***Fifth Sunday of Easter***

**10th May, 2020**

**Pastor Peter Ghalayini**

M: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood

**All: a holy nation, God's own people,**

M: in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him

**All: who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.**

*M:* In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
*C:* **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn – The Church’s one foundation** *LH 191*

1. **The Church’s one foundation**

**Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word:
From heaven He came and sought her**

**To be His holy bride;**

**With His own blood He bought her,**

**And for her life He died.**

1. **Elect from every nation,**

**Yet one o’er all the earth,**

**Her charter of salvation**

**One Lord, one faith, one birth;**

**One holy name she blesses,**

**Partakes one holy food,**

**And to one hope she presses**

**With every grace endued.**

1. **Mid toil and tribulation,**

**And tumult of her war,**

**She waits the consummation**

**Of peace for evermore;**

**Till with the vision glorious**

**Her longing eyes are blest,**

**And the great Church victorious**

**Shall be the Church at rest.**

1. **Yet she on earth hath union**

**With God the Three in One,**

**And mystic sweet communion**

**With those whose rest is won:**

**O happy ones and holy!**

**Lord, give us grace that we,**

**Like them the meek and lowly,**

**On high may dwell with Thee.**

*Music: S.S. Wesley 1810-1876 (1864);
Words: Samuel John Stone (1839-1900)
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*L:* Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of each other.

*C:* **We confess to you, almighty God,
before the whole company of heaven, and to each other,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, by our own
fault.
Have mercy on us, for Jesus’ sake, forgive us all our sins,
and bring us to eternal life.**

**Amen.**

*M:* As a called and ordained servant of the Word I announce the grace of God to all of you. On behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by his command, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*C:* **Amen.**

*L:* Lord Jesus Christ, God's beloved Son,
hear our prayer and save us;

*C:***Lord have mercy.**

*L:* Lord Jesus Christ, God's chosen one,
hear our prayer and help us;

*C:***Christ have mercy.**

*L:* Lord Jesus Christ, God's anointed one,
hear our prayer and give us peace;

*C:***Lord have mercy.**

*M:* The Lord be with you,

C: **And also with you.**

*M:* Let us pray that we love others.Merciful Father,
 you have reached out to all people
 through your Son Jesus,
 who died for us all.
 Encourage us to live as your chosen people
 and give of ourselves to others.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns
 with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

**First Reading –** *Acts 7:55-60*

*The death of Stephen*

55Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56“Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” 57At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, 58dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

*R:* This is the Word of the Lord.

*All:***Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading –** *1 Peter 2:2-10*

*God's chosen people, a royal priesthood*

2Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. 4As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— 5you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” 7Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” 8and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. 9But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

*R:* This is the Word of the Lord.

*All:***Thanks be to God.**

*L:* Alleluia.
Since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has any power over him. Alleluia.

*All*: **Jesus said 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one
 comes to the Father except through me.'
 Alleluia.**

**Gospel Reading –** *John 14:1-14*

*(Spoken)* **Glory to you, O Lord,**
**Light of the world.**

*Jesus the way to the Father*Jesus said “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4You know the way to the place where I am going.” 5Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” 6Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” 8Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” 9Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 11Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. 12Very 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. 13And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

*L:* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All:*  **Praise to you, O Christ,
 raised to live forever.**

 **Lord Jesus,
 thank you for being the way to the Father for us.
 Help us always to believe in you.**

 **Amen.**

**Hymn – Thou art the way: to Thee alone** *LHS 175*

1. **Thou art the way: to Thee alone
From sin and death we flee:
And he who would the Father seek
Must seek Him, Lord, by Thee.**
2. **Thou art the truth: Thy Word alone
True wisdom can impart:
Thou only canst inform the mind
And purify the heart.**
3. **Thou art the life: the rending tomb
Proclaims Thy conquering arm
And those who put their trust in Thee
Nor death nor hell shall harm.**
4. **Thou art the way, the truth, the life:
Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win,
Whose joys eternal low.**

*George Washington Doane (1799-1859)
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**Sermon**

*All:* **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**
**And in Jesus Christ,**
**his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the**
**Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**
**was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again**
**from the dead.**
**He ascended into heaven,**
**and sits at the right hand of God,**
**the Father almighty,**
**from thence he will come to judge**
**the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,**
**the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,**
**the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,**
**and the life everlasting.**

 **Amen**.

**Offering Hymn –** *LHS 782***At the name of Jesus**

1. **At the name of Jesus**
**every knee shall bow**
**every tongue confess him**
**king of glory now;**
**‘tis the Father’s pleasure**
**we should call him Lord,**
**who from the beginning**
**was the mighty Word.**
2. **Mighty and mysterious
in the highest height,
God from everlasting,
Very light of light.
In the Father’s bosom
with the Spirit blest,
love, in love eternal
rest, in perfect rest.**
3. **Humbled for a season,**

**to receive a name**

**from the lips of sinners**

**unto whom he came,**

**faithfully he bore it**

**spotless to the last,**

**brought it back victorious**

**when from death he passed.**

1. **Bore it up triumphant
with it’s human light,
through all ranks of creatures
to the central height.
To the throne of Godhead
to the Father’s breast,
filled it with the glory
of that perfect rest.**
2. **In your hearts enthrone him;**

**there let him subdue**

**all that is not holy,**

**all that is not true;**

**crown him as your captain**

**in temptation’s hour;**

**let his will enfold you**

**in its light and power.**

1. **Brothers, this Lord Jesus
shall return again
with his Father’s glory,
with his angel train;
for all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
king of glory now.**

*Music: R. Vaughan Williams 1872-1958;
Words: Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877) alt.
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*L:* Thank you, kind and loving God,
 for choosing us to be your own holy people.
 Make us more and more like Jesus,
 giving of ourselves to serve you and others.
 Use our gifts to build up your kingdom.

 All: **Amen.**

**Prayer of the church**

Lord, in your mercy,
**hear our prayer!**

*All:* **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.**

 **Amen.**

*M:*May the God of peace,
who raised from the dead our Lord Jesus,
provide you with every good thing you need in order to do his will.

 Go in peace. You are the chosen race, God’s own holy people.

*All:***Amen.**

*M:* The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favour,
 † and give you peace.

*All:* **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn – Christ is the world's light
 *LHS 783***

1. **Christ is the world’s light,
Christ and none other;
born in our darkness,
he became our brother.
If we have seen him,
we have seen the Father:
Glory to God on high!**
2. **Christ is the world’s peace,
Christ and none other;
no one can serve him,
and despise another.
Who else unites us,
one with God the Father?
Glory to God on high!**
3. **Christ is the world’s life,
Christ and none other;
Sold once for silver,
murdered, here, our brother.**

 **He, who redeemed us,
 reigns with God the Father.
 Glory to God on high!**

1. **Give God the glory,
God and none other;
give God the glory,
Spirit, Son and Father.
Give God the glory,
God with us, my brother.
Glory to God on high!**

Music by: Paris Antiphoner

 Words by: Fred Pratt Green (1903-1968)
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