



P: Thy Word is a lamp to my feet, O Lord,
Thy Word is a light to my way;
It shines in my soul like a star by night,
And comforts and cheers me all the day.

Opening Hymn

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days, and God of Love;
Jehovah, great I AM! by earth and Heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.

The God of Abraham praise, at whose supreme command
From earth I rise—and seek the joys at His right hand;
I all on earth forsake, its wisdom, fame, and power;
And Him my only portion make, my shield and tower.

He by Himself has sworn; I on His oath depend,
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, to Heav'n ascend.
I shall behold His face; I shall His power adore,
And sing the wonders of His grace forevermore!

The whole triumphant host give thanks to God on high;
"Hail! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!", they ever cry.
Hail! Abraham's God, and mine! I join the heav'nly host,
All might and majesty are Thine, and endless praise.

From The Yigdal of Daniel ben Judah, a Jewish judge in Rome, circa 1400, paraphrased by Thomas Olivers, circa 1765.

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)

Lesson 1 Isaiah 65:17-25

Lesson 2 Hebrews 4:1-13

History of Maramon Convention

The Maramon Convention, one of the largest Christian conventions in Asia, is held annually at Maramon, Pathanamthitta, Kerala during the month of February on the vast sand-bed of the Pampa River next to the Kozhencherry Bridge. It is organised by the Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association, the missionary wing of the Mar Thoma Church.

The origin and growth of this annual get-together for one week at a stretch can be traced to the great revival movement which gathered momentum during the reformation period in the Syrian Churches of Kerala under the pioneering leadership of Abraham Malpan in the latter part of 19th century. This brought about the transformation in resurgence of the ancient apostolic Churches in Kerala founded by St. Thomas the Apostle approximately in AD 52.

Jawaharlal Nehru in his 'Glimpses of World History', wrote about Christianity in India: "You may be surprised to learn that Christianity came to India long before it went to England or Western Europe, and when even in Rome it was a despised and proscribed sect. Within 100 years or so of the death of Jesus, Christian Missionaries came to South India by sea. They were received courteously and permitted to preach their new faith. They converted many people, and their descendants have lived there, with varying fortune, to this day. Most of them belong to old Christian sects which have ceased to exist in Europe".

First Convention Maramon Convention

The first convention was held for 10 days from March 8 to 17, 1895. The venue was the vast sand-bed of the Pampa River next to the Maramon church. The parishes in and around Maramon – Kozhencherry helped in making a very large panthal of coconut leaves to accommodate about 10,000 people. The main speakers were David and Wordsworth, two prominent Evangelists from Ceylon. On an average 10,000 to 15,000 people attended these meetings. On the last day, almost 25,000 attended. There were no proper roads during those days. So, nearby houses accommodated people from faraway places. Some of them came in boats and used them as their shelter.

Maramon Convention Leaders

In addition to the Metropolitan and Bishops of the Mar Thoma Church, speakers of world renown addressed this convention including Sadhu Sunder Singh, Punjab (1918), Dr. E. Stanley Jones, USA (1920–1968), Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa, Japan (1938), John R. Mott, Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1946 and President of World Alliance of YMCAs, Dr. Bob Pierce, Founder and president of World Vision (1964 & 66), Astronaut Col. James Irwin, who also walked on the moon, (1985), Dr. John Haggai, founder president of Haggai Institute (1973), Rev. Dr. George Carey, Arch Bishop of Canterbury (1995), and a host of others who have left their footprints on these sands of time.

Hymn

Jeevitha yaathrakkara kaaladikal engottu
Naashathin paathayo jeevante margamo
Lakshyam nin munpil enthu

Anpin roopi Yesu nadhan ninne vilikkunnille
Pokalle nee anthanaayi loka saubhagyam thedy
Ponnin chiraku ninakku meethe
Karthan virichathu kaanunnille
Sooryanin thaapamo khoramaam maariyo
Ninne alattayen pon makane

Vaishamyamaam medukalil engane nee kadakkum
Engane nee yordaninte akkare chennu cherum
Nin thonyil Karthaneshu undu
Nin naavil prarthana gaanam undo
Puthan gaanalapam paadi sthuthikkuvan
Hruthadam swargeeya shanthiyundo

Lyrics- O.C. Cherian

Meditation

"A Psalm of Life"

L: "A Psalm of Life" is a poem written by American writer, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, often subtitled "What the Heart of the Young Man Said to the Psalmist"
Longfellow wrote the poem shortly after completing lectures on German writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and was heavily inspired by him. He was also inspired to write it by a heartfelt conversation he had with friend and fellow professor at Harvard University- Cornelius Conway Felton; the two had spent an evening "talking of matters, which lie near one's soul: –and how to bear one's self doughtily in Life's battle: and make the best of things". The next day, he wrote "A Psalm of Life". Longfellow was further moved by the death of his first wife, Mary Storer Potter, and attempted to convince himself to have "a heart for any fate".

The poem is meant to inspire its readers to live actively, and neither to lament the past nor to take the future for granted.

Longfellow himself summarized that the poem was "a transcript of my thoughts and feelings at the time I wrote, and of the conviction therein expressed, that Life is something more than an idle dream." Richard Henry Stoddard referred to the theme of the poem as a "lesson of endurance".

"A Psalm of Life" became a popular and oft-quoted poem, such that Longfellow biographer Charles Calhoun noted it had risen beyond being a poem and into a cultural artifact. Among its many quoted lines are "footprints on the sands of time". The poem was widely translated into a variety of languages, including Sanskrit.

A Psalm of Life BY HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream!
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each to-morrow
Find us farther than to-day.

Art is long, and Time is fleeting,
And our hearts, though stout and brave,
Still, like muffled drums, are beating
Funeral marches to the grave.

In the world's broad field of battle,
In the bivouac of Life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!
Be a hero in the strife!

Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant!
Let the dead Past bury its dead!
Act,— act in the living Present!
Heart within, and God o'erhead!

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;

Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.

Cong to stand

Psalm 71

P: ¹ In you, Lord, I have taken refuge;

let me never be put to shame.
² In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me;
turn your ear to me and save me.

C: ³ Be my rock of refuge,
to which I can always go;
give the command to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.

P: ⁴ Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.

C: ⁵ For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord,
my confidence since my youth.

⁶ From birth I have relied on you;
you brought me forth from my mother's womb.
I will ever praise you.

P: ⁷ I have become a sign to many;
you are my strong refuge.

⁸ My mouth is filled with your praise,
declaring your splendor all day long.

C: ⁹ Do not cast me away when I am old;
do not forsake me when my strength is gone.

¹⁰ For my enemies speak against me;
those who wait to kill me conspire together.

¹¹ They say, "God has forsaken him;
pursue him and seize him,
for no one will rescue him."

P: ¹² Do not be far from me, my God;
come quickly, God, to help me.

¹³ May my accusers perish in shame;
may those who want to harm me
be covered with scorn and disgrace.

C: ¹⁴ As for me, I will always have hope;
I will praise you more and more.

¹⁵ My mouth will tell of your righteous deeds,
of your saving acts all day long—
though I know not how to relate them all.

P: ¹⁶ I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, Sovereign Lord;
I will proclaim your righteous deeds, yours alone.

C: ¹⁷ Since my youth, God, you have taught me,
and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.

¹⁸ Even when I am old and gray,
do not forsake me, my God,
till I declare your power to the next generation,
your mighty acts to all who are to come.

P: ¹⁹ Your righteousness, God, reaches to the heavens,
you who have done great things.
Who is like you, God?

C: ²⁰ Though you have made me see troubles,
many and bitter,

you will restore my life again;
from the depths of the earth
you will again bring me up.

P: ²¹ You will increase my honor
and comfort me once more.
²² I will praise you with the harp
for your faithfulness, my God;
I will sing praise to you with the lyre,
Holy One of Israel.

C: ²³ My lips will shout for joy
when I sing praise to you—
I whom you have delivered.
²⁴ My tongue will tell of your righteous acts
all day long,
for those who wanted to harm me
have been put to shame and confusion.

Intercessory prayers

L: We remember all those who have gone ahead. Who created new paths where no one thought there could be one. Who built up our faith traditions. Who challenged failure and fears to create a bond of the faithful. Who shaped language and a liturgy of praise. Who toiled in their commitments, not to be remembered, but to do great things for God. Who built communities and churches, but most importantly who brought families together in praise of our great God.

C: Fading away like the stars of the morning,
Losing their light in the glorious sun—
Thus would we pass from the earth and its toiling,
Only remembered by what we have done.

*Only remembered, only remembered,
Only remembered by what we have done;
Thus would we pass from the earth and its toiling,
Only remembered by what we have done.*

L: We pray for the Maramon convention as it brings together many people from different walks of life and different faith, to listen and be moved by the words that are spoken, the hymns that are sung and the unification of humanity on the river swept sands of Maramon. Be with each one of us dear Lord, in our work, study and play. Guide us, not to aim for success but endeavour to create happiness. Teach us, that it isn't the getting that is important so much as the giving. Help us, in being content by making others around us content.

C: Shall we be missed though by others succeeded,
Reaping the fields we in springtime have sown?
Yes, but the sowers may pass from their labors,
Ever remembered by what they have done.

L: We pray for our Church, especially in the project of building 'a home away from home' for working women, at the Galilean centre at Lingarajapuram. We pray that this seed of love will grow to shelter and empower women and children in that area. Help us to contribute generously to the missions of our Church, not in the hope of receiving more, but in the knowledge and prayer that it will be used to bring comfort and joy to others. Amen

C: Only the truth that in life we have spoken,
Only the seed that on earth we have sown;

These shall pass onward when we are forgotten,
Fruits of the harvest and what we have done.

Words: Horatius Bonar, 1870). Music: Ira D. Sankey, 1891

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 Mark 2:23-28

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.

(Cong. to be seated)

Birthday, Wedding Anniversary & Thanksgiving

There is a land, a sunny land
Whose skies are ever bright,
Where evening shadows never fall;
The Saviour is its light.

*If the cross we meekly bear,
Then the crown we shall wear,
When we dwell, among the fair,
In the bright forevermore.*

There is a clime, a peaceful clime,
Beyond life's narrow sea,
Where every storm is hush'd to rest:
There let our treasure be.

There is a home, a glorious home,
A heav'nly mansion fair;
And those who lov'd so fondly here
Will bid us welcome there.

Author: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
Music: W.A. Ogden

Offertory Hymn

Daiva krupayil njan asrayichu
Avan vazhikale njan arinju
Anugamichidum avanude chuvadukale(2)

Iha lokamo tharukilloru
Sukhavum mana santhiyathu
Ente Yeshuvinte thiru sannidhiyil
Ennum anandham undenikku

Ethra nallavan mathiyayavan
Enne karuthunna karthanavan
Ente avashyangal ellam arinjidunna
eattam adutha sahayakan than

Ente ayussil dinamakeyum
Thante nama mahathwathinay
Oru kaithiri pol kathiyerinjorikkal
Thiru marvil maranjidum njan

Lyrics- Bro. Charles John

MESSAGE

Cong. To stand

Closing Prayer

P: It's so sweet to walk with Jesus,
Step by step and day by day;
Stepping in His very footprints,
Walking with Him all the way.

C: It's so safe to walk with Jesus,
Leaning hard upon His arm,
Following closely where He will lead us,
None can hurt and none can harm.

Step by step I'll walk with Jesus,
Just a moment at a time;
Heights I have not wings to soar to
Step by step my feet can climb.

Jesus keep me closer near Thee
Step by step and day by day;
Stepping in Thy very footprints
Walking with Thee all the way.

Albert B. Simpson

P: Benediction

May the good Lord give us purpose for our days, peace in our sleep,
a heart of thanksgiving for those gone before
and the commitment to leave our footprints on the sands of time.

May God the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever more. Amen

Doxology and Kiss of peace

Thy Word is a lamp to my feet, O Lord,
Thy Word is a light to my way;
It shines in my soul like a star by night,
And comforts and cheers me by day.

*O wonderful, wonderful Word,
My treasure, my hope, and my stay;
Each promise recorded delights my soul,
And brightens each step of my way.*

Thy Word is a lamp to my feet, O Lord,
And, trusting in Thee as my all,
Whatever of evil may cross my path,
I never, no, never can fall.

Thy Word is a lamp to my feet, O Lord,
And oh, when Thy glory I see,
For all the rich blessings, its truth has brought,
The praises will I give unto Thee.

Words: Fanny Crosby, Music: Hubert P. Main

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Footprints

One night in deepest sleep, I dreamed,
Upon the beach I walked.
The Lord was by my side each step
As quietly we talked.

Then on the sky my life appeared;
Each chapter was serene.
Two sets of footprints in the sand
I saw in every scene.

And then I noticed in some parts
Of discontent and strife,
Just a single pair of footprints
In the worst times of my life.

"Lord, you said you'd walk by me
In good times and in bad.
Why then weren't you with me
When you knew my life was sad?"

"My dearest child," God whispered,
"When you suffered then, I knew;
The single pair of footprints
Were those times I carried you."

Poem by Ken Brown

Primrose Mar Thoma Church Choir- Feb 2017

