



**P:** You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6-8

The only ground on which God can forgive our sin and reinstate us to His favor is through the Cross of Christ. There is no other way! Forgiveness, which is so easy for us to accept, cost the agony at Calvary. We should never take the forgiveness of sin, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and our sanctification in simple faith, and then forget the enormous cost to God that made all of this ours. Let us worship together with gratitude for the greatest act of forgiveness ever.

### **Opening Hymn**

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 music in my soul today,  
A carol to my King,  
And Jesus listening can hear  
The songs I cannot sing.

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

### **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 Gen 4:8-16

Lesson 2 Acts 16:11-18

## **Meditation**

### **L: The last-minute pardon**

In Iran, it is standard practice for families of murder victims to oversee the execution of the murderer of their family member. They are also given the choice to pardon the offender. Such was the fate of a young man who had already served seven years for killing 17-year-old Abdollah Alinejad in a street fight.

In May 2014, Samereh Alinejad watched as a noose was slipped around the neck of Bilal Gheisari, her son's killer. This was her chance to have the vengeance she'd waited seven years to have. Instead, she and her husband stepped forward at the last minute and removed the noose from his neck. Gheisari's death sentence was commuted and he will finish serving a 12-year prison sentence instead.



### **L: The Unwavering Mother**

Jordyn Howe took his stepfather's gun to school and accidentally shot Ady Guzman's daughter, while showing the firearm to friends. Astonishing the judge and community, Guzman not only forgave the boy but also asked for him to get a lighter sentence, telling reporters that she believes her daughter would have wanted it that way. Howe will only serve one year in a juvenile detention center, and will visit local schools with Guzman to warn kids of the dangers of guns.



### **L: The quality of mercy**

Singh stabbed Sister Rani Maria 54 times in front of more than 50 bus passengers in a jungle area near Udainagar allegedly at the behest of money lenders affected by the nun's social work among village women who were organizing self-help groups.

Samandhar Singh who served a prison term for the 1995 murder of this Franciscan Clarist nun in Madhya Pradesh said that the forgiveness shown to him by the slain nun's family has given him "new life." He experienced a "rebirth" during a 2002 visit by Sister Selmy, the younger sister of slain Sister Rani Maria Vattalil, while he was in prison. Sister Selmy, also a member of the Franciscan Clarist Congregation, offered words of forgiveness and tied a rakhi on his hand signifying that she accepted Singh as her brother. "It gave me a new life," recalled the 46-year-old Singh with beaming eyes sitting at his farm.





### **Hymn**

I know not why God's wondrous grace  
To me He hath made known,  
Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love  
Redeemed me for His own.

*But "I know Whom I have believed,  
And am persuaded that He is able  
To keep that which I've committed  
Unto Him against that day."*

I know not how this saving faith  
To me He did impart,  
Nor how believing in His Word  
Wrought peace within my heart.

I know not how the Spirit moves,  
Convincing men of sin,  
Revealing Jesus through the Word,  
Creating faith in Him.

I know not what of good or ill  
May be reserved for me,  
Of weary ways or golden days,  
Before His face I see.

Words: D. W. Whittle (1883)

Music: James McGranahan

### **L: The Hiding Place**

During World War II, Corrie ten Boom's family had been caught hiding Jews. She and her sister were sent to Ravensbruck, one of the Nazi Death camps, where Corrie watched her sister and many others die.

In 1947, she went back to Germany to share the gospel. In one of her talks, Corrie had spoken about the forgiveness of God. After the service, a long line of people waited to talk to her. She saw, standing in line, a terribly familiar face- a man who had been one of the cruelest guards in the prison camp. As she saw him a score of painful memories flooded her mind. The man came up to her, stuck his hand out, and said, "A fine message, Fraulein. How good it is to know that all our sins are at the bottom of the sea." Corrie didn't take his hand but fumbled in her purse. Her blood froze. She knew him, but he obviously didn't recognize her. That was understandable. After all, she was only one faceless prisoner among tens of thousands. Then he said, "You mentioned Ravensbruck. I was a guard there. But since

then, I have become a Christian. I know God has forgiven the cruel things I did there, but I would like to hear it from your lips as well." Again he stuck out his hand: "Fraulein, will you forgive me?" Her hand wouldn't move, yet she knew that the Lord wanted her to forgive him. All she could do was cry inwardly: "Jesus, help me. I can lift my hand but You'll have to do the rest." Woodenly, mechanically, she raised her hand to take his. She was acting out of obedience and faith, not out of love. However, even as she did, she experienced God's transforming grace.

Risk of forgiveness by Gary Inrig



### **L: I have forgiven the killers**

As the designated CBI Judge, Mahendra Nath Patnaik, handed out the death sentence to Dara Singh and sentenced 12 others to life imprisonment for killing the Australian missionary, Graham Staines and his two sons, Gladys Staines, widow of the slain missionary, said, "I have forgiven the killers and have no bitterness because forgiveness brings healing and our land needs healing from hatred and violence. Forgiveness and the consequences of the crime should not be mixed up."

"God in Christ has forgiven me and expects His followers to do the same. The Bible says: "To whomsoever you forgive their sins will be forgiven". Therefore, in the light of eternity we all need forgiveness of our sins to enter heaven," Ms. Staines said.

<http://www.thehindu.com/2003/09/23/stories/2003092305471200.htm>



Cong to stand

### **Prayer of Confession**

*Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson  
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy*

## **Psalm 51**

P: <sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.

C: <sup>2</sup> Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.

P: <sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are right in your verdict  
and justified when you judge.

C: <sup>5</sup> Surely, I was sinful at birth,  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.  
Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;  
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.  
Cleans me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

P: <sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.

C: <sup>10</sup> Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

P: <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.  
<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
so that sinners will turn back to you.

C: <sup>14</sup> Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,  
you who are God my Savior,  
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.  
Open my lips, Lord,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.

P: <sup>16</sup> You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;  
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

C: My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart  
you, God, will not despise.  
May it please you to prosper Zion,  
to build up the walls of Jerusalem. Amen

*Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson*

*Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy*

### **Intercessory Prayers**

**L:** Dear Lord, thank you for your gift of forgiveness. Your only Son loved us so much to come to earth and experience the worst pain imaginable so we could be forgiven. Your mercy flows to us in spite of our faults and failures. Help us to demonstrate unconditional love, even to those who hurt us. Teach us to humble ourselves when we are wrong, and help us to forget our pride and pray for those who have wronged us.

**C:** To be sung

When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.

**L:** We pray for the many that go hungry or just manage about a meal a day.  
We pray for the many children who do not have access to any kind of learning.  
We pray for the those who curl up on pavements without any shelter.  
In our comfort, in our excess, in our priorities, dear Lord we pray that you forgive us for wasting and not thinking of others around us.

**C:** Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
save in the death of Christ, my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them through his blood.

**L:** Forgive us Dear Lord, in not looking to you, especially when things are right, when everything is fine. Forgive us for turning to you only in dire need, or in want. Forgive us for thinking that prayer is a waste of time, and help us to see that without prayer, our work and our living is a waste of time. In this Lenten season help us to understand the giving of yourself: -  
God made flesh, flesh spat on, tortured and torn,  
Father, Creator and king of the world disrobed  
Crowned with the most painful crown ever worn  
To forgive the world and bring in eternal hope.

**C:** See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

**L:** We pray for the many farmers and their families affected by drought, desperate for a little water to survive. We pray that you will bless them with hope and comfort.  
We pray for your forgiveness in not conserving, planting, recognizing and nurturing your great creation- our world.  
Dear Lord we pray that we may increasingly know and experience the peace that is found in Jesus - the peace that the world cannot give. Help us to be peace makers, creators and innovators for healing on this earth.

**C:** Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small.  
Love so amazing, so divine,

demands my soul, my life, my all.

Words: Isaac Watts

Music: Hamburg, Lowell Mason, 1824

### **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 2:1-12

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**

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come:  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
and mortal life shall cease:  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
a life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
the sun forbear to shine;  
but God, who called me here below,  
will be forever mine.

Author: John Newton (1779)

### **Offertory Hymn**

I lay my sins on Jesus,  
The spotless Lamb of God;  
He bears them all, and frees us  
From the accursed load.  
I bring my guilt to Jesus,  
To wash my crimson stains  
White in His blood most precious,  
Till not a spot remains.

I lay my wants on Jesus:  
All fullness dwells in Him;  
He heals all my diseases,  
He doth my soul redeem.  
I lay my griefs on Jesus,  
My burdens and my cares;  
He from them all releases;  
He all my sorrows shares.

I rest my soul on Jesus,  
This weary soul of mine;  
His right hand me embraces,  
I on His breast recline.  
I love the Name of Jesus,  
Emmanuel, Christ, the Lord;  
Like fragrance on the breezes  
His Name abroad is poured.

I long to be like Jesus,  
Meek, loving, lowly, mild;  
I long to be like Jesus,  
The Father's holy Child;  
I long to be with Jesus,  
Amid the heavenly throng;  
To sing with saints His praises,

To learn the angels' song.  
Author: Horatius Bonar

## **MESSAGE**

Cong. To stand

### **Closing Prayer**

**P:** I could not do without Thee, O Savior of the lost,  
Whose precious blood redeemed me, At such tremendous cost;

**C:** Thy righteousness, Thy pardon, Thy precious blood, must be  
My only hope and comfort, My glory and my plea.

**P:** I could not do without Thee; I cannot stand alone,  
I have no strength or goodness, No wisdom of my own;

**C:** But Thou, beloved Saviour, Art All in all to me,  
And weakness will be power, If I lean hard on Thee.

**P:** I could not do without Thee; No other friend can read  
The spirit's strange deep longings, Interpreting its needs;

**C:** No human heart could enter, Each dim recess of mine,  
And soothe, and hush, and calm it, O blessed Lord, but Thine.

**P:** I could not do without Thee, For years are fleeting fast,  
And soon in solemn loneliness The river must be passed;

**C:** But Thou wilt never leave me, And though the waves roll high,  
I know Thou wilt be near me, And whisper, "It is I."  
Amen.

Author: Frances R. Havergal

### **Prayer & Benediction**

**P:** Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you. Ephesian 4:31-32

May God Almighty, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, be compassionate to you and help you to forgive the sins of others just as He forgives our sins and gives us peace. Amen.

### **Doxology and Kiss of peace**

O happy day that fixed my choice  
On Thee, my Savior and my God!  
Well may this glowing heart rejoice,  
And tell its raptures all abroad.

*Happy day, happy day,  
When Jesus washed my sins away!  
He taught me how to watch and pray,  
And live rejoicing ev'ry day;  
Happy day, happy day,  
When Jesus washed my sins away.*

Now rest, my long-divided heart,  
Fixed on this blissful center rest;  
Nor ever from thy Lord depart,  
With him of every good possessed.

High heaven that heared the solemn vow,  
That vow renewed shall daily hear;  
Till in life's latest hour I bow,  
And bless in death a bond so dear.

Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751),  
Music: attributed to Edward F. Rimbault, 1854

**Primrose Mar Thoma Church Choir- March 2017**

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