

Second Sunday After Pentecost (14th June, 2020)

Pastor Peter Ghalayini

M: The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few;

All: **therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.**

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

C: ***Amen.***

Opening Hymn – The God of Abraham praise LH 456

- 1. The God of Abraham praise,
 who reigns enthroned above,
 ancient of everlasting days,
 and God of love:
 Jehovah, great I am
 by earth and heaven confessed;
 I bow and bless the sacred name,
 forever blest.**

- 2. The God of Abraham praise,
 at whose supreme command,
 from earth I rise and seek the joys
 at his right hand.
 I all on earth forsake,
 it's wisdom, fame, and power,
 and him my only portion make,
 my shield and tower.**

- 3. He by Himself hath sworn,
 I on His oath depend:
 I shall, on eagles' wings upborne,
 to heaven ascend;
 I shall behold His face,
 I shall His power adore,
 and sing the wonders of His grace
 for evermore.**

**4. The whole triumphant host
gives thanks to God on high:
'Hail, Father, Son and Holy Ghost!'
they ever cry.
Hail, Abraham's God and mine!
I join the heavenly lays:
all might and majesty are Thine,
and endless praise.**

*Music: Hebrew synagogue melody transc. M.
Lyon 1751-1797, arr T. Olivers (c 1770);
Words: Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), alt
based on the medieval Hebrew ,Yigdal.
In the public domain*

L: Jesus says: the one who endures to the end will be saved.
Our salvation comes by Jesus' death for our sins.
Therefore, let us confess our sins to God our Father and ask him to
forgive us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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: Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; Lord have mercy,

C: **Lord have mercy.**

L: Serve the Lord with gladness, Christ have mercy,

C: **Christ have mercy.**

L: One before his presence with a song, Lord have mercy,

C: **Lord have mercy.**

M: The Lord be with you,

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray for dedication in following Jesus.

Jesus, our Saviour,
thank you for giving up everything for us,
and making us your people.
Live within us,
and teach us to follow you
without counting the cost.
For you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Reading – Exodus 19:2-8a

A kingdom of priests, a holy nation

² After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain. ³ Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain and said, 'This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ⁴ "You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.' ⁷ So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the Lord had commanded him to speak. ⁸ The people all responded together, 'We will do everything the Lord has said.' So Moses brought their answer back to the Lord.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading – Romans 5:1-8

Christ died for the ungodly

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;

⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. ⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

L: Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said: 'Go and proclaim the good news:

All: **The kingdom of heaven has come near.'**
Alleluia.

Gospel Reading – Matt 9:35 - 10:8 (9-23)

(Spoken) **Glory to you, O Lord,**

Jesus sends out the Twelve

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and illness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.' ^{10:1} Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and illness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. ⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶ Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim this message: "The kingdom of heaven has come near." ⁸ Heal those who are ill, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give. ⁹ 'Do not get any gold or

silver or copper to take with you in your belts – ¹⁰ no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep.

¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. ¹² As you enter the home, give it your greeting. ¹³ If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. ¹⁶ 'I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. ¹⁸ On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, ²⁰ for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹ 'Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ²² You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ²³ When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for your compassion.

**Lead us to work for you
and proclaim your kingdom.**

Amen.

Hymn – All glory, laud and honour *LH 86*

- All glory, laud, and honour
To you, Redeemer, king,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
You are the king of Israel,
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our king and blessed one.**

2. All glory, laud, and honour
To you, Redeemer, king,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
The company of angels
is praising you on high,
and we with all creation
in chorus make reply.
3. All glory, laud, and honour
To you, Redeemer, king,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present.
4. All glory, laud, and honour
To you, Redeemer, king,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
To you before your passion
They sang their hymns of praise;
To you, now high exalted
our melody we raise.
5. All glory, laud, and honour
To you, Redeemer, king,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
As you received their praises,
accept the prayers we bring,
O source of ev'ry blessing,
our good and gracious King.

All glory, laud, and honour
To you, Redeemer, king,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.

*Music: M. Teschner 1584-1635 (1615);
Words: Gloria, laus et honour Theodulph of
Orleans (?-c. 821)
Tr. John Mason Neale, 1854, alt.
In the public domain*

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 – Beautiful Saviour

- 1. Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, truly I'd serve Thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my Crown.**
- 2. Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;
he makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.**

**3. Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.**

**4. Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be Thine!**

*Music: Glaz Folksong
Schlesische Volkslieder Leipzig 1842
Words: A. Krieger 1634-1666
Church use: J Neander 1650-1680
Freylinghausen's Gesangbuch 1704
In the public domain*

L: Thank you, Lord, for calling us
and giving us so many gifts,
both physical and spiritual.
Help us to go out and serve you
by showing your compassion and love to others.

All: **Amen.**

Prayer of the church

The Lord's 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: Do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Go in peace to work in the Lord's kingdom.

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 – May The Feet Of God Walk With You *AT 194*

**May the feet of God walk with you,
and His hand hold you tight,
May the eye of God rest on you,
and His ear hear your cry.
May the smile of God be for you,
and His breath give you life.
May the child of God grow in you,
and His love bring you home.**

**May the feet of God walk with you,
and His hand hold you tight,
May the eye of God rest on you,
and His ear hear your cry.
May the smile of God be for you,
and His breath give you life.
May the child of God grow in you,
and His love bring you home.**

*Music: Robin Mann; Words: Aubrey Podlich
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Sermon 14th June 2020 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

**Text: Romans 5:1-8 – Saved by grace
by Pastor Peter Ghalayini**

Today begins our Pentecost season. Even though we celebrated Pentecost Sunday a couple weeks ago this is now what we refer to as the Pentecost “Season”. The Pentecost Season is considered to be the growing or teaching season of the church – and hence the paraments have been changed to green this week. Green representing “growth” such as when our lawns and gardens begin to grow with green shoots. The focus of the Pentecost season is on the teaching of Jesus’ disciples. Not just the 12 Apostles but all Christians – you and me. And so we see that in our Gospel reading: Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues. Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority to go out and preach and teach.

And our 2nd reading – St Paul’s letter to the Romans summarises the heart of the Christian teaching: He says: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; We sometimes summarise this teaching as – saved by grace, through faith, for Christ’s sake. We even summarise that further by calling it “The Gospel” – saved by grace. We need to keep that teaching at the heart of our understanding and in everything that we teach because we need to keep coming back to it time and time again.

Paul teaches us how this understanding of God’s grace actually helps us in those difficult times to not only deal with life’s challenges and come through them but to actually grow through them. He speaks about how our faith and our knowledge that we are saved by God’s grace enables us to not only endure in times of suffering but to actually grow in faith through them. He says - that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. Isn’t it interesting that at the heart of our growth is suffering? Usually we might associate suffering with a decaying of our growth. And we have seen this growth through suffering during this time of suffering in the church that could have easily have broken our spirits by being unable to gather for worship. But we have actually rallied together to support each other. New friendships have been formed as we have picked up the phone to call one another and check up on each other. What could have broken our spirits, I believe, has done exactly what St Paul said it would do – our suffering has produced endurance – our endurance has produced character and our character has produced hope in us.

In times of suffering it is easy to give up hope. But our faith in Christ reminds us that suffering is limited only to this lifetime. Without wanting to downplay

suffering which can be extremely debilitating – our faith reminds us that suffering has a limited effect on our lives. One of the blessings that God did when evil entered into his perfect creation was he limited the reach of evil and suffering by removing the tree of life from the reach of Adam and Eve. One could associate the removal as a punishment but in reality it is a form of God’s protection and blessing to ensure we didn’t become exposed to evil and suffering eternally. And so death became not a punishment for sin but an end time for all suffering and evil which extends only for this life time. So our focus turns to what God has planned for after this lifetime where we are told that there will be no more suffering or death which are the old order of things as we hear in Revelation 21. And St Paul even says in chapter 8 of Romans that he considers the present suffering of this life is not worth comparing to the glory that awaits us in heaven. And even to the point of saying he rejoices in his suffering. Not because he enjoys suffering but because it reminds him that this life is not where true joy is to be found but in heaven.

And since he is saved by grace – he rejoices knowing that his rest and glory are soon coming.

Jesus also said that: As you go, proclaim Gospel, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near. In fact, in 2nd Corinthians, through his suffering Paul is able to gain strength in faith saying “when I am weak then I am strong” because his reliance on God is made even more clear.

Jesus also teaches in our Gospel reading a very real issue that faces Christians in the world and a reassurance so we do not lose hope. Jesus makes no secret that as we go out into the world as his disciples that we will not always be welcomed. He says: I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; So the first thing we learn from this statement by Jesus is that we should not be surprised or disheartened at the attacks and rejection. We should not see it as a failure of the church to connect with the world but rather a rejection of God because of the evil that has been released into the world that is against God and all who put their faith in him. So often the church has been afraid to speak out against sin and error in the world because it doesn’t want to be rejected by the world as antiquated and irrelevant. So often we have softened our message because we have wanted to be accepted and liked by the world. But that goes against what Jesus has warned us against when he said - you will be hated by all because of my name.

Now don’t get me wrong. I’m not saying that we should look for ways for the world to hate us. But we should not be afraid to speak out where we see the world going off the rails. And we should not be afraid to be rejected or ridiculed for speaking the truth. But on the other hand too often the church has spoken out against issues without offering God’s word of grace and forgiveness but rather only judgment. Remember the Pentecost message that

Jesus asked us to proclaim – that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed to the entire world. In doing that we are reminded that we are all well off the mark when it comes to obedience before God. And, as Paul reminds us, this is how God has shown just how much he loves us:

He says: God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Can we honestly say that we have always dealt with people in the same way? That we have “while they were yet sinners” that we have shown love towards them?

That’s what being saved by grace means. Knowing that God has shown his grace to us that we have been freed to show grace towards others. This is the freedom that the Gospel brings us. That our one and only concern is getting the message out to all people that God loves them. And even if sometimes life doesn’t seem to be for us all that we hope for – our Christian hope reassures us that it’s okay because our life in heaven is guaranteed. And sometimes it’s in those disappointments – those times of suffering – those times of rejection – that we are redirected towards our faith because there is nothing else. And it is that faith – that hope that does not disappoint us, as St Paul said. Suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us. And why doesn’t hope disappoint us? Because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

What a wonderful and freeing Gospel that has been given to us. That our life’s destiny has been written and assured through Jesus Christ our Lord. That God’s love is proven to us that even while we were and still are sinners, Christ Jesus our Lord has given his life for us.

Let us continue to cling to that hope in all that we are going through and let us be prepared to give the reason for the hope that we have with anyone who asks so they too may know the comfort that God brings through Jesus Christ our Lord.