Lighted to lighten

P: Lord, send the radiance of your light to shine in our hearts and as a Church, make us true to your teaching, filled with your good deeds that we will be lighted to lighten. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN.

Opening Hymn

There is a Light, a blessed Light,
That comes from God above;
And in the face of Christ the Lord
Reflects the Father's love.

Let us walk in the Light!
Ever walk in the Light of God;
Let us walk in the Light!
Ever walk in the Light of God.

There is a Light, a glorious Light,
That falls upon our way;
And brighter shineth as we go,
Till lost in perfect day.

O blessèd, blessèd holy Light,
To all so freely given;
Shine forth, shine forth,
O Light of Life,
And guide us safe to heaven.
Author: Fanny J. Crosby

Kauma

P. † Glory be to the Father our Creator, to the Son our Redeemer and to the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.
C. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
P. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.
C. Blessed is He that 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, Immortal Lord.
C. O Lord, the Messiah who was crucified for us † have mercy on us. (To be repeated thrice)
P. O Lord, have mercy on us.
C. O Lord, have mercy on us and bless us.
P. O Lord, accept our prayers and worship and have mercy on us.
C. Glory be to you, O God.
P. Glory be to you, O Creator.
C. Glory be to you, O King the Messiah; who has mercy on us sinners. Bless us, O Lord.
(Let us sing together the prayer that Jesus taught us)

All:  Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is done in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Forever. Amen.

(Cong. to be seated)

1st Lesson - Isaiah 49:1-7
2nd Lesson - Ephesians 5:1-5

Meditation

**L: Little Candle**

Once upon a time a new little candle stood in a room filled with other candles, most of them much larger and much more beautiful than she was. Some were ornate and some were rather simple, like herself. Some were white, some were blue, some were pink, some were green. She had no idea why she was there, and the other candles made her feel rather small and insignificant.

When the sun went down and the room began to get dark, she noticed a large man walking toward her with a ball of fire on a stick. She suddenly realized that the man was going to set her on fire. "No, no!!" she cried, "Don't burn me, please!" But she knew that she could not be heard and prepared for the pain that would surely follow.

To her surprise, the room filled with light. She wondered where it came from since the man had extinguished his fire stick. To her delight, she realized that the light came from herself.

Then the man struck another fire stick and, one by one, lit the other candles in the room. Each one gave out the same light that she did.

During the next few hours, she noticed that, slowly, her wax began to flow. She became aware that she would soon die. With this realization came a sense of why she had been created. "Perhaps my purpose on earth is to give out light until I die," she mused. And that's exactly what she did.

God created you and I to produce light in a dark world. Like that little candle, we all can produce the same amount of light, no matter how small we are or what color we might be. But we can't produce light until we receive it from an outside source. That source is Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

"'In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven' Matthew 5:16

**Hymn**

Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light,
Like a little candle burning in the night.
In this world of darkness so let us shine—
You in your small corner, and I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine, first of all for Him;
Well He sees and knows it, if our light grows dim.
He looks down from Heaven to see us shine—
You in your small corner, and I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around;
Many kinds of darkness in the world are found—
Sin and want and sorrow; so we must shine—
You in your small corner, and I in mine.
Susan B. Warner, 1868

Music: Edwin O. Excell

L: An explanation about the logo of our Church

Come Spirit source of light
Thy grace is unconfined
Dispel the gloomy shades of night
The darkness of the mind.

Motto of the Mar Thoma Church – Lighted to Lighten
Matthew 5:14 says, 'You are the light of the world'. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.
The Mar Thoma Church was commissioned with the calling to share the light that can lighten and enlighten others.

The Cross
The cross symbolizes suffering and pain and also gives us the hope of eternal life. It is the transition from a people lost, to that of forgiveness and acceptance. It is the epitome of giving up of oneself so that others can be drawn closer to God. We are a Christ centered Church and the cross is a reminder of the greatest act of love ever.
At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away,
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!

The Wheel (Chakra)
The Chakra is one of the most important symbols of India. As the Mar Thoma Church was born in India we show our gratitude by honouring our motherland which has given us a home to light our lamps, which in turn radiates and lightens the burden of those around us. The Chakra also symbolizes movement and transition, inspiring us to be ever active for the good of society and to be examples of Christ’s teachings in this world.

Lamp
By being a little lamp we radiate the light of God’s amazing love. We have to let our light so shine that others may see our good deeds and praise our Father in heaven.
Luke 11: 36 says ‘Make certain, that the light within you is not darkness. If your whole body is full of light, with no part of it in darkness, it will be bright all over, as when a lamp shines on you with its brightness.
Light reveals the truth and the lamp also directs us to diligent attention to the study of the word of God.

The Lotus
The Lotus is a symbol of radiance and elegance, beauty, perfection, purity and grace. It is the traditional Indian symbol of holy living with its calming appearance and radiating heart.
Whenever a pond or lake bed dries up, the Lotus plant also disappears but as soon as there is water again the seeds of the Lotus plant lying dormant spring back to life. Even though the Lotus grows in marshy areas, it grows above the filth and the swamp to radiate beauty. We should be like the Lotus, radiating God’s love, even in trying and difficult circumstances.

The Shield
Traditionally a family crest or coat of arms was in the shape of a shield that enclosed the different elements comprising the emblem. The shield of the Mar Thoma Church logo similarly binds together all the characters that make up the emblem and also symbolizes God’s protection of his people.
‘But Thou O Lord, art a shield for me; mine glory and the lifter of mine head. Psalm 3:3

Help me be a little flame or just a tiny spark
To lighten the way for another
And remove the doubt and the dark.
Lighted to lighten, Dear Lord as a Church let us be
So others see our good deeds and forever praise Thee. Amen

Cong to stand

Intercessory Prayer
L: All powerful and ever-living God, splendor of true light, and never ending day, let the radiance of your coming banish from our minds the darkness of sin.
At this time we pray for the sick, the worried and the disappointed. Let us be able to lighten their burdens and give them the hope of God’s compassionate care. Let us reach out with heavenly light to
those that have to be saved. Dear Lord, we pray that you will help us to be a beacon to lighten the way for those lost to the world.

C: There’s a call comes ringing over the restless wave, “Send the light! Send the light!”

There are souls to rescue there are souls to save,
Send the light! Send the light!

*Send the light, the blessed Gospel light;*
*Let it shine from shore to shore!*
*Send the light, the blessed Gospel light;*
*Let it shine forevermore!*

L: We pray for our nation and political leaders. We thank you for the life of our former President Dr. Abdul Kalam. We pray that we as a nation and especially our politicians learn from the example of his life.
We pray for our Achens, our Church and its mission to be lighted to lighten. Help us to understand the wonderful teachings of our Church, its symbolisms and its active mission to spread the Christ like spirit.

C: Let us pray that grace may everywhere abound, “Send the light! Send the light!”
And a Christlike spirit everywhere be found,
Send the light! Send the light!

L: We pray for the many workers in the mission fields - the evangelists, the priests, the health workers and all those who are spreading your word through their deeds. Give them the strength to be examples of your goodness dear Lord. We pray that we will also learn from their tireless efforts and pray that they never grow weary in their work of love.

C: Let us not grow weary in the work of love, “Send the light! Send the light!”
Let us gather jewels for a crown above,
Send the light! Send the light!

*Refrain*

**Gospel Reading**
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 St. Matthew 5:13-16
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 Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the Word of life, God incarnate of the blessed Virgin Mary, it happened in this way.
C: So we believe and affirm.
(After reading the Gospel, the priest says, †’Peace be with you all!’)
C: We thank you, Lord, that you have given us your gospel which is indeed the light of the world, that we may be drawn closer to you through the living words from your gospel which we have now heard.

**The Nicene Creed**
We believe in the one true God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.
We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all world; Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the
Father, 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 of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. He was crucified also for us in the days of Pontius Pilate; suffered and died and was buried. The third day He rose again, by His Father's holy will, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead and of His kingdom there will be no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets and the apostles. We believe in one Holy Catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the new life of the world to come. Amen.

(Birthday & Wedding Anniversary & Thanksgiving)

Shining for Jesus everywhere I go,
Shining for Jesus in this world of woe;
Shining for Jesus, more like Him I grow;
Shining all the time for Jesus.

Shining all the time, shining all the time;
Shining for Jesus, beams of love divine;
Glorifying Him every day and hour;
Shining all the time for Jesus.

Shining for Jesus when the way is bright;
Shining for Jesus in the darkest night;
Shining for Jesus, making burdens light;
Shining all the time for Jesus.

Shining for Jesus, in a world of sin;
Shining for Jesus, bringing lost ones in;
Shining for Jesus, glorifying Him,
Shining all the time for Jesus.

Shining for Jesus, with a helping hand,
Shining for Jesus, helping others stand;
Shining while marching to the heav’nly land,
Shining all the time for Jesus.

Words: Charles Inglis. Music: Arranged from Charles C. Case (1843-1918)

Offertory

Shine, Jesus, shine;
fill this land with the Father’s glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze;
set out hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow;
flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your Word, Lord,
and let there be light.

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining.
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us.
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance.
By the blood I may enter your brightness.
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
So our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory.
Mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Graham Kendrick.

MESSAGE

Closing Prayer

P: O Lord, I thank you for the light that shines from within!
C: Help me through my life to brighten the world of the depressed, to glow in a world of darkness and
to shine when others struggle to find joy. Remind me that I have a light and that you have
commanded me to let my light shine. In a time of war, may my light be a light of peace. In a time of
hate, may my light be a light of love. In a time of poverty, may my light be a light of prosperity. In a
time of scarcity, may my light be a light of abundance. Bless me this day to be a light to the world.
Help me this day to let my light shine that all people might see your goodness, mercy and power,
shining through what they see in me. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior we pray. Amen.
Written by Rev. Dr. Nicholas Hood III

Benediction

P: May you be a shining beacon,
of hope, love and peace
may the Light of the World
in you, daily increase.

May you be a Son beam,
of mercy, faith and favor
may the Light of God’s grace
lead others, to your Savior.

May the Light of the World,
brighten up your day
may it shine so ever brightly
on the Truth and the Way!

May you be filled with everlasting Sunshine. Amen
Closing Hymn and Kiss of peace
There is sunshine in my soul today,
More glorious and bright
Than glows in any earthly sky,
For Jesus is my light.

Oh, there’s sunshine, blessed sunshine
When the peaceful happy moments roll.
When Jesus shows his smiling face,
There is sunshine in the soul.

There is gladness in my soul today,
And hope and praise and love,
For blessings which he gives me now,
For joys "laid up" above.

Text: Eliza E. Hewitt, 1851-1920
Music: John R. Sweney, 1837-1899

Benediction prayer- Deborah Ann Belka

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“When he came, there was no light. When he died, there was no darkness.” When Christ came into the world, there was no light. Matthew (quoting Isaiah) said of Him, “The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up” (Matthew 4:16). Harry Lauder once said that during his boyhood, he could tell where the lamplighter was “by the trail of light he left behind him.” Christ was the heavenly Lamplighter. Everywhere He went, the midnight gloom of sin and despair disappeared before Him.

Billygraham.org

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.”
— Martin Luther King Jr.

“We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.”
— Plato

“We cannot hold a torch to light another’s path without brightening our own.”
Ben Sweetland
"Thousands of candles can be lit from a single one
And it's life no less diminished
Life increases exponentially with love"

Arthur Tugman

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