



Priests

Called for
Divine Ministry

Invocation

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you
Allelu Alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you
Allelu Alleluia
Alleluia Alleluia...

P: Opening Prayer

God our Father, Lord of all the world,
through your Son you have called us into the fellowship of your universal Church:
hear our prayer for your faithful people that in their vocation and ministry
each may be an instrument of your love.
We pray that you continue to give us, your children, the gifts of grace;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Come, Holy Spirit, like a dove descending,
Rest Thou upon us while we meet to pray;
Show us the Savior, His great love revealing,
Lead us to Him, the Life, the Truth, the Way.

Come, Holy Spirit, every cloud dispelling,
Fill us with gladness, through the Master's name;
Bring to our memory words that He hath spoken,

Then shall our tongues His wondrous grace proclaim.

Come, Holy Spirit, sent from the God the Father—
Thou friend and teacher, comforter and guide—
Our thoughts directing, keep us close to Jesus,
And in our hearts forevermore abide.

Author: Robert Bruce, Music - Ira D. sankey

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 33:1-9

Lesson 2- 1Timothy 3:1-13

Meditation

Rev. A K George

MAR THOMA MISSION - TIBETAN BORDER

Tibetan Border Mission is the best possible example of Mar Thoma Church's enthusiasm to spread the Gospel 'unto the ends of earth'. It has completed 6 decades of witnessing in the Himalayan terrain. The pioneer missionary was Late Rev. A K George from Kappil, in Kollam district. Achen and his friends Mr.

P P Thomas and Mr. V S Jones moved to a place called Munsyari in the then Uttar Pradesh state with a vision to take the Gospel to the 'forbidden land' Tibet. A K George achen set up an ashram there called Suvarta Premi Samiti and started witnessing Christ. Though the first partners left Munsyari within few years, others joined in. Mr. V T John and family, Sr. A V Mariamma, and Sr. P T Rachel were the key participants thereafter. They worked tirelessly for many decades in this difficult terrain with people of varied cultures and languages. All the pioneers had expertise in modern medicine and the locals approached the medical center for treatment. Their interventions proved a blessing for the community. God guided them to do the unimaginable.

A K George Achen had even gone to Tibet, venturing into the high altitudes of 20,000 ft above sea level, before the border closed in 1962 following the Indo-China war. God blessed their mission and many people turned to the Lord including a Brahmin sanyasi and a Buddhist monk. The stories of these missionaries are full of courage and valour.

The church now has three mission centers in Munsyari, two schools with over 250 students and two Child Development Centres that do village outreach programs to create awareness on social evils and the ill-effects of alcoholism & drug addiction. Some of the other activities are Bal Vikas Kendra, Village Sunday school and medical clinics.

Remoteness and backwardness are the main challenges in this place. One has to travel for 300 kms to reach the nearest city through treacherous meandering roads. Medical facilities here are also minimal and one has to travel for 8 hours even for an X-ray.

Thanks to the efforts of A K George Achen whose strong faith in God led him to the heights; through his dedication and determination he now challenges us to go great distances for God.

Hymn

Are you sitting idle?
Still there's work to do;
In the Master's vineyard
There's a place for you:
Be a faithful servant,
Ever ready stand.
Where the Master calls you—
Lend a helping hand!

Lend a hand, lend a hand,
Lend a helping hand;
Weary ones are falling,
Lend a helping hand!
Lend a hand, lend a hand,
Lend a helping hand;
Jesus still is calling,
Lend a helping hand!

Is your voice now silent?
There are songs to sing;
Come and swell the chorus,
Make His praises ring!
Till the strains are wafted
Over, sea and land,
Reaching up to heaven—
Lend a helping hand!

Do your prayers no longer
Reach the throne of grace,
Asking that some wand'rer
Might his steps retrace?
Earnest prayer may keep him
From the sinking sand;
Yours today may save him—
Lend a helping hand!

Author: James Bruce Mackay, Music John Robson Sweney

L: Advice to Priests-

***Wearing a cassock can and should be a form of prayer,
but just putting it on isn't enough.***

Dk. Michał Lubowicki – Poland

The first day he put on a cassock, a seminarian got a letter from a friend, a few years his senior. This is what he learned about his cassock:-

A cassock. Today in your eyes it is more beautiful than a bride's dress. You are truly and rightfully happy wearing it; after all, you have been waiting for it since the time you entered the seminary. I can only hope that you will be equally happy when it has come to be what its color implies, i.e. a deadly shroud and a dying uniform. Today it is a bride's dress you enthuse over, along with your family and friends. Be as enthusiastic about it when it starts to be your solitary confinement, cage and furnace where God will melt and purify you, an uncomfortable hermitage.

This bride's dress, when necessary, will be your armor, provided you care to remember and use it this way. Wearing a cassock can and should be a form of prayer, but it does not become a prayer just by putting it on.

Pockets. The deep ones are meant to store all the things you will share with others. Always have something to give away to the needy and children. Remember that they will appreciate a little money, your smile, and a word of solace more than your impeccable hymn singing.

An inside breast pocket. It is not meant for holding an expensive pen. Carry in it letters you do not know how to answer, notes with the names of those you have promised to pray for, other people's bills you have decided to pay, addresses you know should be visited. Keep this pocket filled always.

May your **cassock always be a nuisance** and a stumbling block when you start putting on airs and strutting like a peacock, falling prey to your vaulting ambitions. May you always stumble on it when you are led astray. Do not worry – it will stick in your way.

Do not be afraid to tuck it up and run to help your neighbor, even if you will look like a clown.

Sleeves can be rolled up. The cuff reminds you that a cassock is no dress uniform, but work clothes. I sincerely wish that your cassock would show white salt marks: the ones on the back will be the signs of your sweat, the ones on the chest will be the marks of tears, both yours and those who, hugged by you, will confide in you their hundreds of worries big and small, grave and frivolous.

May your cassock quickly show traces of wear and tear on the knees and shoulders, signs of your prayer and bearing other people's burdens. May it not show such signs on the behind and elbows, indicators that you have sat down a lot or elbowed your way through the crowd.

More and more people will look at you; after all, your cassock gives you a lot of visibility. It also intimidates, and there will be fewer people brave enough to criticize you. This does not mean, however, that there will be no grounds for criticism.

Love your cassock but do not love yourself in it.

First and foremost, love the Church who has given it to you. And love Jesus, who has offered you the Church and who has offered you to the Church, for which I am myself so grateful to Him.

Remember that your cassock is not the packaging of a completed product. The Lord has clothed you in it to mercifully hide your inadequacies and deficiencies. *Now that you know this, blessed are you if you behave accordingly* (John 13:17).

Full article- <https://aleteia.org/2017/06/25/a-cassock-work-clothes-not-a-dress-uniform/>

L: God's Instrument

I see the hands that hold God's word
And fold in prayer to seek His will.
I see the feet that walk the path
And offers of praise as from lofty hill.

I see the hands that serve Him well,
The ears that seek to hear His call,
The mouth that speaks truth and wisdom,
The busy feet that carry the message to all.

I see the heart that was pricked and entered
When God's man answered the gospel call
And yielded His life as a humble servant,
A man who is willing, as was Apostle Paul.

I see all of this as he stands in the pulpit,
An instrument through which God speaks
The words of wisdom, of love and peace,
To lead and guide all those whom God seeks.

by Judy Crowe

<http://www.my-pastor.com/pastor-appreciation-poems.html>

Cong to stand

Psalm 99

P: ¹ The Lord reigns,
let the nations tremble;
he sits enthroned between the cherubim,
let the earth shake.

C: ² Great is the Lord in Zion;
he is exalted over all the nations.

P: ³ Let them praise your great and awesome name—
he is holy.

C: ⁴ The King is mighty, he loves justice—
you have established equity;
in Jacob you have done

what is just and right.

P: ⁵ Exalt the Lord our God
and worship at his footstool;
he is holy.

C: ⁶ Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
Samuel was among those who called on his name;
they called on the Lord
and he answered them.

P: ⁷ He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud;
they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them.

C: ⁸ Lord our God,
you answered them;
you were to Israel a forgiving God,
though you punished their misdeeds.

⁹ Exalt the Lord our God
and worship at his holy mountain,
for the Lord our God is holy.

L: Intercessory Prayers

Look with mercy, O Lord, on your holy church throughout the world, on all the bishops who bear the burden of leading and guiding her. We especially pray for our Bishops- Philipose Mar Chrysostom-Mar Thoma Valia Metropolitan, Joseph Mar Thoma- Metropolitan, Geevarghese Mar Athanasius -Suffragan Metropolitan, Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, Thomas Mar Timotheos, Euyakim Mar Coorilos, Joseph Mar Barnabas, Issac Mar Philoxenos, Abraham Mar Paulose, Mathews Mar Makarios, Gregorios Mar Stephanos and Thomas Mar Theethos. Give to each one your Holy Spirit, guide and strengthen them in your word to serve with love.

We pray for our Church Seminaries across the country as they continue to guide students to understand their calling. We also pray for the evangelists in the many missions of the Church especially those in remote regions. We pray Dear Lord, that You would inspire and guide more of us to take up Your work, to be your priests, to be your representatives in spreading the Good Word.

L: Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
Enter every longing heart.

L: Eternal God, we your people pray to You for our priests. You have given them to us for OUR needs. We pray for them in THEIR needs.
Please bless our priests, who represent you on this earth. Make them more greatly aware of the grace that you pour out through them when they minister. Please strengthen our priests, who shepherd your flock, that they may be examples of your truth and guide us always on the path to you. We ask these things of You our Eternal Priest. Amen

C: Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit;

Let us find the promised rest.
Come Almighty to deliver
Let us all Thy grace receive
Suddenly return and never
Never more Thy temples leave

L: Dear Lord, we know that You have made them priests in the likeness of your own priesthood. You have consecrated them, set them aside, anointed them, filled them with the Holy Spirit, appointed them to teach, to preach, to minister, to console, to forgive, and to feed us with Your Body and Blood. Yet we know, too, that they are one with us and share our human weaknesses. We know too that they are tempted to sin and discouragement as we are, needing to be ministered to, as we do, to be consoled and forgiven, as we. Indeed, we thank You for choosing them from among us, so that they understand us as we understand them, suffer with us and rejoice with us, worry with us and trust with us, share our beings, our lives, our faith.
We ask that You bless them with Your presence in their hearts, Your holiness in their souls, Your joy in their spirits. Amen.

C: Finish then, Thy new creation,
Pure and spotless may we be
Let us see our whole salvation,
perfectly secured by Thee
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.
Author: Charles Wesley (1747) Tune: John Zundel's BEECHER

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 Matthew 3:13-19

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

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light

Be thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord
Thou my great Father, I Thy true Son
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won
May I reach heavens joys, O bright heav'n's Sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever be-fall
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be thou my armor, be thou my true might;
Thou my soul's shelter, my only strong tower
Raise thou me heavenward, great Power of power

Words: Ancient Irish hymn; trans. Eleanor Hull, 1912

Offertory

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;
Where there is injury your pardon, Lord;
And where there's doubt true faith in you.

*Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, only light;
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

In giving to all men that we receive;
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Author (attributed to): St. Francis of Assisi; Adapter: Sebastian Temple

MESSAGE

Closing prayer

C: Dear Achens
Our God has sent you to this place
To lead us in the way
That He would have us work and think
And live from day to day.

No matter the hour; whatever the need,
You go the extra mile -
Always ready and willing to share
A comforting thought and a smile.

We're grateful that you're here with us
To teach us from His word,
And we will try to do our best
In service of our Lord.

We thank you for your ministry,
Your guidance and your care.
His greatest blessings for your life
Is our most humble prayer. Amen

P: Benediction

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:9-13

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God. May God the father, the Son and the Holy spirit be with you and among you and keep you from all harm and make you worthy of all good gifts. Amen

Doxology and kiss of peace

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed priests to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
of this world in the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Translator: Catherine Winkworth; Author: Martin Rinckart (1636) Tune: NUN DANKET

AMEN

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A lesson in living from Pope Francis

When Pope Francis was a parish priest in Argentina, he met a mother with young children who had been abandoned by her husband.

She had no steady income. When odd jobs were scarce, she would prostitute herself to feed her children and provide for her family. During that time, she would visit the local parish, which tried to help her by offering food and material goods.

One day during the Christmas season the mother visited and requested to see the parish priest, Father Jorge Bergoglio. He thought she was going to thank him for the package of food the parish had sent to her.

"Did you receive it?" Fr. Bergoglio had asked her.

"Yes, yes, thank you for that, too," the mother explained. "But I came here today to thank you, because you never stopped calling me Senora."

The Holy Father recalled this touching memory in the book "The Name of God is Mercy," a newly released book-length interview of Pope Francis by Italian journalist Andrea Tornielli meant to "reveal the heart of Francis and his vision."

This experience with the young mother profoundly touched Pope Francis, who said it taught him the importance of treating every human person with dignity and mercy, no matter his or her situation in life.

"Experiences like this teach you how important it is to welcome people delicately and not wound their dignity," Pope Francis stated.

Primrose Mar Thoma Church Choir- July 2017

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