK YOU

Dear family and friends,

We are so blessed to have you here to celebrate and be a part of our wedding day. We thank you for all your help, warmth, and joy in making this day possible. Each of you have played a special role in our lives. Your love, guidance, and generosity have given us constant support throughout our lives.

As we begin this new chapter, we ask you for your continued prayers and look forward to sharing countless more memories with you!

Love,

Sanoj & Binu

