

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost (19th July, 2020)

Pastor Peter Ghalayini

M: Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:

All: **I am the first and the last; besides me there is no god.**

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

C: ***Amen.***

Opening Hymn – Come Thou Almighty King

- 1. Come, Thou Almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing,
Help us to praise.
Father, all glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come, and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.**
- 2. Come, Thou incarnate Word,
Gird on Thy mighty sword,
Our prayer attend:
Come, and Thy people bless,
And give Thy word success;
And let Thy righteousness
On us descend.**
- 3. Come, holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour:
Thou who Almighty art,
Now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of power.**
- 4. To Thee, great One in Three,
Eternal praises be
Hence evermore.
Thy sov'reign majesty**

**May we in glory see,
And to eternity
Love and adore.**

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M: Dear friends in Christ, we who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait the redemption of our bodies.
So 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: Teach me your way, O Lord,
Lord have mercy

C: **Lord have mercy.**

L: I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, Christ have mercy

C: **Christ have mercy.**

L: For great is your love toward me;
Lord have mercy

C: **Lord have mercy.**

M: The Lord be with you,

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray for the spread of the gospel.
Almighty and merciful God,

you have made your loving purpose known to us through the good news of your salvation in Christ.

Make us faithful witnesses to the truth,
so that those who hear may believe
and be united with all the saints in glory.

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 44:6-8

God is the first and last - the only God

⁶“This is what the Lord says— Israel’s King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. ⁷Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come— yes, let them foretell what will come. ⁸Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 86:11-17 (Spoken responsively)

M: ¹¹Teach me your way, Lord,
that I may rely on your faithfulness;

All: **give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.**

M: ¹²I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart;

All: **I will glorify your name forever.**

M: ¹³For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the depths,

All: from the realm of the dead.

M: ¹⁴ Arrogant foes are attacking me, O God;
ruthless people are trying to kill me—

All: they have no regard for you.

M: ¹⁵ But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God,

All: slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

M: ¹⁶ Turn to me and have mercy on me;
show your strength in behalf of your servant;

**All: save me, because I serve you
just as my mother did.**

M: ¹⁷ Give me a sign of your goodness,
that my enemies may see it and be put to shame,

All: for you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Second Reading – Romans 8:12-25

Our future glory is beyond compare

¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs— heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. ¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the

redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

L: Alleluia, alleluia.

At the end of the age the Son of Man will send his angels,

All: **and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin.**

Alleluia.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The parable of the weeds

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. ²⁷ “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ ²⁸ “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. “The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ ²⁹ “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’” ³⁶ Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. ⁴⁰ “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin

and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Lord Jesus, thank you for sowing good seed in the world.
May we be like wheat, not weeds.**

Amen.

Hymn – By Grace I’m Saved

- 1. By grace I’m saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not;
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No; then this word must true remain:
By grace you too will life obtain.**
- 2. By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;
Our works and conduct have no worth,
God in His love sent our Redeemer,
Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone,
And we are saved by grace alone.**
- 3. By grace God’s Son, our only Saviour
Came down to earth to bear our sin,
Was it because of your own merit
That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone,
That brought him from his heav’nly throne.**
- 4. By grace! This ground of faith is certain;
As long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration,
What in His Word our God commands,
Our faith in what our God has done,
Depends on grace— grace through his Son.**

5. By grace to timid hearts that tremble
In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure
If grace were not my anchor sure?
6. By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Saviour's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
Since I am saved by grace alone.

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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 – Lord, keep us steadfast TIS 436

- 1. Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from your Son
and bring to nought all he's done.**
- 2. Lord Jesus Christ, your power
make known,
for you are Lord of lords alone;
defend your holy church, that we
may sing your praise eternally.**
- 3. O Comforter of priceless worth
Send peace and unity on earth;
support us in our final strife,
and lead us out of death to life.**

*Music: Paraphrase of the Nicene Creed by Martin Luther 1483-1546
Based on a 14th cent. Hymn tr. John Clement Pfizner 1942-
Words: Martin Luther 1483-1546, tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78 alt.
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L: We thank you, Lord, for giving us your Spirit
and making us your own.
Help us to live as your children
among those around us.
Keep us faithful,
serving you and other people.

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: Go in peace to live as God's children.

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 – In the house of God

AT10

I will live with you for ever,

I will live inside your shelter.

- Your love surrounds me
like a tent around me
On a dark and stormy night.
Tho' fear is creeping
as the darkness deepens,
I will stay beside this light.**

Chorus:

I will live with you for ever,

I will live inside your shelter.

I will live with you for ever

In the house of God.

2. When death was coming,
I was helpless, running,
But I had no place to hide.
O, Jesus heard me cryin',
Jesus saw me dyin',
He came to my side.

Chorus:

I will live with you for ever,

I will live inside your shelter.

I will live with you for ever

In the house of God.

3. You left your father, O, my baby brother,
For the manger and the cross.
Your death is life for me,
you killed my enemy,
O, death has fin'ly lost.

Chorus:

I will live with you for ever,

I will live inside your shelter.

I will live with you for ever

In the house of God.

4. The broken people,
and the poor and feeble
find a place of shelter here.
There's room for more to come
and join the Father's Son,
His love will take your fear.

Chorus:

I will live with you for ever,

I will live inside your shelter.

I will live with you for ever

In the house of God.

In the house of God.

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