



In grateful thanks to the Ordained Ministry

P: 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?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in Him to dwell!
This my song through endless ages:
Jesus leads me all the way.
This my song through endless ages:
Jesus leads me all the way.

Opening Hymn

Down in the valley with my Savior I would go,
Where the flowers are blooming and the sweet waters flow;
Everywhere He leads me I would follow, follow on,
Walking in His footsteps till the crown be won.

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 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.

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)

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 2

Lesson 2 Timothy 2:1-13

L: Meditation

The Old Rugged Cross – Rev. George Bennard

This gospel hymn a sentimental favorite of Christians was written by George Bennard in 1913. It is generally conceded to be the most popular of all twentieth century hymns.

Bennard was ordained by the Methodist Episcopal Church, where his devoted ministry was highly esteemed. For some time, he was busily involved in conducting revival services, especially throughout the states of Michigan and New York. One time after returning to Michigan, he passed through a trying experience which caused him to reflect seriously about the significance of the cross and what the apostle Paul meant when he spoke of entering in to fellowship of Christ's suffering. As Bennard contemplated these truths, he became convinced that the cross was more than just a religious symbol but rather the very heart of the gospel.

The music for the hymn was composed by Charles Gabriel, one of the leading hymn composers of that era. Bennard continued his evangelistic ministries for forty additional years following the writing of this hymn. On October 9, 1958, at the age of eighty-five, Bennard exchanged his "cross for a crown". He spent the last years of his life by the "side of the road", a few miles north of Reed City, Michigan. Near this home there still stands a twelve-foot-high cross with the word, 'The old Rugged Cross' – Home of George Bennard, composer of this beloved hymn"

Although it has often been stated that we do not worship the cross as such but rather the Christ of the cross, one cannot ponder the truths of Christ's atonement without a keen awareness of the centrality of the cross in God's plan of redemption for lost mankind.

Hymn - **The Old Rugged Cross**

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;
And I love that old cross where the Dearest and Best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

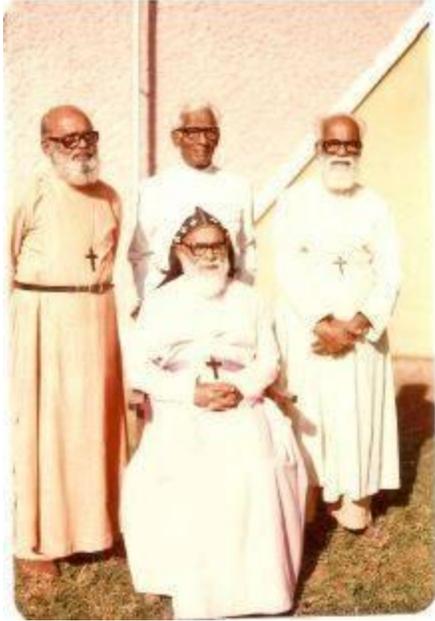
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it someday for a crown.

Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary.

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see,
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me.

George Bennard, 1873-1958

L: Founding fathers of Sihora Ashram



Founders of the Sihora Ashram with Most Rev. Alexander Mar Thoma Metropolitan

Rev. K. T. Thomas - (1909-1989)

Rev. K. T. Thomas graduated from Union Christian College, Alwaye and did his theological training from Serampore College, near Calcutta. Then he became a teacher in the Theological seminary, Kottayam. During the early 1940s, Rev. Dr. C.E. Abraham, a teacher in the Serampore College encouraged youths for missionary work in North India. Rev. K.T. Thomas became a member of this fellowship and in 1942 went to North India for Mission work with two other friends M. P. Mathew and John Varghese who were ordained later. In 1943, they reached Sihora in North India and established the Sihora Ashram.

Rev. M. P. Mathew - (1914-2004)

Achen was interested in Village Evangelism. He visited and stayed in most of the villages in the Sihora Taluk during his mission work. He conducted Sunday school and VBS classes in many villages. He had a wide circle of educated friends and government servants, which greatly helped his work. For many years he was the Treasurer of the Ashram, making him known as "Treasurer Babuji" among the villagers. His brothers' children helped him by sending him money for his personal use, but he only utilised it for Ashram work. An expert in Hind, he was also behind the formation of the mission fields in Bastar District (Madhya Pradesh) and in Khariar Road (Orissa).

Rev. John Varghese (1915- 1997) was a member of the Valettu Thoppil Family of Puthencavu, near Chengannur. After his education in Maharajas College, Trivandrum, he became a teacher in Perumbavoor Ashram School. He went to Sihora in Madhya Pradesh in 1942. He is remembered today as one of the co-founders of the Sihora Ashram of the Mar Thoma Church. Due to his hard work, many parishes were formed in North India. Even now mission work continues to grow in many places under the Delhi - Bombay Diocese.

Sihora Ashram activities include schools, balwadies, hospitals, hostels, old age homes, community development programs, organic farming, milk production and many more.

God wants people to be like these Achens who led by example, to work in His field, to proclaim the Gospel to millions

of people. For over 4 decades they worked tirelessly for the Glory of God through the various activities of the Ashram. Their life is a challenge for all.

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

(Cong. to stand)

Prayer of Confession – Psalm 51

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

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

C: ²Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

P:³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.

C: ⁴Against 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.

P: ⁵Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

C:⁶ Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

P:⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

C:⁸ 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.

P:¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

C:¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

P:¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.

C:¹⁴ Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

P:¹⁵ Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

C:¹⁷ My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.

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

Intercessory prayers

L: 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 remember and pray for our Bishops- Philipose Mar Chrysostom-Mar Thoma Valia Metropolitan, Joseph Mar Thoma- Metropolitan, Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, Thomas Mar Timotheos, Euyakim Mar Coorilos, Joseph Mar Barnabas, Issac Mar Philoxenos, Abraham Mar Paulose. Mathews Mar Makarios, Gregorios Mar Stephanos, Thomas Mar Theethos and all the priests and deacons of our Church. Give to each one Your Holy Spirit and lead them in your Word to serve with love.

C: He leadeth me! O blessed thought,
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught;
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

He leadeth me! He leadeth me!
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,

For by His hand He leadeth me.

L: Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel.

In moments of loneliness, doubt, troubles, worry and disappointment, we pray that You will be with them and continue to lead them. Amen.

C: Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters calm, o'er troubled sea,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

He leadeth me! He leadeth me!
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.

L: We pray for the many missions of the Church. We remember the work of the many Bishops and Priests of the Church and their efforts to reach out to more people with the Word, to be of healing and hope to many. We pray for the mission fields, the schools and colleges, the hospitals and clinics, the daycare and vocation centres and the many activities of our Church that give hope - that are lighted to lighten. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who leads us, lives in us and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.

C: Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine,
Nor ever murmur or repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since my God that leadeth me.

He leadeth me! He leadeth me!
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.

L: Lord Jesus, you have chosen your priests from among us and sent them out to proclaim Your word and to act in Your name. For so great a gift to your Church, we give you praise and thanksgiving. We ask you to fill them with the fire of your love, that their ministry may reveal your presence in the Church, in their afflictions let them never be crushed; in their doubts never despair; in temptation never be destroyed; in persecution never abandoned. Inspire them through prayer to live each day the mystery of your dying and rising. Bless them with the joy of caring and bringing people closer to God. Give them the reassurance that it is Your hand that will always lead them. Amen.

C: And when my task on earth is done,
When, by Thy grace, the victory's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since Thou in triumph leadest me.

He leadeth me! He leadeth me!
By His own hand He leadeth me;

His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.

Lyrics: Joseph Henry Gilmore (1834-1918)
Music: William Batchelder Bradbury (1816-1868)

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 21:15-19

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

Where my Saviour's hand is guiding,
And for all my wants providing—
In His precious love confiding,
I'll go with Him all the way.

*Where my Saviour leads I'll follow,
Where my Saviour leads I'll follow,
Where my Saviour leads I'll follow,
I will follow all the way.*

Though my path be dark and dreary

And my steps be faint and weary—
With His loving voice to cheer me,
I'll go with Him all the way.

Though the ills of earth may wound me,
And the storms of life confound me—
With His loving arms around me,
I'll go with Him all the way.

When the ties of earth shall sever,
And He calls me home for ever—
To the loved beyond the river,
I'll go with Him all the way.

Author: Fanny J. Crosby, Composer: John S. Norris (1890)

Offertory

Savior, lead me lest I stray,
Gently lead me all the way;
I am safe when by Thy side,
I would in Thy love abide.

*Lead me, lead me,
Savior, lead me lest I stray;
Gently down the stream of time,
Lead me, Savior, all the way.*

Thou the refuge of my soul
When life's stormy billows roll;
I am safe when Thou art nigh,
All my hopes on Thee rely.

Savior, lead me then at last,
When the storm of life is past,
To the land of endless day,
Where all tears are wiped away.

Frank M. Davis, 1880

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MESSAGE

Cong to stand

Closing prayer

P: We thank you Dear Lord for the opportunity to serve in your great mission. Continue to bless our work.

C: Dear Achens,

We are grateful for the many gifts you bring to our community:
for drawing us together in worship, for visiting us in our homes, for comforting us in sickness,
for showing us compassion, for blessing our marriage, for baptizing our children,
for confirming us in our calling, for supporting us in bereavement, for helping us to grow in our faith,
for encouraging us to take the initiative, for helping the whole community realize God's presence
among us.
We pray that you see the glory and goodness of your work, led by the spirit for the greater Glory of
God, Amen.

P: Benediction

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been
crucified to me, and I to the world. Galatians 6:14

May the grace of our Lord, the love of Jesus and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit be with you
and lead you my dear brothers and sisters. Amen.

Doxology and Kiss of Peace

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;
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) bio
Music:Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

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Please Understand Me

This pastor appreciation poem speaks of the reasons we need priests, but are too uncomfortable to
admit.

We would never tell you this, but we are afraid;

Afraid that our lives will end and few will notice.

We would never tell you this, but we are lonely;
Surrounded by a crowd we're all alone.

We'd never tell you this, but we feel empty;
There's so much more to life but we can't quite reach it.

We would never tell you, but we're disheartened;
No matter how hard we try, a meaningful life escapes us.

We'd never tell you this, but we are worried;
Worried about tomorrow, worried about the past.

We would never tell you, but we're unfulfilled;
Our lives are full, but our hearts aren't satisfied.

We'd never tell you this, but we're searching;
Longing for something to make sense of it all.

We would never tell you, but we need someone to care for us;
Someone who accepts us for who we really are.

We'd never tell you this, pastor, but we need you more than you know.

-A Pastor Appreciation Poem by Daniel Sherman
<http://www.my-pastor.com/pastor-appreciation-poems.html>