



Saturday of the Light

(Prayer of Forgiveness)

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Entrance Hymn

Opening Prayers

Cel: (standing at the Gospel lectern, he blesses himself)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

Cong: Amen.

Cel: O Hope of the living and Harbor of rest where the weary in
this world find rest, may we be received into the harbor of
reconciliation and the place of rest with all those who pleased
your divine will, and we raise glory and thanks to you, now
and for ever.

Cong: Amen.

Cel: (blessing the congregation)

✠ Peace be with the Church and her children.

Cong: Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace
and good hope to all.

Cel: Lord, have mercy on us and save us.

O Christ our God, inflame our hearts with love, that we may love you and each other. Fill us with faith and confirm us in true and firm hope. May we persevere in good deeds, that we may be justified by you, please your will all the days of our lives, and glorify and thank you, now and for ever.

Cong: Amen.

Psalm 51 (50)

SIT

Cel: Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your merciful love;
according to your great compassion,
blot out my transgressions.
O wash me completely from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

Cong: My transgressions, truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight, I have done.
So you are just in your sentence,
without reproach in your judgment.

Cel: O see, in guilt I was born,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
Yes, you delight in sincerity of heart;
in secret you teach me wisdom.
Cleanse me with hyssop, and I shall be pure;
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Cong: Let me hear rejoicing and gladness;
that the bones you have crushed may exult.
Turn away your face from my sins,
and blot out all my guilt.

- Cel:** Create a pure heart for me, O God;
renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence;
take not your holy spirit from me.
- Cong:** Restore in me the joy of your salvation;
sustain in me a willing spirit.
I will teach transgressors your ways,
that sinners may return to you.
- Cel:** Rescue me from bloodshed, O God,
God of my salvation,
and then my tongue shall ring out your justice.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- Cong:** For in sacrifice you take no delight;
burnt offering from me would not please you.
My sacrifice to God, a broken spirit;
a broken and humbled heart,
O God, you will not spurn.
- Cel:** In your good pleasure, show favor to Sion;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will delight in right sacrifice,
burnt offerings wholly consumed.
Then you will be offered young bulls on your altar.
- All:** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

OR

O Lord, I Have Truly Sinned

Syriac: *ngeedo*

1. O Lord, I have truly sinned.
Who can claim more sins than I?
I know you can pardon me.
Since you came to seek the lost,
bring me back into your fold.
2. I ask for your mercy, Lord,
since I have offended you.
Convert me and bring me home.
Let me be a penitent,
knocking at your door of love.
3. O Just One, who judges all,
do not cast me from your sight.
I know that my sins are great.
You alone are perfect, Lord.
Pardon all my sins and faults.
4. O Lord, you commanded us
to forgive each other's sins
again and again with love;
then your Father, in return,
will forgive our sins and faults.
5. By love have the saints been known,
witnessing from age to age.
By love has the Father sent
his only-begotten Son,
who has died to save the world.

Prayer of Forgiveness

STAND

The Celebrant burns incense and incenses as usual.

Cel: Let us raise glory, honor, and praise to the Gate of Mercy, open to sinners who knock on it; the Hyssop, who purifies the impure who come close to him. To the Good One be glory and honor, on this day, and all the days of our lives, and for ever.

Cong: Amen.

Cel: Glory to you, O holy One. You descended from the heavenly dwellings to the earthly depths. In your compassion you took the form of a slave to forgive your servants. You walked on the waves of the sea in order to sanctify Adam, who was created in the image of your majesty.

O Lord, you sanctified those who are impure and with your hyssop you purified sinners and made them whiter than snow. Through your powerful grace, forgive me and your servants, who ask you for the pardon of their faults and the forgiveness of their sins. As you forgave the family of Cornelius through the hand of Simon Peter, the Apostle, in the same way, may pardon of sins descend upon us and upon all the children of your flock, who have been redeemed by your precious blood. We glorify you, your Father, and your Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Cong: Amen.

Hymn

SIT

Lord, Accept These Prayers

Syriac: *fsheeto*

1. Alleluia!

Lord, accept these prayers we raise
to give you honor,
as you did the sacrifice
that Abraham made in ages past.
Hear us as you heard the thief's request;
show your mercy, Lord.
As you once accepted Zechariah's incense,
now we ask you to accept what we have offered.
Alleluia! Forgive us, O Lord.

2. Alleluia!

Beautiful indeed are prayers
and fragrant incense!
As they rise to realms on high,
they give the angels delight and joy.
He who knows the secrets of all hearts
welcomes them and says:
"Come in peace, O prayers that rise from earth to heaven.
I will hear and answer you; behold my mercy."
Alleluia! May God grant us peace.

3. Alleluia!

“Three strong towers keep me safe,”
the Church of God says.

“They surround me with their walls;
no thief can enter to do me harm.
All three towers interlock so well
that no gap is seen.

These great towers are the Father, Son, and Spirit;
I am placed within their midst, a bride of glory.”

Alleluia! Our prayers, Lord, receive.

4. Alleluia!

Who has seen a covenant like that of Jesus?
Given to his holy Church, it had been written
with his own blood.

With the cross he sealed it, then he rose
and made known its words.

Adam read the covenant and found this promise:
“When a sinner turns from sin, the Lord rejoices.”

Alleluia! Forgive us, O Lord.

5. Alleluia!

The apostle Paul declared:

Love has no equal.

Blest are those who grow in love
for they shall see God in Paradise.

Moses and the martyrs saw the Lord
since they lived in love.

At the cross, the faithful Church beheld her Savior,
and with love, both day and night, she sings his praises.

Alleluia! Forgive us, O Lord.

Cel: (standing at the Gospel lectern)

O heavenly High Priest, you died because of our sins. You are the forgiving Sacrifice who offered yourself to your Father. You are the sanctifying Hyssop who cleansed our wounds in your compassion. You are the Treasures of your Father. Through you and with you our supplications are heard, our faults are forgiven, our souls are protected, and on the glorious day of your second coming mercy will be given to us, and we will raise glory and thanks to you, now and for ever.

Cong: Amen.

Psalm of the Readings

Syriac: ramremain

Cong: The true love of the father
far surpassed his son's great sin.
He ran out to embrace him
when at last his son came home.

Cel: "I have sinned against heaven
and before you," said the son.
"Though my heart now condemns me,
you are greater than my heart."

All: When the just offered worship,
you were pleased, O Lord our God.
Now be pleased with our worship;
in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Epistle

Reader:

A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians. Your blessing, Father. (2 Corinthians 5:16-21)

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Praise be to God always!

Gospel

STAND

Cong: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Cantor:
Blessed are those who have their transgressions forgiven
and their sins forgotten.

Cong: Alleluia!

Deacon:
Before the proclamation of the Gospel of our Savior,
announcing life for our souls, we offer this incense and ask for
your mercy, O Lord.

Cel: ☩ Peace be with you.

Cong: And with your spirit.

Cel: From the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint
Matthew, who proclaimed life to the world. Let us listen to the
proclamation of life and salvation for our souls.
(Matthew 18:15-22)

Deacon:
Remain silent, O listeners, for the Holy Gospel is about to be
proclaimed to you. Listen and give glory and thanks to the
Word of the living God.

Cel: The Lord Jesus says:
“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

“Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.”

Cel: This is the truth! Peace be with you.

He kisses the Book of Gospels.

Cong: Praise and blessings to Jesus Christ, our Lord and God, for giving us his words of life.

Homily

SIT

Supplication

O Hearts Full of Anger

Syriac: *bo'ooto dmor ya'qoob* (Minor)

1. O hearts full of anger, take heed.
Go make peace with your foes
and embrace them with love
and compassion.
Engrave on your souls Jesus Christ.
As he humbled himself,
you should humble yourselves
and grant pardon.
2. Does anger still reign in your hearts?
Then you turned from the Lord,
Christ, who died on the cross,
your true teacher.
If love for your neighbor is gone,
then you hate Jesus Christ,
who taught mercy and love
and forgiveness.
3. Let Christ be our teacher and guide,
for he showed us the way
to forgive from our hearts;
imitate him.
All foes will be turned into friends
and together, in peace,
will sing praises to him
who forgave us.

Concluding Prayers

STAND

The Celebrant, facing the altar, bows deeply as he says:

Cel: Let us confess, adore, and praise
the most holy and glorious Trinity;

He rises and makes the sign of the cross as he continues:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

All: Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Qadeeshat Aloho

(You are holy, O God)

The Celebrant and congregation sing the *Qadeeshat* three times, in Syriac.

qa-dee-shat a-lo-ho.
qa-dee-shat ha-yel-to-no.
qa-dee-shat lo-mo-yoo-to.

You are holy, O God.
You are holy, O Strong One.
You are holy, O Immortal One.

mshee-hod qom
men bet mee-teh,
it-ra-ham 'a-lain.

O Christ,
risen from the dead,
have mercy on us.

Lord's Prayer

All: (with extended hands)

Our Father, who art in heaven, 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, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Cel: O Christ our Lord, accept the penance we now offer to you and one another. May the grace and power of your Spirit come to purify, sanctify, and save us. May your life be a model for our own lives so that we may live imitating your life, your death, and your resurrection. May we reach that day which will unite us to you and to each other, and we raise glory and thanks to you, now and for ever.

Cong: Amen.

Acclamation

Cel: Christ is risen!

Cong: Christ is truly risen!