



I will sing of my Redeemer

P: I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself. Psalm 98:1&2

Creator of all things, we come together today to praise you for the gift of song. Thank you for the magic and impact of music, for all the lives it touches and moulds. Be with those that work in the field of creating and bringing this craft to life. May we use music as a tool to encourage, inspire and energize. Most of all, may our songs be heard in times of immense joy and also, in times of deep suffering. When the world falls quiet, may our song of praise ring loud and clear.

Opening Hymn

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad,
The honors of Thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood availed for me.

Lyrics: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: Carl Gottholf Glaser (1784-1829)

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: Judges 5:1-12

2nd Lesson: Revelation 15: 1-8

L: Meditation- A good song has a story to tell.

When God's people were led through the Red Sea on dry ground, Moses, Miriam, and all of Israel sang a victory song, "I will sing unto the Lord for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea". (Exod 15:1).

When God inspired his servant David to write Scripture, he composed numerous psalms, "O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise". (Ps 51:15).

When God sent Ezra, Nehemiah, and the exiled Israelites back to Jerusalem, one of the first things they did after rebuilding the walls and temple was to call the Levitical choirs back into divine service (Neh. 12:44-47). After all, they had a story to sing.

God's people are no strangers to singing. In fact, at times reading the Scriptures feels a bit like watching a classic Broadway musical, like *Westside Story* or *The Sound of Music*. All of a sudden, God will act to redeem, rescue, and save his people, and the main characters in Scripture's narratives will break out into song. They aren't singing about themselves, but about God's great love for them. They aren't the centre of the song; God's grace is their constant refrain; Christ crucified is centre stage. They aren't concerned with gold or platinum records, but with proclaiming the unending hymn of God's mercy in Jesus. All spotlights are on the cross and the empty tomb.

When Mary is greeted by Elizabeth and John the Baptist leaps in her womb, she can't help but sing the story. "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour" (Luke 1:46-55). John the Baptist is born and Zechariah's muted tongue lets loose a hymn of praise. "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people". (Luke 1:67-79). When Jesus was born, angels appear in the skies and the hills outside of Bethlehem are alive with angelic music. Lowly shepherds witness a divine chorus singing the song of salvation, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased" (Luke 2:14).

When God acts to save his people, they can't help but sing. Whether it's by the Red Sea, or the hills outside of Bethlehem, good music tells a story. Whether it's in the Lord's house or the heavenly temple, wherever you find God's people gathered together, there you will find them singing. From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture echoes with the great songs of salvation that fill our ears, hearts, minds, and mouths with the good news of salvation in Jesus.

Songs we sing today continue in praise and story.

The song by Edward Perronet- 'All hail the power of Jesus' is often called the 'National Anthem of Christianity'. It has been translated into every language.

'Here I Am, Lord', this song is an answer to the call for ministry "Who will go to reach my people?"

'Master, with anguish of spirit, I bow in my grief today;

The depths of my sad heart are troubled, Oh, waken and save, I pray!

These words from the song 'Master the tempest' is a plea for the peace that passeth all understanding during the raging tribulations of life.

'I Will Sing of My Redeemer' is written by the famous composer, Gospel singer, and hymn writer Philip P. Bliss; he never had a chance to hear it, he and his wife died in a train fire. This became one of the first hymns, to be recorded on the phonograph, one of Thomas Edison's new inventions.

As the old Sunday School song goes, God's redeemed people love to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love. Every time we sing a hymn at home or at church, we join this ancient choir in singing the songs of salvation in Jesus.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Col 3:16).

Sam P. Schuldheisz

<https://www.1517.org/articles/sing-me-a-story>

<https://enjoyingthejourney.org/hymn-history-i-will-sing-of-my-redeemer/>

Hymn

All hail the power of Jesus' Name!

Let angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown Him Lord of all,

Crown Him, ye martyrs of your God,

Who from His altar call;

Extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod,

And crown Him Lord of all,

Ye chosen seed of Israel's chosen race,
A remnant weak and small
Hail Him Who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all,

O that with yonder sacred throng,
We at His feet may fall,
Join in the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all.

Lyrics: Edward Perronet (1726-1792) Music: James Ellor (1819-1899)

L: T. J. Varkey Ashan - Hymn writer & Evangelist (1857-1931)

T.J. Varkey, son of Yohannan, was born in 1857, in Thekkeparampil house, Anjilithanam, a village near Mallappally. His maternal grandfather, Varkey Upadeshi, was a very popular evangelist and Varkey grew up under his strict Christian discipline. After his basic education, Varkey became a teacher at the age of 17 and people affectionately called him Varkey Ashan (teacher). In addition to Malayalam, he learned Sanskrit and Tamil.

Varkey Ashan was born to a Jacobite family. Due to his earnest desire for the Gospel, he resigned from his teacher's job and became an evangelist of the Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association. He worked in Northern Travancore, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Ceylon as an evangelist. He was a great singer and hymn writer. His language and style of writing were very simple, enough to be comprehended by the illiterate people of his day. For many years, he gave leadership to the Maramon Convention Choir. In financial matters, he was an exemplary evangelist. He was happy with the meager salary that he received from the Evangelistic Association. He even donated the money he received from his family, for the Gospel work. He was never after money or financial gains. He had complete faith and confidence that his Heavenly father would provide. At the age of 70, on 27 September, 1931, he walked to glory to be with the Lord. Many of the songs in our 'Kristheeya Keerththanangal' are written by him including Prarthana kelkkanamae Karthave En and Rekshithavine kanka paapi.

By Adv. John Joseph Nalloor, <https://nalloorlibrary.com/>

Rekshithavine kanka paapi - T. J. Varkey

Rekshithavine kanka paapi
Ninte perkallayo krusinmel thungunnu

Kalvari malamel noku nee
Kaalkaram chernnitha aanimel thungunnu

Paapathil jeevikunnavane
Ninte perkallayo thungunnee rekshakan

Thalluka ninte paapamellam
Kallamethum ninackenda ninnullil nee

(Cong to stand)

Prayer of Confession

Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

P: Lord, we are not worthy to sing for you, but we are grateful for the gift of music, and we desire to use our voices to bring praise and worship to your name. Give us strength to sing with purity of heart, to let our voices reflect the joy of your salvation, and to make your message of love heard clearly.

C: Loving Lord, we come before you today, a choir of voices seeking your grace. We acknowledge our imperfections and our struggles to truly sing with a heart that is pleasing to you. Forgive us for the times we have sung mechanically, without feeling, or when our voices have been filled with pride rather than love. Forgive us for the times we have allowed our own voices and egos to eclipse the glory of your message.

Help us to overcome any fear, doubt, or discouragement, and empower us to sing with unwavering faith. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

Intercessory Prayers

L: Loving Lord, we pray for the individuals and organisations that work at providing and producing Gospel music for different events and occasions. We submit all the Choirs of our Church into your care and ask for your guidance and motivation to inspire and uphold them. We pray for the Department of Sacred Music and their work in spreading your word through song. Let the songs that we sing, inspire the meditations of our heart to be acceptable to You, our song, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

C: To be sung

***I will sing of my Redeemer,
And His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered,
From the curse to set me free.***

***Sing, oh, sing of my Redeemer,
With His blood He purchased me,
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
Paid the debt, and made me free.***

L: Dear Lord, we thank you for your amazing creation, our world that you made for us. Help us to be responsible for your creation, to help it flourish and grow.

Melodies and harmonies bless our ears. Thank you so much for making such beautiful sounds and songs. Thank You for the variety of instruments fashioned to praise Your name. We are able to express joy as well as sadness in song. Help us to cultivate a community that values music and its artists, not just when they are needed but during all times. We were created to worship You in all things, and one of this is through music. May we view it as a responsibility of great honour to be able to sing at all times, understanding the wondrous story as told through our songs. Amen.

C: To be sung

***I will tell the wondrous story,
How my lost estate to save,
In His boundless love and mercy,
He the ransom freely gave...***

L: Lord, music is powerful and transforming. Help us to reflect on your power and the glory we experience through songs. Thank You for the promise that one day we will be singing in heaven as revealed in the book of Revelation, "And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. They sang as if it were a new song before the throne." We praise You that we will be able to continue to celebrate You in song. Father, you are Lord over sin, and death and hell and with your heavenly love you promise us eternal glory. May our songs on earth be forerunners to the songs we shall shout in heaven. Amen.

C: To be sung

***I will praise my dear Redeemer,
His triumphant pow'r I'll tell,
How the victory He giveth
Over sin, and death, and hell...***

***I will sing of my Redeemer,
And His heavenly love to me;
He from death to life hath brought me,
Son of God with Him to be....***

Lyrics: Philip Paul Bliss (1838-1876) Music: James McGranahan (1840-1907)

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 **Apostle Luke**.

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.

Luke 1:46-55

(After reading the Gospel, the priest says, †'Peace be with you all')

C: With you also. 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 – To be sung

We believe in the one true God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven, Maker of earth,

We believe in our Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
begotten of the Father before all world;

God of God, Light of Light, Of all things invisible, and all in light.
God of God, Light of Light, of all things invisible and all things right.

Being one with the Father, by whom all things were made,
who for our salvation, came down from heaven,

Incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin and was made man.

In the days of Pilate, He was crucified,
He suffered and died and was buried.
The third day He rose again, ascended into heaven,

He will come again for 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;
together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified;
God of God, Light of Light,
who spoke through the prophets and the apostles.

We believe in one Holy Church,
One baptism for the remission of sins;
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and the new life to come.

Amen

(Cong to be seated)

Choir Dedication- Choir members to come forward and kneel

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 words 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 1979; Arr. by Aly Stalnaker

(To be repeated after the Priest)

P: Dear Lord, thank you for the music. Thank you for the songs we're singing. Thank you for the joy we're bringing. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the Church services. Help us to remember that we are singing only for your glory, and not for us as individuals or the choir. Help us to understand the words of the songwriters and sing with meaning and heart. Bless our voices, bless our efforts, bless our thoughts. Amen

Birthday, Wedding Anniversary & Thanksgiving

We have a firm foundation,
Whose hope is in the Lord;
We have a blessed haven,
Who anchor in His word;
Though surges break around us,
And clouds our sky may dim,
He will not leave to perish
One soul that clings to Him.

Give praise to our Redeemer,
O magnify His grace;
Our everlasting portion,
Our sure abiding place.

We have a strong deliverer,
Who trust His mighty arm;
Not all the hosts of darkness
His chosen ones can harm;
His arm that brought salvation
Defends them from above;
They rest within His mercy,
O'ershadowed by His love.

O love, that stooped from Heaven
To lift us up to God,
O love, that to redeem us,
The path of sorrow trod;
Through yonder land of Beulah
Glad harps with rapture ring,
And numbers without number
Its boundless triumph sing.

Author: Fanny Crosby, Tune: Ira David Sankey, 1895

Offertory

Master, the tempest is raging!
The billows are tossing high!
The sky is o'er-shadowed with blackness,
No shelter or help is nigh;
Carest thou not that we perish?
How canst thou lie asleep,

When each moment so madly is threatening,
A grave in the angry deep?

*The winds and the waves shall obey my will,
Peace, be still!
Whether the wrath of the storm-tossed sea,
Or demons, or men, or whatever it be,
No waters can swallow the ship where lies
The Master of ocean, and earth and skies;
They all shall sweetly obey my will,
Peace, be still!
They all shall sweetly obey my will,
Peace, peace, be still!*

Master, with anguish of spirit
I bow in my grief today;
The depths of my sad heart are troubled,
Oh, waken and save, I pray!
Torrents of sin and of anguish
Sweep o'er my sinking soul;
And I perish! I perish, dear Master,
O, hasten, and take control.

Master, the terror is over,
The elements sweetly rest;
Earth's sun in the calm lake is mirrored,
And heaven's within my breast;
Linger, O blessed Redeemer,
Leave me alone no more;
And with joy I shall make the blest harbor,
And rest on the blissful shore.

Mary Ann Baker (1874), Music - Dr. H. R. Palmer

Announcements

Message

(Cong to stand)

Closing Prayer

P: I will sing of my Redeemer,
And His heavenly love to us;
He from death to life hath brought us,
Son of God with Him to be

C: Loving God, we thank you for the gift of music and for the opportunity to sing your praises together this day. We thank you for the gifts and talents you have given each of us. As we leave, we ask for your continued grace, peace and strength. May we go forth and share your love in all that we do. Amen

Benediction

