

Shubqono

The Service of Reconciliation

English Service Booklet for Congregation



Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

The work is adapted from prose translations from the original Syriac by Rev. Fr. Baby Varghese and Bede Griffiths found in *The Order of the Prayers of the Major Feasts* (Malankara Orthodox Church Publications, 2013) and *The Book of Common Prayer of the Syrian Church* (Gorgias Press, 2005), respectively.

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This has been approved by the Diocesan Metropolitan for use in the Diocese of South-West America. If desiring to use in another Diocese, please receive the consent of the presiding Diocesan Metropolitan. Recordings of select hymns will be made available on the Diocesan website (www.ds-wa.org) to assist in learning the tunes. We pray that this may help our English-speaking faithful to participate and understand the meaningful liturgical hymns composed by our Church Fathers about the Service of Reconciliation (Shubqono) to begin the Great Lent.

THE SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

The Order of Shubqono is celebrated on the first Monday of Great Lent, after the canonical office of the 6th Hour¹

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

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

OPENING PRAYER

Psalm 51

Have mercy on 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 sins my mother conceived 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.

¹ According to the Syriac text, Shubqono is celebrated after the 3rd Hour.

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. 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...*Barekmo*

*Shub'bo.../Glory be to the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit
Men'olam.../From ages unto ages and forevermore*

ENIYONO

(Hitih Lokeh)

O Lord – Merciful One, I sinned against You.
Hear my petition
O Lord, - have mercy upon us all

I am – defiled with a multitude of sins.
Therefore, I beg you
O Lord - have mercy upon us all

O Lord – where shall we knock if not at Your door,
Compassionate One?
O Lord - have mercy upon us all

I beg – like the publican and cry out like
The sinful woman
O Lord - have mercy upon us all

O Lord – who pities sinners, have compassion
And forgive our faults
O Lord, have mercy upon us all

O Lord – may all of our hearts be filled with love
Free from wrath and strife
O Lord, have mercy upon us all

Christ, Who – for the sake of sinners was offered
On top of the Cross
O Lord, have mercy upon us all

Christ, Who – by His great love absolved the thief and
The sinful woman
O Lord, have mercy upon us all

Christ, Who – consoled His apostles by His peace
In the Upper Room
O Lord, have mercy upon us all

Christ, Who – gladdened His disciples by His peace
In the Upper Room
O Lord, have mercy upon us all... *Barek'mor*

Shub'bo... Men olam...

Praise to – the Father and worship to the Son
And Holy Spirit
O Lord, have mercy upon us all

Stammen Kalos Kurielaison

Priest: Let us all pray and beseech the Lord for mercy and compassion

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

PROMEON - SEDRO

Qolo

(Quqoyo)

O blessed Tree, wherever you are peace abounds
 By you our Lord entered the house of Abraham²
 By you the priests – approached the altar
 By you Paul was – crying out, saying:
 “Neither hardships, nor tortures and persecutions
 Shall separate me from the love of the Lord God.”³
 Halleluiah w’Halleluiah

Christ taught us to forgive “seven times seventy;
 If your brother offends you, forgive him his fault”
 Remember that – you also have sinned
 And are in need – of His forgiveness
 Go, therefore, and with your brother be reconciled
 That you may cry together: ‘Glory to You, Lord!’
 Halleluiah w’Halleluiah... *Barekmor*

Shub’ho...

² The *Tree* is occasionally used in hymnography to refer to the Cross of our Lord, which was, of course, made of wood. The tree in the account of Abraham’s hospitality (Gen 18:4) is one of the Old Testament’s many ‘prefigurations’ or ‘types’ of the Cross which is revealed fully to us in the New Testament. In Gen 18, the tree was offered as a means of shade and refreshment, just as the Cross (the “Tree”) offers peace and new life to us. (See also, Deut 21:23/Gal 3:13)

³ Romans 8:35

Paul wrote of love that nothing can compare with it
 Bless'd is he who attains it for he shall see God
 By love, Moses – saw Him on Sinai
 By love, Martyrs – saw Him in the court
 And by love, the Holy Church saw Him on the cross
 Behold, she offers Him glory by day and night
 Halleluiah w'Halleluiah

Men olam...

Let us be diligent in fasting, my brethren
 Those who fast gain vic'try and perfection in Christ
 With it they fight – against Satan and
 By it Moses – shone on Mount Sinai
 By it Elijah was lifted up to heaven
 By it the just triumphed and the martyrs were crowned
 Halleluiah w'Halleluiah
Moriyo Rabem...

(Incense is placed)

ETRO

Qolo

(b'Safro Hzaw)

Let us love one another
 Love completes the commandments
 There are those who fast from bread
 And yet are filled with hatred,
 Like those who fast from wine and -
 Kill their brethren secretly

Lord who hir-ed laborers
 At the eleventh ho-ur,
 Receive the eleventh crown
 I plaited for your honor
 By them, forgive all my sins -
 That I may give thanks to You...*Barekmor*

Shub'ho...

O Church, may peace dwell in you
 May concord be your fortress
 Let all schisms and disputes
 Burn up in the fire of love
 And may the feasts of the Lord
 Be celebrated always

Men olam...

O God have mercy on us
 As is fitting to your grace
 Banish from us Satan who
 Always lays his snares for us
 May Your cross be protection
 May we take refuge in it

Our God who is merciful
 Answer those who call on You
 For we knock upon the door
 Of your abundant mercies
 Grant us forgiveness of debts,
 Lord, from your rich treasure house

Moriyo Rabem/ Lord have mercy upon us and help us

Bo'utho of St. Jacob of Sarug

O Lord, our Lord, we call to You, come to - our - aid
Hear our requests and have mercy upon - our souls

O Lord, our Lord, Lord of the watchers and - an-gels
Hear our requests and have mercy upon - our souls

O wrathful ones, reconcile with one a-no-ther
For the Lord has reconciled with us by - His love

Let no one say, "My brother has sinned a-against - me
It is an insult to be reconciled - with him.

Love one another –as the members of the - bo-dy
For One is the Lord, Christ, the head of the – body

One who has hate against his neighbor hates - the - Lord
Let him love his brother lest he be found - in judgment

Look at God and imitate Him, you wrath-ful - ones
And with wisdom be reconciled with your – neighbor

Keep away from all strife, anger, and jeal-ou-sy
Let the love of God dwell in you as in -the Kingdom

Glory to the Father, the peace for the - wrath-ful
Praise be to the Son who has reconciled -the world

Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit who - for-gives
May we attain mercy always and for-ever

O Lord God, who hears all those who call up-on -You
Hear our requests and have mercy upon - our souls

SCRIPTURE READINGS

I John 4:11-21

I Cor 13:4-10

GOSPEL

(Incense is placed)

Fethgomo

Halleluiah – Halleluiah

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiv-en

And whose sins have been hidden

Halleluiah⁴

Deacon: *Barek'mor.* With stillness, fear and purity, let us give heed...

⁴ Psalm 32:1

10

Priest: †Peace be unto you all.

People: Make us worthy, O Lord God, with thy spirit

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,...

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.

Priest: Now, in the time of the Dispensation...

People: We believe and confess

(The priest reads from the Gospel of St. Matthew 18:18-35)

Qolo

(Btar'okh Moran)

O Lord, I knock on your door to seek mercy
From your treasury
I, a sinner, have turned aside from Your way
Grant me, Lord, to confess and renounce my sin,
To live by Your grace

O Lord, where shall we knock if not at Your door,
Compassionate One?
O Merciful King, whose honor kings worship
Who is there to intercede with you for us
If not your mercy?...*Barek'mor*

Shub'ho...

O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit may you
Be a high fortress
Which guards us from Satan and all his forces
Protect us under the wings of your mercy
On the judgment day

Men olam...

May the voice of our pray-er be a key to
 The doors of heaven
 And may the archangels in their ranks proclaim
 “How sweet is the voice of those upon the earth
 That God answers them!”

Moriyo Rabem...

Bo’utho of St. Jacob of Sarug

O Lord, our Lord, we call to You, come to - our - aid
Hear our requests and have mercy upon - our souls

O Lord, our Lord, Lord of the watchers and - an-gels
Hear our requests and have mercy upon - our souls

Lord, I crave for your forgiveness to a-p-proach -me
Grant me tears to beg while there is time to - repent

I thirst for Your mercies without which I - cannot live
O Sea of Mercies, sprinkle me with your - kindness

The night has come. The shadows of death sur-round - me
Lord, be to me the sun that I might see - your light

Do not leave me outside Your vineyard when - I - die
Lord, may You receive the moment of re-pentance

I spend my time in the worship of van-i-ty
Accept me on the eve of life and make - me Yours

To destroy me, the king of deceit fired - arrows
Lord, anoint me with your medicine to - heal me

Answer, O Lord, answer O Lord and have -mer-cy
Turn the hearts of the sons of men to re-pentance

Qaumo

12

The Priest preaches on love, repentance, and forgiveness. He then asks the forgiveness of all those who are present in the church. The priest prostrates three times in front of the people and begs for forgiveness. The people also prostrate before the priest and ask forgiveness.

As he kneels down to prostrate, the priest says:

Priest: My brethren and beloved ones, forgive me...

All prostrate, saying:

People: Barekmor. We ask forgiveness.

A second time, the priest shall say:

Priest: I pray and beseech your true love,

As he kneels down to prostrate, the priest says:

Priest: For the honor of the Holy Trinity, I prostrate myself before you

All prostrate, saying:

People: Barekmor. We ask forgiveness.

A third time, the priest shall say:

Priest: In your presence,...

As he kneels down to prostrate, the priest says:

Priest: May the Lord God be the One who forgives and absolves my sins and yours.

All prostrate, saying:

People: Barekmor. We ask forgiveness.

Priest: May the beginning and end of this Holy Lent be blessed...

After the Creed, forty prostrations, and the Quqlia of the Mother of God and the Saints, the priests, deacons, and all of the people present shall ask forgiveness and give peace to one another.