The Old Rugged Cross

Words and music: George Bennard (1913)

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VERSE 1

On a hillside long ago
Stood a cross the world would know
Not a throne of gold or glory
But the heart of heaven's story
There the weight of all my shame
Met a love that knew my name
And the mercy flowing from that place
Still reminds me I am saved by grace

PRE-CHORUS

I could never earn that sacrifice
Never pay the price You paid
But You gave Your life so willingly
And my debt was washed away

CHORUS

I will cherish the old rugged cross
Where Your love was poured out for us
Through the sorrow, through the pain
You have broken every chain
And I lift my heart in endless praise
For the love that took my place
At the cross, I found my way
To a love that never fades

VERSE 2

I've walked roads I wish I'd changed
Carried memories filled with shame
But the cross reminds my weary soul
That Your mercy makes the broken whole
Every failure, every fear
Every burden brought me here
To the place where love and justice meet
Where forgiveness brings me to my knees

PRE-CHORUS *(repeat)*

CHORUS *(repeat)*

BRIDGE

It wasn't the nails that held You there
It was love beyond compare
And when the stone was rolled away
Hope arose with yesterday
Now the grave has lost its power
And Your light outshines the night
What began upon that hillside
Opened heaven to my life

FINAL CHORUS *(repeat)*

OUTRO

I will cherish the old rugged cross
Where Your mercy paid the cost
And forever I will sing
Of the love that rescued me