

**Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost (27<sup>th</sup> September, 2020)**

**Pastor Peter Ghalayini**

**M:** Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death,

**All:** **even death on a cross.**

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

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

**Opening Hymn – My song is love unknown LH62**

- 1. My song is love unknown,  
My Saviour's love to me,  
Love to the loveless shown,  
That they might lovely be.  
O who am I,  
That for my sake  
My Lord should take  
Frail flesh, and die?**
- 2. He came from His blest throne  
Salvation to bestow;  
But men made strange,  
And none, the longed-for  
Christ would know:  
But O my friend, my friend indeed,  
Who at my need,  
His life did spend.**
- 3. Sometimes they strew His way,  
And His sweet praises sing;  
Resounding all the day  
Hosannas to their king.  
Then 'Crucify!'  
Is all their breath,  
And for His death  
They thirst and cry.**

4. **Why, what hath my Lord done?  
What makes this rage and spite?  
He made the lame to run,  
He gave the blind their sight:  
Sweet injuries!  
Yet they at these,  
Themselves displease,  
And 'gainst Him rise.**
5. **They rise and needs will have,  
My dear Lord made away;  
A murderer they save,  
The Prince of Life they slay!  
Yet cheerful He  
To suffering goes,  
That He His foes  
From thence might free.**
6. **Here might I stay and sing,  
No story so divine;  
Never was love, dear king,  
Never was grief like Thine!  
This is my friend,  
In whose sweet praise  
I all my days  
Could gladly spend.**

*Music: John Nicholson Ireland 1879-1962 (TIS 341)  
Words: Samuel Crossman (1624-1683).  
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**M:** Every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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:* To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
Lord have mercy,

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

*L:* My God, I put my trust in you,  
Christ have mercy,

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

*L:* Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
Lord have mercy

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

*M:* The Lord be with you,

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

*M:* Let us pray for humility.

Merciful God,  
give us the same attitude as Jesus,  
who emptied himself and was obedient to you all the way to his death  
on the cross.

Make us eager to put others before ourselves, and their needs before  
our own.

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 – Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

### *Individual responsibility for sin*

<sup>1</sup>The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>2</sup>“What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel: “‘The parents eat sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? <sup>3</sup>“As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. <sup>4</sup>For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child— both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die. <sup>25</sup>“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? <sup>26</sup>If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die. <sup>27</sup>But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they consider all the offences they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the Israelites say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust? <sup>30</sup>“Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent! Turn away from all your offences; then sin will not be your downfall. <sup>31</sup>Rid yourselves of all the offences you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!

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

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

### **Psalm 25:1-9** (*Spoken responsively*)

*M:* <sup>1</sup>In you, Lord my God, I put my trust.

*All:* <sup>2</sup>**I trust in you;  
do not let me be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

*M:* <sup>3</sup>No one who hopes in you  
will ever be put to shame,

*All:* **but shame will come on those  
who are treacherous without cause.**

*M:* <sup>4</sup> Show me your ways, Lord,

*All:* **teach me your paths.**

*M:* <sup>5</sup> Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my Savior,

*All:* **and my hope is in you all day long.**

*M:* <sup>6</sup> Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love,

*All:* **for they are from of old.**

*M:* <sup>7</sup> Do not remember the sins of my youth  
and my rebellious ways;

*All:* **according to your love remember me,  
for you, Lord, are good.**

*M:* <sup>8</sup> Good and upright is the Lord;  
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.

*All:* <sup>9</sup> **He guides the humble in what is right  
and teaches them his way.**

## **Second Reading – *Philippians 2:1-13***

### *The humility and exaltation of Christ*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. <sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!  
<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

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

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

*L:* Alleluia, alleluia.

At the name of Jesus every knee should bend

*All:* **and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

**Alleluia!**

### **Gospel Reading – Matthew 21:23-32**

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

*Which son obeyed his father?*

<sup>23</sup> Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

<sup>24</sup> Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. <sup>25</sup> John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?” They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ <sup>26</sup> But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” <sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.” Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup> “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ <sup>29</sup> “I will not,” he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> “Which of the two did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and

the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

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

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

**Thank you, Lord Jesus,  
for coming and acting with the authority of God.  
Help us truly to obey you.**

**Amen.**

**Gospel Hymn – And Can It Be That I Should Gain?    *LH 67***

- 1     And can it be, that I should gain  
      An interest in the Saviour's blood?  
      Died He for me, who caused His pain -  
      For me, who Him to death pursued?  
      Amazing love! how can it be,  
      That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
      Amazing love! how can it be,  
      That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?**
- 2     'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies:  
      Who can explore His strange design?  
      In vain the first-born seraph tries  
      To sound the depths of love divine.  
      'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,  
      Let angel minds inquire no more.  
      Amazing love! how can it be,  
      That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?**
- 3     He left His Father's throne above -  
      So free, so infinite His grace -  
      Emptied Himself of all but love,  
      And bled for Adam's helpless race:  
      'Tis mercy all, immense and free;  
      For, O my God, it found out me!  
      Amazing love! how can it be,  
      That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?**

4. Long my imprisoned spirit lay,  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.  
Amazing love! how can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
5. No condemnation now I dread:  
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living head,  
And clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach the eternal throne,  
And claim the crown,  
through Christ my own.  
Amazing love! how can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
Amen! Amen!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788) In Public Domain
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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 – What wondrous love is this** *LH 794*

- 1. What wondrous love is this,  
oh my soul, oh my soul!  
What wondrous love is this,  
oh my soul!  
What wondrous love is this  
that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse  
for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.**
- 2. To God and to the Lamb  
I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb  
I will sing;  
to God and to the Lamb  
who is the great I Am,  
while millions join the theme,  
I will sing, I will sing,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing.**
- 3. And when from death I'm free,  
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;  
and when from death I'm free  
I'll sing and joyful be,  
and through eternity  
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and through eternity I'll sing on.**

*L:* Thank you, Lord, for all you have given us,  
especially the gift of your Son.  
Help us to accept his authority,  
trust in him, and obey him.  
Teach us to live our lives in service to you.

*All:* **Amen.**

## **Prayer of the church**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*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:* If there is any encouragement in Christ,  
any consolation from love,  
any sharing in the Spirit,  
any compassion and sympathy,

*All:* **let us be of the same mind,  
having the same love,  
being in full accord and of one mind.**

*M:* Go in peace as God's children to do his will.

*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 – He is Lord** AT26

- 1. He is Lord, He is Lord,  
He is risen from the dead and He is Lord.  
Every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord.**
  
- 2. He is Lord, He is Lord,  
He is risen from the dead and He is Lord.  
Every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

*Words & Music: Anonymous*