

# Shubqono

## The Service of Reconciliation

*English Service Booklet*



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.

### **Special thanks to:**

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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](http://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 6<sup>th</sup> Hour<sup>1</sup>*

**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

**Priest:** May your peace and concord and the love pleasing to Your divinity dwell always in our souls, O Lord. May it bind us always and join us indissolubly, and may we glorify unceasingly You, Your Father, and Your Living and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**People:** Amin

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<sup>1</sup> According to the Syriac text, Shubqono is celebrated after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour.

**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.

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... *Barek'mor*

*Shub'ho.../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'ho... Men olam...*

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

*Staumen Kalos Kurielaison*

### **PROMEON**

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

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

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

Glory be to You, O Father, the Tranquility of Heaven; Praise be to You, O Son, Peace of the earth; adoration be to You, O Holy Spirit, Who perfects all divine gifts. Glory to the Father, Who gave His Only Begotten Son to death for our salvation; to the Son whose love constrained Him to die for us; and to the Holy Spirit who rejoices in our works and by whom our requests are granted. Glory to You, O Triune God, in three consubstantial persons of the Holy, Glorious, and Adorable Trinity. Grant to us, O Lord, that in purity, we may give peace to one another. May Your peace keep us in divine concord with You and strengthen us with the girdle of Your imperishable loving-kindness, that we may glorify You on the joyous day of your miraculous resurrection, and in all festivals, seasons, times, hours, and all the days of our life, now and forever.

**People:** Amin

*(Incense is placed)*

**SEDRO**

**Priest:** O Christ our God, the eternal Tranquility of creation and the true peace of the uttermost parts of the world; Who is love, and is called love, and delights in this title more than all other titles; Who pays honor to those who hold to this love; by Your love for us, You offered Yourself as an acceptable sacrifice and sweet fragrance. By Your crucifixion, You broke down the barrier of enmity and by Your blood, You reconciled the dwellers of heaven and earth and removed the enmity from the idle and united them to become one. By the indivisible unity of your Godhead from eternity and Your human nature in time, You called all those who were far and those who were near; and You joined them together with the concord of Your divine love. By this same love You counted them among the household of Your eternal kingdom and brought to the whole world the good tidings of peace and tranquility. Your birth in the flesh was declared to Your Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary by the Archangel's greeting of peace. With the salutation of peace, Your blessed mother was met by Elizabeth, the mother of Your forerunner John, who leaped in his mother's womb with joy like a servant in the presence of his master. At Your birth, the heavenly hosts proclaimed peace to the shepherds. You gave

peace to the women, who went and announced Your glorious resurrection. In peace, You entered into the Upper Room where the holy disciples were gathered, and You assured them of Your resurrection. When You ascended to Your Father, You gave Your peace to Your disciples, saying to them: "My peace I leave with you, not as the world gives, do I give it to you. This is my commandment that you should love one another, just as I have loved you." Keep this love entrusted to us, our Savior, and by it confirm our minds. By Your love may we be bound together. By Your love, drive out from among us divisions and controversies. By Your love, make us to keep Your life-giving commandments. By Your love, hold us back from afflictions and sufferings. By Your love, hold us back from afflictions and sufferings. By Your love, make us children of peace and tranquility. By peace, unite the shepherds and their flocks. By Your peace, make the priests to rejoice in their offerings. By Your peace, perfect Your Church and her children. By Your peace and tranquility, guide and adorn her. By Your peace and tranquility, lead her congregations and make glad her children. In tranquility, keep those who are near her, and in peace, purify her deacons. In tranquility, unite her leaders. In peace, regulate her ranks. In tranquility, let her feasts continue. In peace, reconcile the wrathful. In tranquility, unite those who are divided. In peace, fill bitter souls with your joy. In tranquility, keep Your flock. In peace, deliver us from the merciless rulers, and in tranquility, adorn us in all Your festivals. In peace, accept our fasting and prayers. In tranquility, grant us mercy and forgiveness. In peace, loosen from us the bonds of wickedness. In tranquility, break from us the yoke of the adversary. May Your peace be with us and may Your tranquility reign among us. Bind our minds with your love and establish Your loving-kindness in our hearts that we may offer you thanks, O Lord of Tranquility, and to Your Father, the Giver of peace, and to Your Holy Spirit, the Perfector of True Love, now and forever.

**People:** Amin

**Priest:** From God may we receive remission of debts and forgiveness of sins in both worlds forever.

**People:** Amin

## Qolo

*(Quqoyo)*

O blessed Tree, wherever you are peace abounds  
 By you our Lord entered the house of Abraham<sup>2</sup>  
     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.”<sup>3</sup>  
 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...*Barek mor*

*Shub’ho...*

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<sup>2</sup> 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)

<sup>3</sup> 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**

**Priest:** Make, O Lord, our hearts habitations of tranquility and our minds havens of peace. Implant in our souls the deeds of true love for You and for one another. Impress in us Your love with unity, concord, and piety so that, with modesty, we may give peace to one another and receive it with sincerity. May our deeds be pleasing to Your will, like a chosen incense, a pleasant savor and a reconciling censer for You, Who delights all in His peace and gladdens all in His tranquility. To you belongs glory and honor along with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**People:** Amin

## Qolo

(b'Safro Hzan)

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

Halleluiah<sup>4</sup>

**Deacon:** *Barek'mor.* 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.

**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, 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.

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<sup>4</sup> Psalm 32:1

**Priest:** Now, in the time of the Dispensation of our Lord and our God and Savior Jesus Christ, the Word of Life, † God who took flesh of the Holy Virgin Mary, these things thus came to pass.

**People:** We believe and confess

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

**Priest:** †Peace be unto you all

### 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 Rahem...*

### **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-pproach -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 destry 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*

*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 for the sake of Christ. I have sinned against you. In spiritual concord and paternal love, as a watchful pastor, I exhort you and prostrate myself before you.

*All prostrate, saying:*

**People:** Barekmor. We ask forgiveness.

*A second time, the priest shall say:*

**Priest:** I pray and beseech your true love, O brethren and beloved ones, let us be reconciled to one another that God may be reconciled to us.

*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, with a contrite heart and perfect conscience, I cry out in a loud voice, beseeching your love, saying: Come my beloved brethren, let us be reconciled to one another and pardon the transgressions and faults that we all have committed against one another that God may be reconciled to us and forgive us our debts and sins as He said, "For if you forgive the debts and faults of one another, you will also be forgiven."

*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:** Barekmo. We ask forgiveness.

**Priest:** May the beginning and end of this Holy Lent be blessed, and may God help and assist you all to observe it to the end, according to His will. May He break the snares of the visible and invisible enemies, of Satan who is the adversary of the faithful Christians, and may He deliver you from the evil one's temptations, as our Lord Jesus Christ defeated him at the end of His fast, saying: "Be gone from Me, Satan." Through the prayers of Mary, the Mother of God, and of all the saints, may you be preserved and supported by the power of the victorious Cross. Amin.

*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.*

## The Nicene Creed

**Deacon:** Barekmor. Divine Wisdom, let us attend. Let us all stand well in prayer as the reverend priest (*'most reverend holy father'* or *'great highpriest'*) responds and says:

**Priest:** We believe in One True God,

**People:** 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 by the Holy Spirit and of the 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 He rose again / according to His Will / and ascended into heaven / and sits on 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 with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified / and Who spoke through the prophets and the apostles.

**And in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church** / and we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins / and look for the resurrection of the dead / and the new life in the world to come. Amin.  
*Barekmor, Stoumen Kalos, Kurieleison*

(*Forty Prostrations*)

<b>SERVICE TO THE MOTHER OF GOD</b>
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The King's daughter stands in glory, Halleluiah  
And the Queen at - Your right hand.

Leave your people and your father's house, Halleluiah  
For the King will desi-re your beauty...*Barek'mor*

*Shub'ho...Men'olam...*

**EQBO**

*(Mor Ephrem)*

O Pride of the faithful ones  
Offer prayers on our behalf  
To the Only Begotten  
That he have mercy on us  
*Stoumenkalos, Kurielaison*

**QOLO**

*(d'al Etro d'Besme)*

May Mary's Mem'ry  
Be for our blessing  
May her pray'r be a  
Refuge for our souls...*Barek'mor*

*Shub'ho...*

Behold, sweet fragrance  
Rises in the air  
For Virgin Mary  
The Theotokos

*Moriyo...*

**BO'UTHO**

*(Mor Ephrem)*

By Your Cross, our Lord Jesus  
And the prayer of Your Mother  
Keep from us all afflictions,  
Punishments, and rods of wrath.

<b>SERVICE TO THE SAINTS</b>
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The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, Halleluiah  
Like cedars of Lebanon – they shall grow.

They shall flourish and be great in old age, Halleluiah  
They shall be fruitful – and fragrant...*Barekmor*

*Shub'bo...Men'olam...*

**EQBO**

*(Mor Ephrem)*

Your mem'ry O St. (Thomas)  
be kept here and in Heaven  
May your prayer be a help to  
Those who honor your mem'ry  
*Stoumenkalos, Kurielaison*

**QOLO***(d'al Etro d'Besme)*

Blest are the Prophets,  
 and the Apostles.  
 Bless'd are the Martyrs  
 At Resurrection... *Barekmor*

*Shub'ho...*

Martyrs who desired  
 To behold the Christ  
 By the sword, gained wings  
 And flew to the heights

*Moriyo...***BO'UTHO***(Mor Ephrem)*

Pray for us, O Holy Saints  
 to Him Whose will you fulfilled,  
 Keep from us all afflictions,  
 Punishments, and rods of wrath.

*Kurielaison, Kurielaison, Kurielaison*  
 Lord have mercy upon us  
 Lord be kind, and have mercy  
 Answer Lord, and have mercy

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.  
 Glory be to Thee, O Lord;  
 Glory be to Thee, our hope forever *Barekmor*

*All of the people present shall ask forgiveness and give peace to one another.*

*The Service of Reconciliation is ended.*



