



**P:** But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2Cor 12:910

### **Opening Hymn**

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessèd Redeemer!  
Sing, O Earth, His wonderful love proclaim!  
Hail Him! hail Him! highest archangels in glory;  
Strength and honor give to His holy Name!  
Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard His children,  
In His arms He carries them all day long:

Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Tell of His excellent greatness.  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Ever in joyful song!

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessèd Redeemer!  
For our sins He suffered, and bled, and died.  
He our Rock, our hope of eternal salvation,  
Hail Him! hail Him! Jesus the Crucified.  
Sound His praises! Jesus who bore our sorrows,  
Love unbounded, wonderful, deep and strong.

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessèd Redeemer!  
Heav'nly portals loud with hosannas ring!  
Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever.  
Crown Him! Crown Him! Prophet, and Priest, and King!  
Christ is coming! over the world victorious,  
Pow'r and glory unto the Lord belong.

Words: Fanny Crosby, Music: Chester G. Allen

### **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- 2 Samuel 9:1-13**

**Lesson 2- Acts 9:32-35**

## **Meditation**

### **L: Famous hymn writers**

The beauty of the words, the biblical doctrine in each line, the tunes that are so lovely- these are the reasons why people love old hymns. But there may be another reason, it is because so many of the old hymns were written by people who struggled with disabilities. Many of them were blind or bedridden but they never complained or wallowed in their misery. Their disabilities, pain and suffering never stopped them from writing words of praise to their Dear Father, for in their weakness they found renewed strength in the Lord.

**Annie Johnston Flint** was one of the greatest hymn writers. Her biography "The making of the beautiful" was written by Roland Bingham. She was born Annie Johnston, shortly after that she was orphaned and raised by the Flint family, and known to the world as Annie Johnston Flint. She suffered a lot in her life. She had rheumatoid arthritis till she was twisted up in bed for many, many decades. She had cancer, was incontinent and lived on diapers and blindness began to overtake her.

She was a beautiful hymn writer and one of her most beautiful hymns is called "He giveth more grace". Roland Bingham says that at one point, there were so many boils and marks on her body from lying in bed that she needed eight pillows just to cushion her body. Lying in bed, they had a board hanging above the bed on which she wrote hymns with her gnarled hands:

He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater,  
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase;  
To added afflictions He addeth His mercy,  
To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.

When we have exhausted our store of endurance,  
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,  
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources  
Our Father's full giving is only begun.

His love has no limits, His grace has no measure,  
His power no boundary known unto men;  
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus  
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.

**L: Fanny Crosby**

Known as the "Queen of Gospel Song Writers" and as the "Mother of modern congregational singing" Fanny Crosby, was totally blind and she wrote over 6000 hymns. Some of Crosby's best-known songs include "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour", "Blessed Assurance", "Jesus Is Tenderly Calling You Home", "Praise Him, Praise Him", and "To God Be the Glory".

At the age of eight Crosby wrote her first poem, which described her condition. Crosby later remarked: "It seemed intended by the blessed providence of God that I should be blind all my life, and I thank him for the dispensation. If perfect earthly sight were offered me tomorrow I would not accept it. I might not have sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been distracted by the beautiful and interesting things about me." Crosby also once said, "when I get to heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior".

**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.

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: Charlotte Elliot** had a severe illness early in life which left her in great pain and often bedridden. As a young girl, she often became frustrated with her disability, and she would lament that her physical problems left her so out of sorts and irritable. When a visiting preacher shared the Gospel with her, she replied, "Oh, that's not for me; I'm not worthy; I'm not a very pleasant person." But the preacher told her, "Oh, Charlotte you should come just as you are." "Just as I am?" she asked, amazed, which is why, after she opened her heart to Christ, one of the first hymns she wrote was, "Just as I Am."

**C:** Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind;  
Yes, all I need, in Thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come I come!

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come I come!

Just as I am, Thy love unknown  
Has broken every barrier down;  
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come I come!

### **L: Lydia Baxter**

Although Lydia Baxter was a bed-ridden invalid much of her life, she remained continually cheerful and patient. 'I have a very special armor', she would tell her friends. 'I have the name of Jesus. When the tempter tries to make me blue or despondent, I mention the name of Jesus, and he can't get through to me anymore!'

'Take the Name of Jesus With You' was written by Mrs. Baxter on her sick bed just four years before her death in 1874 at the age of 65. Throughout her lifetime she was known as an avid student of the Bible who loved to discuss the significance of scriptural names with her friends. She would inform them that Samuel means 'asked of God', Hannah--'grace', Sarah--'princess', and Naomi--'pleasantness'. But the name that meant everything to Lydia Baxter was the name 'Jesus'.

C: Take the name of Jesus with you,  
Child of sorrow and of woe;  
It will joy and comfort give you,  
Take it then where'er you go.

*Precious name, oh how sweet!  
Hope of earth and joy of heav'n;  
Precious name, oh how sweet!  
Hope of earth and joy of heav'n;*

Oh, the precious name of Jesus!  
How it thrills our souls with joy,  
When His loving arms receive us  
And His songs our tongues employ.

### **L: Come Touch His Cheek**

Parents of children with disabilities want their children to be accepted, included and appreciated for their abilities while being shown compassion. They are often faced with rejection and fear. This poem speaks to the need that we all have to be accepted for who we are. We all have more in common than we think.

This child of mine you stare at so,  
Please come closer so you will know

Just who my child is and what I see  
when those sweet eyes stare back at me

I see no limits to my child's life  
Although I know it will be filled with strife,  
I'm hoping that doors will open each day  
I'm praying that kindness will come his way

You look frightened? You tremble with fear?  
Come, come closer, touch him my dear  
Touch his cheek so soft so sweet  
Be one of those people he needs to meet

Someone who will look and hopefully see  
The skill, the talent, the ability  
Please come closer, you don't have to speak  
Come a little closer, just touch his cheek

And when you do  
you will see  
this sweet, sweet child  
is no different  
than you or me

Poem by Gary Shulman, MS. Ed., Special Needs Consultant and Trainer

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Source: <http://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/about-children-with-disabilities-come-touch-his-cheek>

(Cong. to stand)

### **Prayer of Confession**

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

**P:** Loving God, we come to you in prayer with all of our limitations.

**C:** We confess that we often try to mask our challenges from those around us. We pretend that we are whole to mask the brokenness in our lives. Where there can be healing, we ask that you help restore us. Where healing is not possible, we ask that you give us acceptance of our limitations and the strength to forge on. Help us to be patient with ourselves and tolerant of others. Give us the wisdom to not focus our attention on our limitations as humans, but on our giftedness as your unique children. Help us to recognize the giftedness of others, even when they struggle to see the good in themselves. Shift our mindset from what we are not, to what we are and are yet to be. Move us forward together as a community for your glory and our neighbors' good. Amen

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

## Intercessory Prayers

**L:** Dear Lord, in these moments of worship help us embrace the many voices through which you speak. Help us hear the joy in the voices of your child with autism, your son with a hearing impairment, your daughter with a developmental disability, your child with a visual impairment, your son with a physical challenge. We praise you O God and thank you for the many voices you have given us. Be with the parents of children with disability and sickness, strengthen them to cope with their frustrations and worries so that they always find joy in their special child, Amen.

**C:** To be sung  
When He cometh, when He cometh  
To make up His jewels,  
All His jewels, precious jewels,  
His loved and His own.

*Like the stars of the morning,  
His brightness adorning,  
They shall shine in their beauty,  
Bright gems for His crown.*

**L:** Lord, give us the courage and compassion to walk in the footsteps of those who struggle with depression, mental confusion, fears and anxiety. Also give us the hope to praise you, celebrate your love for all of us, and share the joy of faith. Lord, grant us the wisdom to see the good in each person we meet. Grant us the empathy to understand their life situation and respect them enough to extend loving support, while sharing God's love with dignity. Allow us, Lord, to recognize opportunities to stand with others, friend to friend.

He will gather, He will gather  
The gems for His kingdom;  
All the pure ones, all the bright ones,  
His loved and His own.

**L:** We pray for our Opportunity School, let it be a beacon of your love reaching out to children with special needs.

We pray for the Snehadeep Trust for the Blind and the many other institutions helping specially enabled people in their education and careers.

Our gracious God, help us to recognize that we all have special gifts. We are able to share your ministry! Give us strength to share our talents and gifts in your name. We are all in need of You. We are all Your children and are thankful for Your love and opportunities. We praise You and thank You for the gifts You have given each one here. Accept our worship as an offering of praise. In Christ's gracious name we pray, Amen.

Little children, little children,  
Who love their Redeemer,  
Are the jewels, precious jewels,  
His loved and His own.

Hymn Words: William O. Cushing, 1856. Music: George F. Root, 1866

Prayers- <http://www.brethren.org/disabilities/documents/prayers.pdf>

### **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 3:1-6**

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 Offertory & Thanksgiving**

To God be the glory, great things He has done;  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,*

*Let the earth hear His voice!*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,*

*Let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,*

*And give Him the glory, great things He has done.*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
To every believer the promise of God;

The vilest offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Words: Fanny Crosby, Music: W. Howard Doane

### **Offertory**

Tell me the old, old story of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.  
Tell me the story simply, as to a little child,  
For I am weak and weary, and helpless and defiled.

*Tell me the old, old story, tell me the old, old story,  
Tell me the old, old story, of Jesus and His love.*

Tell me the story slowly, that I may take it in,  
That wonderful redemption, God's remedy for sin.  
Tell me the story often, for I forget so soon;  
The early dew of morning has passed away at noon.

Tell me the story softly, with earnest tones and grave;  
Remember I'm the sinner whom Jesus came to save.  
Tell me the story always, if you would really be,  
In any time of trouble, a comforter to me.

Tell me the same old story when you have cause to fear  
That this world's empty glory is costing me too dear.  
Yes, and when that world's glory is dawning on my soul,  
Tell me the old, old story: "Christ Jesus makes thee whole."

Words: A. Katherine Hankey, 1866.

Music: W. Howard Doane, 1867

Katherine Hankey was born in 1834, the daughter of a prosperous banker in London. She was inspired by the Methodist revival of John Wesley and organised and taught in Sunday schools in London. She then did missionary work as a nurse in Africa, assisting her brother.

In 1866, she had a serious illness and was bedridden leading to a long convalescence. During this time, Hankey wrote her long poem, entitled *The Old, Old Story* with 100 verses in two parts: *The Story Wanted* and *The Story Told*. This hymn is adapted from that story. She recovered from the illness and lived to the age of 77, dying in 1911.

### **MESSAGE**

#### **Closing Prayer**

**P:** Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for making each of us unique, created in every vast facet of your image.



**C:** Thank you for all of the things we can learn from each other, our similarities and our differences. Allow us to see the special talents in everyone around us, especially those hidden behind behaviors we don't understand or diagnoses which make us apprehensive. Help us to move beyond stereotypes and preconceived notions to nurture the true spirit of all in our midst. Provide us with the resources needed to discover how we can each give back to you and our community, in our own creative and extraordinary ways. Amen.

**Benediction**

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.  
May the Father's hand keep you from stumbling,  
May the footprints of Jesus give you confidence to follow,  
May the fire of the Spirit keep you warm and safe in your walk with God this day and for evermore.  
May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forever more. Amen

**Closing Hymn**

There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus,  
No, not one! No, not one!  
None else could heal all our soul's diseases,  
No, not one! No, not one!

*Jesus knows all about our struggles;  
He will guide till the day is done.  
There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus,  
No, not one! No, not one!*

There's not an hour that He is not near us,  
No, not one! No, not one!  
No night so dark but His love can cheer us,  
No, not one! No, not one!

Was ever a gift like the Savior given?  
No, not one! No, not one!  
Will He refuse us a home in heaven?  
No, not one! No, not one!

Author: Johnson Oatman (1895)

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