

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost (13th September, 2020)

Pastor Peter Ghalayini

M: If we live, we live to the Lord,

All: **and if we die, we die to the Lord;**

M: so then, whether we live or whether we die,

All: **we are the Lord's.**

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

C: **Amen.**

Opening Hymn – Today your mercy calls us *LH 305*

1. **Today your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin,
However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been;
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
And make us clean today.**
2. **Today your gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome,
And pardon for their sin;
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be given,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heaven.**
3. **Today our Father calls us,
His Holy Spirit waits,
His blessed angels gather
Around the heavenly gates;
No question will be asked us
How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered,
It is our Father's home.**

4. **O all-embracing mercy!
O ever-open door!
What should we do without you
When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us,
To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open,
One ear will hear our prayer.**

<p><i>Music: J. Cruger 1598-1662 (1653); Words: Oswald Allen (1816-1878) In the public domain</i></p>

M: St Paul reminds us, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. 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: Bless the Lord, O my soul,
Lord have mercy,

C: **Lord have mercy.**

L: Let all that is within me, bless his holy Name,
Christ have mercy,

C: **Christ have mercy.**

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.
Lord have mercy,

C: **Lord have mercy.**

M: The Lord be with you,

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray that we forgive one another.

Thank you, God,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that you have had mercy on us
and have forgiven us through your Son.
Make us more like him,
so that we too forgive one another from the heart.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

First Reading – Genesis 50:15-21

Joseph is reconciled with his brothers

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. ¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103:1-13 (*Spoken responsively*)

M: ¹ Praise the Lord, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

All: ² **Praise the Lord, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—**

M: ³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,

All: ⁴ **who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,**

M: ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things

All: **so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

M: ⁶ The Lord works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.

All: ⁷ **He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:**

M: ⁸ The Lord is compassionate and gracious,

All: **slow to anger, abounding in love.**

M: ⁹ He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;

All: ¹⁰ **he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.**

M: ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for
those who fear him;

All: ¹² **as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

M: ¹³ As a father has compassion on his children,

All: **so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;**

Second Reading – Romans 14:1-12

The strong and the weak in faith

¹Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. ²One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³The one who eats everything

must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. ⁴ Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵ One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. ⁶ Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. ⁸ If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹ For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. ¹¹ It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.'"

¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

L: Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said: Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven,

All: **and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**

Alleluia.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 18:21-35

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

Parable of the unforgiving servant

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who

owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. ²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. ²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ ³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Thank you, Lord Jesus,
that God forgives us for your sake.
Help us to forgive one another.**

Amen.

Gospel Hymn – At the name of Jesus LHS 782

- At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow
every tongue confess him
King of glory now;
‘tis the Father’s pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.**

- 2. Mighty and mysterious
in the highest height,
God from everlasting
very light of light.
In the Father's bosom
with the Spirit blest,
love, in love eternal,
rest, in perfect rest.**
- 3. Humbled for a season,
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious
when from death he passed.**
- 4. Bore it up triumphant
with it's human light,
through all ranks of creatures
to the central height.
To the throne of Godhead,
to the Father's breast,
filled it with the glory
of that perfect rest.**
- 5. In your hearts enthrone him,
there let him subdue
all that is nor holy,
all that is not true.
Crown him as your captain
in temptations' hour,
let his will enfold you
in it's light and power.**
- 6. Brothers, this Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with this Father's glory,
with his angel-train.
For all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,**

**and our hearts confess him
King of glory now.**

*Music: R. Vaughan Williams 1872-1958;
Words: Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877) alt.
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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 – O bless the Lord, my soul LH 452

- 1. O bless the Lord, my soul:
Let all within me join,
And aid my tongue to bless His name
Whose favours are divine.**

2. **O bless the Lord, my soul:
Nor let His mercies lie,
Forgotten in unthankfulness
And without praises die.**
3. **'Tis He forgives thy sins,
'Tis He relieves thy pain,
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses
And gives thee strength again.**
4. **He crowns thy life with love
When ransomed from the grave.
He that redeemed my soul from hell
Has sovereign power to save.**
5. **He fills the poor with good,
He gives the sufferers rest.
The Lord has judgements for the proud
And justice for the oppressed.**
6. **His wondrous works and ways,
He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace
By His beloved Son.**
7. **Then bless His holy name,
Whose grace has made thee whole,
Whose loving kindness crowns thy days;
O bless the Lord, my soul.**

<p><i>Music: C. Lockhart 1745-1815 (1792); Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. In the public domain</i></p>
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L: Thank you, Lord, for your great mercy
in continuing to forgive us.
Help us likewise to show mercy to our brothers and sisters and forgive
them when they wrong us.
Strengthen our faith and our love,
and lead us to live in gratitude for all you have done for us,
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, forgiving one another as the Lord has forgiven you.

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- Jesus, please watch over us AT101

- 1. As we step from edge of morning,
Feet can't tell where to take us;
Here's a light that will shine for ever,
Here's the light that will guide us.**

Chorus:

***Jesus, please watch over us.
Jesus, please take care of us.***

- 2. Trouble comes, and we search for safety,
We forget that you hold us;
fill our minds so that we remember,
Say once more that you love us.**

Chorus:

***Jesus, please watch over us.
Jesus, please take care of us.***

- 3. Danger meets us at every moment,
Death is never in hiding;
You are stronger than any danger,
You are stronger than dying.**

Chorus:

***Jesus, please watch over us.
Jesus, please take care of us.***

- 5. In your life is the Father's welcome,
In your death there is freedom;
Be our life and our death for ever,
Be our new resurrection.**

Chorus:

***Jesus, please watch over us.
Jesus, please take care of us.***

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