



P: Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

Mark 8:34-35

Through this service let us reaffirm our faith in the Triune God - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Opening Hymn

Christ Is Enough

Christ is my reward, And all of my devotion
Now there's nothing in this world, That could ever satisfy
Through every trial, my soul will sing
No turning back, I've been set free

Christ is enough for me

Christ is enough for me

Everything I need is in You
Everything I need

Christ my all in all, The joy of my salvation
And this hope will never fail, Heaven is our home
Through every storm, My soul will sing
Jesus is here, To God be the glory

I have decided to follow Jesus
No turning back, No turning back
I have decided to follow Jesus
No turning back No turning back
The cross before me, The world behind me

No turning back, No turning back

I have decided to follow Jesus
No turning back, No turning back
I have decided to follow Jesus
No turning back No turning back
Songwriters Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan

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 Ezekiel 36:24-36

Lesson-1 Acts 2:1-13

Meditation

L: One small voice can start a revolution

In 2004 Victor Yushchenko stood for the presidency of the Ukraine. Vehemently opposed by the ruling party Yushchenko's face was disfigured and he almost lost his life when he was mysteriously poisoned. This was not enough to deter him from standing for the presidency.

On the day of the election Yushchenko was comfortably in the lead. The ruling party, not to be denied, tampered with the results. The state-run television station reported "ladies and gentlemen, we announce that the challenger Victor Yushchenko has been decisively defeated."

In the lower right-hand corner of the screen a woman by the name of Natalia Dmitruk was providing a translation service for the deaf community. As the news presenter regurgitated the lies of the regime, Natalia Dmitruk refused to translate them. "I'm addressing all the deaf citizens of Ukraine" she signed. "They are lying and I'm ashamed to translate those lies. Yushchenko is our president."

The deaf community sprang into gear. They text messaged their friends about the fraudulent result and as news spread of Dmitruk's act of defiance increasing numbers of journalists were inspired to likewise tell the truth. Over the coming weeks the "Orange Revolution" occurred as a million people wearing orange made their way to the capital city of Kiev demanding a new election. The government was forced to meet their demands, a new election was held and Victor Yushchenko became president.

Here is an example of one woman who could make a difference. She stood up for truth and changed the course of an entire country. Jesus also wants us to stand up for him. Stand up for truth. We can be His disciple in our workplaces, our schools, our home, our Church and our community. Be His disciple by reaching out to those in need and giving hope through His word. Be His disciple by being an example of His teaching of love and respect for others. Be His disciple by proudly announcing that He is master over our life. Will you stand up for Jesus?

<https://storiesforpreaching.com/category/sermonillustrations/discipleship/>

Hymn

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them,
Whom shall I send?

Dan Schutte

L: I am a disciple of Jesus Christ

I am a part of the fellowship of the unashamed.

The die has been cast, I've stepped over the line; the decision has been made;
I am a disciple of Jesus Christ.
I will not look back, let up, slow down, back away or be still.
My past is redeemed; my present makes sense; my future is secure.
I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits or popularity.
I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded or rewarded.

I now live by faith, love by patience, long for mercy and labor by grace.
My pace is set; my gait is fast; my goal is heaven.
My road is narrow; my way is rough; my companions few; my Guide reliable; my mission clear!

I cannot be bought, compromised, deterred, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed.
I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity;
I will not negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, nor meander in the maze of mediocrity.
I will not give up, back up, or let up until I have prayed, preached and promoted the cause of Jesus Christ!

I am a disciple of Jesus Christ.
I must go until He returns; give until I drop;
Preach until all know; and work until He comes.
And when He comes to get His own, He will have no trouble recognizing me;
My colors are flying high, and they are clear for all to see.

Author - unknown, Inspiration- known

<https://wordsofgrace.wordpress.com/2008/07/28/i-am-a-disciple-of-jesus-christ/>

(Cong to stand)

Prayer of Confession

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

P: Merciful God,
You call us to follow; to turn away from our own selfish interests,
and to take up our cross and follow You,
even if the path is difficult to see,
or is heading in a direction we would never have chosen for ourselves.

C: Forgive us for being so quick to question
and so hesitant to follow.
Help us to see with eyes of faith,
rather than from our own human point of view.
Teach us to follow without fear,
knowing that You are always with us, leading the way.
Give us firm faith so that without hesitating or doubting
we will proclaim your great sacrifice of love every day.
Amen.

Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

Intercessory Prayers

L: Loving God, you alone are the source of every good gift. We praise you for all your gifts to us, and we thank you for your generosity. Everything we have, and all that we are, comes from you. Help us to be ever grateful and responsible for what we are.

You have called us to follow your son, Jesus, without counting the cost. Send us your Holy Spirit to give us courage and wisdom to be faithful disciples. Help us to be grateful, accountable, generous, and willing to give back with increase. Help us to make stewardship a way of life, following in Your footsteps. Amen.

C: I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back.

L: God of love and mercy, grant us the grace to understand, and the courage to accept the challenges and opportunities we have been given to advance the mission of your Church.

We believe that you have given us everything we need to carry out your will. Help us to be steadfast in faith, confident in hope and generous in charity.

When faced with distractions, give us the determination to overcome our wanderings so that in all things you may be glorified, not us, Amen.

C: Though I may wander, still I will follow;
Though I may wander, still I will follow;
Though I may wander, still I will follow;
No turning back, no turning back.

L: Lord Jesus, before you ascended into heaven you gave the disciples the great commission to "Go out into the whole world and baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit".

Help us to be faithful stewards of this mission. Give us the confidence we need to proclaim the coming Kingdom of God and to be the seeds and beginning of that Kingdom here and now.

Help us not to look for others' approval or encouragement when we reach out to be closer to You. May our vision be focused, that our path may lead directly to You - our hope and guide.

C: Though none go with me, still I will follow;
Though none go with me, still I will follow;
Though none go with me, still I will follow;
No turning back, no turning back.

L: Dear Lord clothe your Church with love so that we can stand tall in our faith and not in our selves. We pray for harmony between Churches and between Your people so that we can be shining examples of Your grace. Help us to focus on the cross, forgetting all our worldly wants and possessions. Amen.

C: The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
No turning back, no turning back.

Song attributed to Sadhu Sundar Singh

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 John 20:19-23

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

More about Jesus would I know, More of His grace to others show;
More of His saving fullness see, More of His love who died for me.

More, more about Jesus,
More, more about Jesus;
More of His saving fullness see,
More of His love who died for me.

More about Jesus let me learn, More of His holy will discern;
Spirit of God my teacher be, Showing the things of Christ to me.

More about Jesus; in His Word, Holding communion with my Lord;
Hearing His voice in every line, Making each faithful saying mine.

More about Jesus; on His throne, Riches in glory all His own;
More of His kingdom's sure increase; More of His coming, Prince of Peace.

Lyrics: Eliza Edmunds Hewitt (1851-1920) Music: John Robson Sweney (1837-1899)

Student & Teacher blessing

P: Request all students and teachers to come forward for the Student and Teacher blessing

Hymn

Jesus bids us shine, with a clear, pure 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 this world abound:
sin, and want and sorrow; so we must shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine, as we work for Him,
Bringing those that wander from the paths of sin;
He will ever help us, if we shine,
You in your small corner, and I in mine.

Words by Susan Bogert Warner (1819-1885) and music by Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921)

Prayer for Students (to be repeated after Achen)

God of our past, our present and our future,
God of our dreams, our hopes and our decisions,
Be with us as we journey through this new academic year.

Be our vision, that we may see life through your eyes,
Be our hearing, that we may listen well for your call,
Be our judgment, so we may understand clearly
Be our inspiration to do our best in the classroom and playgrounds.

We thank you for our teachers who are an amazing blessing to us
We thank you for our School, college and Sunday School.
As we move into this new year,
Mould us to be your disciples to bring love to the world
Fill us with abiding trust that you dwell in us,
So that, in both joy and sorrow, we radiate hope.
Amen

Prayer for teachers (to be repeated after Achen)

As I step into a new academic year;
Restore my spirit in Your word, renew my passion for sharing your wisdom, and nurture my
compassion for those You put in my charge.
Transform me as I seek to transform. Guide me as I seek to guide. Open my mind and heart as I
seek to open minds and hearts.
Help me listen more intently to my students and be able to inspire them in their subjects and in the
knowledge of your Word.
Lord, give me patience when times are difficult, kindness in righting a wrong and love to inspire my
students to greatness. Amen

Offertory

With cheerful songs and hymns of praise,

Our grateful hearts to Him we raise,
Who Leads us on with gentle hand,
And crowns with love Our Christian Band.

Then gladly let us stand,
United heart and hand,
The lost to gather in
From sorrow, pain, and sin;
Be this our constant aim—
To spread abroad the name
Of Jesus our Redeemer,
And His wondrous love proclaim.

And while we meet together here,
In bounds of love and friendship dear,
Oh, may our prayers like incense rise,
To Him whose grace each need supplies.

O Thou who are the children's Friend,
Our steps direct, our paths defend,
And by Thine own almighty hand
Protect and keep our Christian Band.

Author: Fanny J. Crosby Composer: Ira D. Sankey

MESSAGE

Closing Prayer

P: Take, Lord, and receive all our liberty,
And our entire will, our understanding, our memory.

C: All I have and call my own.
You have given it all to me.
To you, Lord, I return it.
In your service, please use me.
Give me your love and grace
To reach out to those in need
Commission me to proclaim your love.
To lead more people back to thee. Amen

Benediction

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All God's people here send their greetings. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. † Amen 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

Doxology and kiss of peace

Down in the valley with my Savior I would go,
Where the storms are sweeping and the dark waters flow;
With His hand to lead me I will never, never fear,
Dangers cannot fright me if my Lord is near.

Follow! follow! I would follow Jesus!
Anywhere, everywhere, I would follow on!

Follow! follow! I would follow Jesus!
Everywhere He leads me I would follow on!

Down in the valley, or upon the mountain steep,
Close beside my Savior would my soul ever keep;
He will lead me safely in the path that He has trod,
Up to where they gather on the hills of God.

Lyrics:William Orcutt Cushing (1823-1902) Music:Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

Amen
.....

Story behind the song- I have decided to follow Jesus

In the 1880's a Welsh missionary who had endured severe persecution finally saw his first converts in a particularly brutal village in the Indian province of Assam. A husband and wife, with their two children, professed faith in Christ and were baptized. Their village leaders decided to make an example out of the husband. Arresting the family, they demanded that the father renounce Christ, or see his wife and children murdered. When he refused, his two children were executed by archers. Given another chance to recant, the man again refused, and his wife was similarly stuck down. Still refusing to recant, the man followed his family into glory.

Witnesses later told the story to the Welsh missionary. The reports said that when asked to recant or see his children murdered, the man said: "I have decided to follow Jesus, and there is no turning back."

After seeing his children killed, he reportedly said, "The world can be behind me, but the cross is still before me." And after seeing his wife pierced by the arrows, he said, "Though no one is here to go with me, still I will follow Jesus."

According to this missionary, when he returned to the village, a revival had broken out, and those that had murdered the first converts had since come to faith themselves. The Welsh man passed along these reports to the famous Indian evangelist Sadhu Singh. The accounts of the family that had been martyred in Assam were so astonishing and widely circulated that most Indian believers were familiar with it. So Singh took the martyr's last words, and put them to traditional Indian music in order to make one of the first uniquely Indian hymns. The song immediately became popular in Indian churches, and it remains a mainstay of worship music there to this day.

Eventually some of the American missionaries returned from India and they brought that song with them. Finally, it ended up with Canadian song writer George Beverley Shea, and he made it a staple at the Billy Graham crusades.

.....

Primrose Mar Thoma Church Choir- June 2017