



P: ⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

⁷ By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. Hebrew 11:6-8

Opening Hymn

"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

*"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm

Music: William M. Runyan

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 - Josh 4:1-9

2nd Lesson - 1Chr 10:1-11

VERY REV. IYPE THOMA KATHANAR (Kovoor Achen) 1842-1917



Kovoor Achen was a courageous man, always fearless and daring with a very deep faith in God. He could face any situation with fortitude. He was one of the leaders responsible for the transformation of the Mar Thoma Church and setting the guiding principles and doctrines of the Church.

The Most Rev. Juhanon Mar Thoma, in his book “Christianity in India and a Brief History of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church says, “In all the calamities he had to go through, and in all the difficulties he had to face, Titus I Mar Thoma had the counsel and support of the Very Rev. Ipe Thoma Kathanar, who was Vicar General of the Church. He was a man with a strong faith and iron will, and his personality gave confidence and hope not only to the Metropolitan but also to the priests and members of the Church. His advice and help was also available to Titus II Metropolitan during the first part of his period of administration”.

Reformation by Abraham Malpan and Kovoor Achen

Abraham Malpan started the reformation movement in his native church in Maramon in 1837. A majority of the parish supported him and so he didn't face much opposition. Attracted by the ideologies of Abraham Malpan, Kovoor Achen began to implement certain changes in his home Parish in Tiruvalla. In those days church worship services were conducted in Syriac. Without knowing the meaning of even a single word, worshippers would say 'Amen' to the prayers of the clergy. Even the Gospel was read in Syriac. Kovoor Achen translated the liturgy into Malayalam and conducted communion services in Malayalam. It was a great event, but many parish members did not accept the new form of service. Only around twelve members (out of a thousand) in the Paliyekkara Church supported Achen. Even his own father and relatives were against him initially, but later they supported him. Church members complained about Kovoor Achen's actions, but Mathews Mar Athanasius Metropolitan did not take any action against the young priest. To restrict Achen from conducting the church service, many civil and criminal cases were fabricated against him and petitions were sent to government authorities through the Tiruvalla Tahsildhar. Many a time Achen was even assaulted. But he stood strong in his faith.

In his later years he emphasized the need for more members and leaders for the growth of the Church. He repeatedly called for more faithful workers, he complained that “The great danger facing the present Church is the lack of sincere workers”.

Kovoor Achen was a man of enterprise- he took the initiative to construct the wooden bridge in front of the Paliyekkara church and with great farsightedness he acquired the property which is now at the heart of Tiruvalla where the headquarters of the Mar Thoma Church is situated.

It was he who also started the Kettuthengu – practice of dedicating coconut trees from each house for the fund collections for the welfare of the Church.

<https://nalloorlibrary.files.wordpress.com/2013/06/very-rev-iype-thoma-kathanar.pdf>

L: Be faithful in the little things

Be faithful in the little things
And God will give you more.
Be faithful in the little things
And He'll open the door.

Did He give you a job?
Then do it well.
Were you honest?
Only time can tell.

As God has blessed you,
Have you blessed others?
Have you loved your neighbor
And your sisters and brothers?

There is no such thing
As a spiritual lottery
And there are no short-cuts
To Godly maturity.

So be faithful in the little things
And God will give you more.
Be faithful in the little things
And He'll open the door.

by Christina Morley

Hymn

Maridatha Eshu Nathan
Mattum Ninte Vedana
Papathalum Rogathalum
Kalangidenda Kadannu Vaa

*Kadannu Vaa Kadannu Vaa
Eshu Ninne Vilikkunnu*

Loka Bandaham Kai vediyum
Drohichu Ninne Puram Thallum
Pavanam Than Snehathode

Arikilumdu Kadannuva (Chorus)

Lokathin Bharam Chumakkum
Yeshu-vinkal Nee Kadannu Vaa
Thakarnna Ninte Antharatma
Klesham Neekum Kadannu Vaa (Chorus)

Meaning of the Song

"Maridatha Eshu Nathan" is a four-decade old song written by J.V. Peter, which never lost its meaning over time and lifestyle changes. The song aims to be a beacon of hope to people who are disappointed, frustrated and trapped in the bondages of sin and addictions.

The song writer presents himself as third person between a suffering people, and God who calls out to the people saying "Come, Come to me" through the famous chorus "Kadannu Vaa, Kadannu Vaa". The song invites people to an unchanging God, who can cure their pain due to sin and sickness. The song also reminds that the world may forsake you, torment you and cast you out but the eternal loving presence of God is nearer to you and will never leave or forsake you.

In the last verse, the song brings forth the message that our loving God is carrying the burden of the world and He is inviting his suffering people to cure their sorrowful soul with His everlasting peace. "Kadannu Vaa Kadannu Vaa, Eshu Ninne Vilikkunnu"

Meditation

Who is a faithful person?

L: A FAITHFUL PERSON is trustworthy and reliable. Some people make faithfulness a hallmark of their human relationships, but the faithfulness that matters most is the faithfulness we show towards God.

God is faithful. He does what He promises to do. Moreover, because God is faithful, we have courage to trust Him and His promises. "Thy faithfulness is unto all generations..."--Psa. 119:90

In truth, all of God's creation depend on His faithfulness. Animals begin their annual migrations and periodic breeding cycles at certain times because nature's laws are firm. Plants send out seed and sapling according to His faithfulness. **Only human-kind has a hard time knowing whether or not to exercise faith in God.**

If we are full of faith, we will believe God's word and wait for Him to fulfill His promises. We commit ourselves to our heavenly Father in spite of unfair or evil circumstances. "Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right." - 1 Pet. 4:19.

Faithfulness is Not Optional

When two people get married they expect one another to remain faithful. Faithfulness is a part of the marriage covenant. So also with God. Faithfulness is not an option we choose. God expects us to be faithful to Him, and He seeks men and women who will live so as to consistently carry out His will.

We show God our faithfulness by obeying Him. His heart becomes our heart; His mind our mind; His will our will. One cannot be faithful to God if they do what they please. God actively looks for faithfulness in His servants. Everyone does not have the same opportunities. Nor do we all have the same abilities. But we all have one thing in common - the capacity to be faithful in our own condition. These words then, should be our inspiration and aim in life- 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master's happiness!' Matt. 25:21

Cong. To stand

Confession Prayer

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

P: Heavenly Father! we praise and honour You! We thank You for being with us always and loving us with Your eternal love!

C: Your Scripture clearly tells us that without faith we can neither please You nor receive any answer for our prayer. Please forgive us for not believing in Your love, power and goodness. Many times we've been discouraged by circumstances and many times we have failed to trust in You. Please forgive us Lord! You are the God of all hope and we acknowledge that nothing is too difficult for You. We are confident that You will meet all our needs as we seek to live according to Your word!

Thank You Lord for helping us get over our unbelief, removing all our fears and anxieties! Let us not lose heart through any kind of trials! Strengthen our faith through which we can receive miracles from You Lord.

Thank you for the promise that whatever we ask in prayer, fully believing You will answer us. We love You and trust in Your awesome power! We know You are with us right now to take care of our needs and we thank You for that. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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

Intercessory Prayers

L: Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. John 14:12-14

Dear Lord, help us not to doubt nor worry. Give us unquestionable faith in you. Build us up as a Church of faith and as an example of your great works. Help us to be a believing people, understanding and following the sacraments instituted by You and entrusted to the Church.

We pray for those whose faith has been questioned because of ill health, loss of loved ones, failures at school and work, unanswered prayers and hopelessness. Dear Lord, give them that little hope so that their faith is never in doubt and You will lift them up out of weariness to great joy.

C:
All the way my Savior leads me,
Cheers each winding path I tread,
Gives me grace for every trial,
Feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter,
And my soul athirst may be,
Gushing from the Rock before me,
Lo! a spring of joy I see,
Gushing from the Rock before me,
Lo! a spring of joy I see.

L: Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your

mission. Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your divine grace. And whatever challenges they face, let them be reminded of Your promise that all will go well. We ask that You will continue to lead them in all their ways. Amen

C: All the way my Savior leads me;
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy,
Who through life has been my Guide?
Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well,
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.

L: As the scripture says, "Everyone who calls out to the Lord for help will be saved." But how can they call to him for help if they have not believed? And how can they believe if they have not heard the message? And how can they hear if the message is not proclaimed? And how can the message be proclaimed if the messengers are not sent out? As the scripture says, "How wonderful is the coming of messengers who bring good news!" Romans 10:13-17

Dear Lord, we pray for all who work in spreading Your good word, especially our evangelists and all who work in the mission fields. We pray for the Achens being ordained and for students preparing themselves for ministry. Give them the undoubtable faith that Jesus will lead them all the way. Amen.

C: All the way my Savior leads me;
Oh, the fullness of His love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
In my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed immortal,
Wings its flight to realms of day,
This my song through endless ages:
Jesus led me all the way,
This my song through endless ages:
Jesus led me all the way.

Lyrics: Fanny Jane Crosby (1820-1915)

Music: Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

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 13:1-9

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 holiness give me, more strivings within.
More patience in suffering, more sorrow for sin.
More faith in my Savior, more sense of His care.
More joy in His service, more purpose in prayer.

*Come my saviour and help me, Comfort strengthen and keep me
Thou each moment will save me, Thou art saving me now.*

More gratitude give me, more trust in the Lord.
More zeal for His glory, more hope in His Word.
More tears for His sorrows, more pain at His grief.
More meekness in trial, more praise for relief.

More purity give me, more strength to o'ercome,
More freedom from earth-stains, more longings for home.
More fit for the kingdom, more used would I be,
More blessed and holy, more, Savior, like Thee.

Words & Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1873

Offertory Hymn

Simply trusting every day;
Trusting through a stormy way;
Even when my faith is small,
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

*Trusting as the moments fly,
Trusting as the days go by,
Trusting Him, whate'er befall,
Trusting Jesus, that is all.*

Brightly doth His Spirit shine
Into this poor heart of mine;
While He leads I cannot fall,
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

Singing if my way be clear,
Praying if the path be drear;
If in danger, for Him call,
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

Trusting Him while life shall last,
Trusting Him till earth is past,
Till within the jasper wall,
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

Lyrics: Edgar Page Stites (1836-1921)
Music: Ira David Sankey (1840-1908)

MESSAGE

Closing Prayer

P: Dear Lord, we come to you in faith.

C: Lord, let my faith be full and unreserved, and let it penetrate my thought.

Lord, let my faith be true and not presumed.

Lord, let my faith be joyful and give peace and gladness to my spirit.

Lord, let me able to share my faith with pride and love.

Almighty God, every good thing comes from you.

Fill our hearts with love for you, increase our faith,

and by your constant care lead us to you. Amen.

Benediction

May God our Father, help us conquer the darkness of ignorance by the light of His Word.

May He strengthen our hearts with the faith; so that temptation never quench the fire that His love has kindled within us.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and for evermore.

Amen.

Doxology

O Jesus, I have promised

To serve Thee to the end;

Be Thou forever near me,

My Master and my Friend;

I shall not fear the battle

If Thou art by my side,

Nor wander from the pathway

If Thou wilt be my Guide.

Oh, let me feel Thee near me;

The world is ever near;

I see the sights that dazzle,

The tempting sounds I hear;

My foes are ever near me,

Around me and within;

But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer,

And shield my soul from sin.

Oh, let me hear Thee speaking,

In accents clear and still,

Above the storms of passion,

The murmurs of self-will;
Oh, speak to reassure me,
To hasten, or control;
Oh, speak, and make me listen,
Thou Guardian of my soul.

Oh, let me see Thy footmarks,
And in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly
Is in Thy strength alone.
Oh, guide me, call me, draw me,
Uphold me to the end;
And then to rest receive me,
My Savior and my Friend.

Lyrics: John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)
Music: Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929)

Primrose Mar Thoma Church Choir- July 2016