

**Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost (23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2020)**

**Pastor Peter Ghalayini**

**M:** Present your bodies as a living sacrifice,

**All:** **holy and acceptable to God.**

**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.**
- 2. 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.**
- 3. Though with a scornful wonder  
Men see her sore oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder,  
By heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping,  
Their cry goes up, ‘How long?’  
And soon the night of weeping  
Shall be the morn of song.**

4. **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.**
5. **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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*M:* Jesus says: whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.  
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:* I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; Lord have mercy,

*C:* **Lord have mercy,**

*L:* before the gods I will sing your praise. Christ have mercy,

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

*L:* I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your Name,  
Lord have mercy,

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

*M:* The Lord be with you,

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

*M:* Let us pray for faith to follow Christ.  
Almighty and merciful God,  
your Son Jesus Christ  
is the way, the truth, and the life.  
Help us to follow him  
and walk along the way  
that leads to eternal life.  
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.

### **First Reading – Isaiah 51:1-6**

*The earth will pass away, but God's salvation is forever*

<sup>1</sup> Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the Lord: look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; <sup>2</sup> look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was only one man, and I blessed him and made him many. <sup>3</sup> The Lord will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing. <sup>4</sup> 'Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: instruction will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations. <sup>5</sup> My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm. <sup>6</sup> Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish

like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last for ever, my righteousness will never fail.

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

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

**Psalm 138** (*Spoken responsively*)

*M:* <sup>1</sup> I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart;

*All:* **before the 'gods' I will sing your praise.**

*M:* <sup>2</sup> I will bow down towards your holy temple  
and will praise your name for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,

*All:* **for you have so exalted your solemn decree that it surpasses your fame.**

*M:* <sup>3</sup> When I called, you answered me;

*All:* **you greatly emboldened me.**

*M:* <sup>4</sup> May all the kings of the earth praise you, Lord,

*All:* **when they hear what you have decreed.**

*M:* <sup>5</sup> May they sing of the ways of the Lord,

*All:* **for the glory of the Lord is great.**

*M:* <sup>6</sup> Though the Lord is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly;

*All:* **though lofty, he sees them from afar.**

*M:* <sup>7</sup> Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve my life.

*All:* **You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes; with your right hand you save me.**

*M:* <sup>8</sup> The Lord will vindicate me;  
your love, Lord, endures for ever –

*All:* **do not abandon the works of your hands.**

## **Second Reading – Romans 12:1-8**

*The basis of ethics, and advice on gifts*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. <sup>3</sup>For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup>For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup>if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup>if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

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

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

*L:* Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said: You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church,

*All:* **and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.**

**Alleluia.**

## **Gospel Reading – Matthew 16:13-20**

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

*Peter declares Jesus to be the Christ*

<sup>13</sup>When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' <sup>14</sup>They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' <sup>15</sup>'But what about you?' he asked. 'Who do you say I am?' <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the

living God.’<sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.<sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.<sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’<sup>20</sup> Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

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

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
thank you for revealing yourself as the Son of God.  
Help us always to confess and proclaim you.**

**Amen.**

**Gospel 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 naught all he has 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 14<sup>th</sup> cent. Hymn tr. John Clement Pfitzner 1942-*

*Words: Martin Luther 1483-1546, tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78 alt. In the public domain*

*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 – A mighty fortress** *LHS 195*

- 1. A mighty fortress is our God,  
a trusty shield and weapon,  
our faithful helper in all need,  
our stay whate'er may happen.  
The old evil foe  
now means deadly woe;  
deep guile and great might  
are his dread arms in fight;  
on earth is not his equal.**
- 2. With might of ours can naught be done;  
soon were our fall effected.  
But for us fights the valiant one,  
whom God himself elected.  
Ask ye, who is this?**

**Christ Jesus it is.  
Of Sabaoth Lord  
and there's none other God;  
he holds the field for ever.**

- 3. Though devils all the world should fill,  
all eager to devour us,  
we tremble not, we fear no ill,  
they shall not overpower us.  
This world's prince may still  
scowl fierce as he will,  
he can harm us none,  
he's judged, for e'er undone;  
one little word can fell him.**
- 4. The Word shall stand despite all foes,  
no thanks they for it merit.  
For God is with us, and bestows  
his gifts and Holy Spirit.  
And take they our life  
goods, fame, child and wife.  
Though these all be gone,  
yet have our foes not won.  
The kingdom ours remaineth.**

*Music: M. Luther 1483-1546 (1528); Words: Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott  
Martin Luther (1483-1546) Tr.  
'Church Book', Philadelphia, 1868, alt.  
In the public domain*

**L:** Thank you, Lord, for giving faith  
to us and to your whole church,  
and for the gift of forgiveness.  
Help us in gratitude to offer ourselves  
in your service.  
Lead us to work in harmony with one another, using the gifts you have  
given us for the common good.

**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 and humbly serve the Lord.**

**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 – They knew who he was AT146**

**1. When Jesus came, the demons cried,  
Oh, how they cried;  
They knew they had no place to hide,  
No place to hide.**

**Chorus:**

***They knew who He was,  
They knew who He was,  
Yes, they knew who He was  
And they cried, how they cried.***

2. They knew He wasn't just a man,  
Not just a man;  
They felt the power of God's great hand,  
God's mighty hand:

*Chorus:*

*They knew who He was,  
They knew who He was,  
Yes, they knew who He was  
And they cried, how they cried.*

3. No devil could withstand God's Son,  
God's only Son;  
They trembled when His time had come,  
His time had come:

*Chorus:*

*They knew who He was,  
They knew who He was,  
Yes, they knew who He was  
And they cried, how they cried.*

4. Now Jesus lives, and all is well,  
Yes, all is well;  
He rules in heaven, He rules in hell,  
Heaven and hell:

*Chorus:*

*They knew who He was,  
They knew who He was,  
Yes, they knew who He was  
And they cried, how they cried.*

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