

**Sixth Sunday After Pentecost (12<sup>th</sup> July, 2020)**

**Pastor Peter Ghalayini**

**M:** Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh,

**All:** **but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.**

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

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

**Opening Hymn – Spread, O spread, thou mighty Word LH 221**

- 1. Spread, O spread, thou mighty Word,  
Spread the kingdom of the Lord,  
Wheresoe'er His breath has given  
Life to beings meant for heaven.**
- 2. Tell them how the Father's will  
Made the world, and keeps it still;  
How His only Son He gave,  
Man from sin and death to save.**
- 3. Tell of our Redeemer's love,  
Who for ever doth remove  
By His holy sacrifice  
All the guilt that on us lies.**
- 4. Tell them of the Spirit given  
Now to guide us up to heaven,  
Strong and holy, just and true,  
Working both to will and do.**
- 5. Up! the ripening fields ye see,  
Mighty shall the harvest be;  
But the reapers still are few,  
Great the work they have to do.**
- 6. Lord of harvest, let there be  
Joy and strength to work for Thee,  
Till the nations far and near  
See Thy light, and learn Thy fear.**

*Music: J.A. Freylinghausen's 'Gesangbuch,' Halle  
1704; ad. J.G. Stotzel, Stuttgart 1744;  
Words: Walte, walte nah und fern;  
Jonathan Friedrich Bahnmeister (1774-  
1841);  
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt. In  
the public domain*

*M:* There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.  
Therefore let us confess our sins to God our Father and ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us;

*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:* You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; Lord have mercy,

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

*L:* To you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem; Christ have mercy,

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

*L:* To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, Lord have mercy

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

*M:* The Lord be with you,

*C:* **And also with you.**

*M:* Let us pray for the gift of spiritual growth.  
Almighty and merciful God,  
you have planted in us the seed of your word.  
Help us by your Holy Spirit  
to receive it with joy and live according to it, so that we may grow in  
faith, hope, and love.  
We ask this through your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

*C:* **Amen.**

## First Reading – Isaiah 55:10-13

### *God's word will succeed*

The Lord says: <sup>10</sup>As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, <sup>11</sup>so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup>You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. <sup>13</sup>Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the Lord's renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever."

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

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

### *Psalm 65:9-13 (Spoken responsively)*

*M:* <sup>9</sup>You care for the land and water it;  
you enrich it abundantly.

*All:* **The streams of God are filled with water  
to provide the people with grain,  
for so you have ordained it.**

*M:* <sup>10</sup>You drench its furrows and level its ridges;

*All:* **you soften it with showers and bless its crops.**

*M:* <sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your bounty,  
and your carts overflow with abundance.

*All:* <sup>12</sup>**The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with  
gladness.**

*M:* <sup>13</sup>The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with  
grain;

*All:* **they shout for joy and sing.**

## **Second Reading – Romans 8:1-11**

*You are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

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

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

*L:* Alleluia, alleluia.

So is my word that goes out from my mouth:

*All:* **It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire.**

**Alleluia.**

## **Gospel Reading – Matthew 13:1-9,18-23**

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

## *The parable of the sower*

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. <sup>2</sup>Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup>Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup>As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup>Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup>Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. <sup>9</sup>Whoever has ears, let them hear." <sup>18</sup>"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. <sup>20</sup>The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. <sup>21</sup>But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. <sup>22</sup>The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. <sup>23</sup>But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

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

*All:* *(Spoken)* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Thank you, Lord Jesus,  
for the seed of God's word planted in our hearts.  
May it bear fruit in our lives.**

**Amen.**

## **Hymn – Open Now Thy Gates**

**Of Heaven** *LH 507*

- 1. Open now thy gates of beauty,  
Zion, let me enter there,  
Where my soul in joyful duty**

**Waits for Him who answers prayer:  
O how blessed is this place,  
Filled with solace, light, and grace.**

- 2. Gracious God, I come before Thee,  
Come Thou also unto me:  
Where we find Thee and adore Thee,  
There a heaven on earth must be.  
To my heart O enter Thou,  
Let it be Thy temple now.**
- 3. Here Thy praise is gladly chanted,  
Here Thy seed is duly sown;  
Let my soul, where it is planted,  
Bring forth precious sheaves alone,  
So that all I hear may be  
Fruitful unto life in me.**
- 4. Thou my faith increase and quicken,  
Let me keep Thy gift divine;  
Howsoe'er temptations thicken,  
May Thy Word still o'er me shine  
As my guiding star through life,  
As my comfort in the strife.**
- 5. Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee;  
Let Thy will be done indeed;  
May I undisturbed draw near Thee,  
While Thou dost Thy people feed;  
Here of life the fountain flows,  
Here is balm for all our woes.**

*Tut mir auf die schone Pforte  
Benjamin Schmolck (1672-1737)  
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.*

## **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 – On What Has Now Been Sown**    *LH 515*

1.    On what has now been sown,  
      Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;  
      The power is Thine alone  
      To make it sprout and grow.  
      Do Thou the grace the harvest raise,  
      And Thou alone shalt have the praise.
  
2.    To Thee our wants are known,  
      From Thee are all our powers;  
      Accept what is Thine own,  
      And pardon what is ours.  
      Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,  
      And to Thy Word a blessing give.
  
3.    O grant that each of us  
      Now met before Thee here,  
      May meet together thus,  
      When Thou and Thine appear,  
      And follow Thee to heaven our home.  
      E'en so, Amen, Lord Jesus, come!

*L:* Thank you, Lord, for all your gifts,  
especially for your word,  
which comforts us and sets us free.  
May we take your message of love and forgiveness to heart,  
and live fruitful and productive lives,  
serving others for you.

*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:* You shall go out in joy,

*All:* **and be led back in peace;**

*M:* the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,

*All:* **and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.**

*M:* Go in peace and bear much fruit in your lives.

*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 Hymn – Sent Forth By God’s Blessing LHS 844**

- 1. Sent forth by God’s blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from his  
dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended; O now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of his teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
His grace did invite us,  
his love shall unite us  
to work for God’s kingdom  
and answer his call.**
  
- 2. With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
embracing God’s children  
of each tribe and race.  
With your feast you feed us,  
with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honour to Christ  
and this name that we bear.**

*Music: Traditional Welsh melody;  
Words: Omer Westendorf 1916 - , alt.  
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