

**Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost (30<sup>th</sup> August, 2020)**

**Pastor Peter Ghalayini**

**M:** Jesus said: 'If any want to become my followers,

**All:** **let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'**

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

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

**Opening Hymn – O Jesus, I have promised**

*LH 371*

- 1. O Jesus, I have promised  
To serve Thee to the end;  
Be Thou for ever near me,  
My master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle  
If Thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway  
If Thou wilt be my guide.**
- 2. O let me hear Thee speaking  
In accents clear and still,  
Above the storms of passion,  
The murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me,  
To hasten or control:  
O speak, and make me listen,  
Thou guardian of my soul.**
- 3. O Jesus, Thou hast promised  
To all who follow Thee,  
That where Thou art in glory  
There shall Thy servant be;  
And, Jesus, I have promised  
To serve Thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow,  
My master and my friend.**
- 4. O let me see Thy footmarks,  
And in them plant mine own:  
My hope to follow duly  
Is in Thy strength alone.**

**O guide me, call me, draw me,  
Uphold me to the end;  
And then in heaven receive me,  
My Saviour and my friend.**

*Music: W.H.Ferguson 1874-1950 (1919);  
Words: John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)  
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*M:* St Paul says: Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 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:* Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity;  
Lord have mercy,

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

*L:* I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.  
Christ have mercy,

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

*L:* Test me, O Lord, and try me;  
Lord have mercy

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

*M:* The Lord be with you,

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

*M:* Let us pray for dedication to Christ.

Thank you, loving Lord Jesus,  
for freely giving your life for our sake.  
Make us your faithful followers,  
ready to take up our cross  
and follow in your steps.  
For you live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### **First Reading – Jeremiah 15:15-21**

#### *Jeremiah's inner struggle*

Jeremiah said: <sup>15</sup> Lord, you understand; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors. You are long-suffering – do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake. <sup>16</sup> When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty. <sup>17</sup> I never sat in the company of revellers, never made merry with them; I sat alone because your hand was on me and you had filled me with indignation. <sup>18</sup> Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable? You are to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails. <sup>19</sup> Therefore this is what the Lord says: 'If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you but you must not turn to them. <sup>20</sup> I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you to rescue and save you,' declares the Lord. <sup>21</sup> 'I will save you from the hands of the wicked and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel.'

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 26:1-8 (Spoken responsively)**

M: <sup>1</sup> Vindicate me, Lord,  
for I have led a blameless life;

All: **I have trusted in the Lord  
and have not faltered.**

*M:* <sup>2</sup> Test me, Lord, and try me,  
*All:* **examine my heart and my mind;**  
*M:* <sup>3</sup> for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love  
*All:* **and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness.**  
*M:* <sup>4</sup> I do not sit with the deceitful,  
nor do I associate with hypocrites.  
*All:* <sup>5</sup> **I abhor the assembly of evildoers  
and refuse to sit with the wicked.**  
*M:* <sup>6</sup> I wash my hands in innocence,  
*All:* **and go about your altar, Lord,**  
*M:* <sup>7</sup> proclaiming aloud your praise  
and telling of all your wonderful deeds.  
*All:* <sup>8</sup> **Lord, I love the house where you live,  
the place where your glory dwells.**

## **Second Reading – Romans 12:9-21**

### *Living in love*

<sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality. <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**L:** Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said: Those who want to save their life will lose it,

**All: and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.**

**Alleluia.**

### **Gospel Reading – Matthew 16:21-28**

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

*Jesus speaks about his death and discipleship*

<sup>21</sup> From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. <sup>22</sup> Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ‘Never, Lord!’ he said. ‘This shall never happen to you!’

<sup>23</sup> Jesus turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.’ <sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his

disciples, ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

<sup>26</sup> What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

<sup>28</sup> ‘Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.’

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

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

**Thank you, Lord Jesus,**

**for giving up everything and dying for us.**

**Help us to forget ourselves, carry our cross, and follow you.**

**Amen.**

**Gospel Hymn – Praise to the Lord, the almighty LH442**

- 1. Praise to the Lord, the almighty,  
the king of creation;  
O my soul, praise Him,  
for He is thy health and salvation:  
Join the full throng;  
Wake, harp and psalter and song,  
Sound forth in glad adoration.**
  
- 2. Praise to the Lord,  
who o'er all things so  
wondrously reigneth,  
Who as on wings of an eagle  
uplifteth, sustaineth:  
Hast Thou not seen?  
All that is needful hath been  
Granted in what He ordaineth.**
  
- 3. Praise to the Lord,  
who hath fearfully,  
wondrously made thee.  
Health hath vouchsafed  
and when heedlessly falling  
hath stayed thee.  
What need or grief  
ever hath failed of relief?  
Wings of His mercy did shade thee.**
  
- 4. Praise to the Lord,  
who doth prosper thy work  
and defend thee.  
Surely His goodness and mercy  
shall daily attend thee.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
who with His love doth befriend thee.**
  
- 5. Praise to the Lord,  
O let all that is in me adore Him.  
All that hath life and breath,  
come now with praises before Him.  
Let the Amen  
Sound from His people again:  
Gladly for aye we adore Him.**

*Music: 'Gesangbuch,' Stralsund 1665, J.A. Freylinghausen's 'Gesangbuch,' Halle 1741;  
Words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680), Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.; St. 3: Jeremiah Haak Good, 1863, alt. In the public domain.*

## **Sermon**

*Bishop Lester Priebbenow*

**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 – When I survey the wondrous cross**      *LH 54*

- 1. When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss  
And pour contempt on all my pride.**
- 2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.**

3. See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down:  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were an offering far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

*Music: ad. E. Miller 1731-1807 (1790), from a melody c. 1780;*  
*Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.*  
*In the public domain*

*L:* We thank you, Lord God,  
that your Son gave up his life for our sake.  
Lead us who are his followers  
to take up our cross and follow him.  
Help us to give of ourselves and all we have in your service.

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:* Let love be genuine; hate what is evil,  
hold fast to what is good;  
do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit,  
serve the Lord.

Go in peace to serve the Lord and love one another.

*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 – Lord dismiss us with your blessing *LH508***

- 1. Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing,  
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
Let us each, Your love possessing,  
Triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us, O refresh us,  
Travelling through this wilderness.**
- 2. Thanks we give and adoration  
For Your gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of Your salvation  
In our hearts and lives abound:  
Ever faithful, ever faithful.  
To Your truth may we be found.**
- 3. Saviour, when Your love shall call us  
From our struggling pilgrim way,  
Let not fear of death appall us,  
Glad Your summons to obey,  
May we ever, may we ever,  
Reign with You in endless day.**

*Music: asc. J.F. Wade c. 1711-1786; Words: John  
Fawcett (1740-1817)  
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