

***Sixth Sunday of Easter***

**17<sup>th</sup> May, 2020**

**Pastor Peter Ghalayini**

**M:** I will ask the Father, and he will give you another  
Counsellor, Alleluia,

**All:** **the Spirit of truth to be with you forever. Alleluia!**

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

**C:** **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn – God Is Love *LHS 394***

- 1. God is love: let heaven adore Him;  
God is love: let earth rejoice;  
Let creation sing before Him,  
And exalt Him with one voice.  
He who laid the earth's foundation,  
He who spread the heavens above,  
He who breathes through all creation,  
He is love, eternal love.**
- 2. God is love: and he enfoldeth  
All the world in one embrace;  
With unfailing grasp He holdeth  
Every child of every race.  
And when human hearts are breaking  
Under sorrow's iron rod,  
All the sorrow, all the aching,  
Wrings with pain the heart of God.**

**3. God is love: and though with blindness  
Sin afflicts the souls of men,  
God's eternal loving-kindness  
Holds and guides them even then.  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
O'er us final triumph gain;  
God is love, so love for ever  
O'er the universe must reign.**

*Music: C.V. Taylor 1907- (1941);  
Words: Timothy Rees (1874-1939), alt.  
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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 one another.  
Jesus, our loving friend and Saviour,  
you have promised to give us your Spirit  
to be with us forever.  
Stay within our hearts,  
so that we love one another  
as you have loved us.  
For you live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

### **First Reading – Acts 17:22-31**

*Paul in Athens*

<sup>22</sup> Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said:  
“People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very  
religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I walked around and looked carefully at your  
objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:  
**to an unknown god.** So you are ignorant of the very thing you  
worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> “The  
God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of  
heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human  
hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed  
anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and

everything else. <sup>26</sup> From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup> God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. <sup>28</sup> 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' <sup>29</sup> "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. <sup>30</sup> In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. <sup>31</sup> For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

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

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

## **Second Reading – 1 Peter 3:13-22**

### *Suffering for doing right*

<sup>13</sup> Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." <sup>15</sup> But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. <sup>17</sup> For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also

suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. <sup>19</sup> After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— <sup>20</sup> to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, <sup>21</sup> and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

*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, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'**

**Alleluia.**

### **Gospel Reading – *John 14:15-21***

*The promise of the Holy Spirit*

Jesus said to his disciples: <sup>15</sup> “If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the

Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

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

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

**Thank you, Lord Jesus,  
for loving us and sending the Spirit to help us.  
Teach us to love you and one another.  
Amen.**

**Hymn – Come down O love divine**

*LHS 119*

- 1. Come down, O Love divine,  
Seek Thou this soul of mine,  
And visit it with Thine own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
Within my heart appear,  
And kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.**

2. **O let it freely burn,  
Till earthly passions turn  
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
And let Thy glorious light  
Shine ever on my sight,  
And clothe me round, the while  
my path illuming.**

3. **Let holy charity  
Mine outward vesture be,  
And lowliness become mine  
inner clothing:  
True lowliness of heart,  
Which takes the humbler part,  
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps  
with loathing.**

4. **And so the yearning strong,  
With which the soul will long,  
Shall far outpass the power of  
human telling;  
For none can guess its grace,  
Till he become the place  
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes  
His dwelling**

*Music: R. Vaughan Williams 1872-1958 (1906)*

*Words: Bianco da Siena (?1434), Tr. Richard Frederick Littledale 1867*

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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 Song – Because we bear your name      AT 292**

- 1. Lord Jesus, we belong to you,  
you live in us, we live in you;  
we live and work for you –  
*because we bear your name.***

2. Help us receive each other, Lord,  
for you receive the least of us  
and come to us in them –  
*because we bear your name.*
3. Bless those who give us any gift,  
because they know that we are yours;  
reward them with your grace –  
*because we bear your name.*
4. Let us acknowledge those as friends  
who use your name to right a wrong,  
but have not joined us yet –  
*because we bear your name.*
5. Let nothing that we do or say  
offend the weak so that they fall  
and lose their faith in you –  
*because we bear your name.*
6. Keep us from missing out on life;  
give hands that help, and single sight,  
and feet that walk your way –  
*because we bear your name.*
7. You are the salt that cleanses us,  
so clean us out, and make us fit  
for common life with you –  
*because we bear your name.*

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*L:* Heavenly Father,  
you have loved us and given us your Spirit  
to live within us.

Help us, through your Spirit,  
to do your will and show your love to others.

All: **Amen.**

### **Prayer of the church**

*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 not alone. God has sent his Spirit to live  
within you.

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

**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 Song – How Shall I Call You?**

*AT 43*

- 1. How shall I call you? Maker of heaven,  
Poet of sunset and painter of sky;  
Father almighty who's running to find us,  
Giving his Son who must suffer and die.**

***Chorus:***

***Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit,  
Let's sing it again and again.***

***Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit,  
For ever and ever. Amen.***

- 2. How shall I call you? Lover of children,  
Shepherd and teacher and brother and friend;  
Healer of blind man and healer of leper:  
You are beginning and middle and end.**

***Chorus:***

***Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit,  
Let's sing it again and again.***

***Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit,  
For ever and ever. Amen.***

3. How shall I call you? Spirit of comfort,  
Cloud in the daytime and fire in the night;  
Guide as we wander, protector in danger,  
Listener and helper and giver of sight.

*Chorus:*

*Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit,  
Let's sing it again and again.*

*Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit,  
For ever and ever. Amen.*

4. How shall I call you? Master and servant,  
Lord of the seasons and Lord of the years;  
Faithful and constant in loving and mercy,  
Giver of laughter and taker of tears.

*Chorus:*

*Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit,  
Let's sing it again and again.*

*Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit,  
For ever and ever. Amen.*

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