

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost (6th September, 2020)

Pastor Peter Ghalayini

M: Jesus said: 'Where two or three are gathered in my name,

All: **I am there among them.'**

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

C: **Amen.**

Opening Hymn – Jesus, where'er Thy people meet *LH 506*

- 1. Jesus, where'er Thy people meet,
There they behold Thy mercy-seat;
Where'er they seek Thee Thou art found,
And every place is hallowed ground.**
- 2. For Thou, within no walls confined,
Inhabitest the humble mind;
Such ever bring Thee, where they come,
And, going, take Thee to their home.**
- 3. Here may we prove the power of prayer
To strengthen faith and sweeten care;
To teach our faint desires to rise,
And bring all Heaven before our eyes.**
- 4. Lord, we are few, but Thou art near;
Nor short Thine arm, nor deaf Thine ear;
O rend the heavens, come quickly down,
And make a thousand hearts Thine own!**

<p><i>W. Knapp 1698-1768 (1738) William Cowper (1731-1800), alt. In Public Domain</i></p>

M: Dear friends in Christ,

Let us lay aside the works of darkness and 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: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, Lord have mercy,

C: Lord have mercy.

L: Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; Christ have mercy,

C: Christ have mercy.

L: Make me go in the path of your commandments, Lord have mercy,

C: Lord have mercy.

M: The Lord be with you,

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray for harmony in the church.

Thank you, heavenly Father,
that through your Son
you have reconciled us to yourself
and to one another.

Teach us to follow his example
by living at peace with each other.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Reading – Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appoints Ezekiel as a watchman

The word of the Lord came to me: ⁷“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. ⁸When I say to the wicked, ‘You wicked person, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. ⁹But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved. ¹⁰“Son of man, say to the Israelites, ‘This is what you are saying: “Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?”’” ¹¹Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?’

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 119:33-40 (Spoken responsively)

M: ³³Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees,
that I may follow it to the end.

All: ³⁴**Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with
all my heart.**

M: ³⁵Direct me in the path of your commands,
for there I find delight.

All: ³⁶**Turn my heart toward your statutes
and not toward selfish gain.**

M: ³⁷Turn my eyes away from worthless things;

All: **preserve my life according to your word.**

M: ³⁸Fulfill your promise to your servant,
so that you may be feared.

All: ³⁹**Take away the disgrace I dread,
for your laws are good.**

M: ⁴⁰How I long for your precepts!

All: In your righteousness preserve my life.

Second Reading – Romans 13:8-14

The debt of love

⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. ¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

L: Alleluia, alleluia.

God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ,

All: and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

Alleluia.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 18:15-20

(Spoken) Glory to you, O Lord,

Steps towards reconciliation

Jesus said to his disciples: ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the

church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. ¹⁸ “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Thank you, Lord Jesus,
that we can come to the Father in your name.
Help us to be in harmony among ourselves.**

Amen.

Gospel Hymn – The law of God is good and wise *LH 270*

- 1. The law of God is good and wise,
And sets His will before our eyes,
Shows us the way of righteousness,
And dooms to death when we transgress.**
- 2. Its light of holiness imparts
The knowledge of our sinful hearts,
That we may see our lost estate
And turn from sin before too late.**
- 3. To those who help in Christ have found
And would in works of love abound,
It shows what deeds are His delight
And should be done as good and right.**
- 4. But those who scornfully disdain
God's Law shall then in sin remain;
Its terror in their ear resounds
And keeps their wickedness in bounds.**
- 5. The law is good; but since the fall
Its holiness condemns us all;
It dooms us for our sin to die,
And has no power to justify.**

6. **To Jesus we for refuge flee,
Who from the curse has set us free,
And humbly worship at His throne,
Saved by His grace through faith alone.**

*Music: Königsberg 1602 'As Hymnodus
Sacer,' Leipzig 1625;
Words: Matthias Loy (1828-1915).
In the public domain*

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 – How sweet the name of Jesus sounds *LH 161*

1. **How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows,
heals our wounds,
And drives away our fear.**
2. **It makes the wounded spirit whole,
And calms the heart's unrest;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul,
And to the weary, rest.**
3. **Dear name, the rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding-place;
My never-failing treasury, filled
With boundless stores of grace.**
4. **O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
My prophet, priest, and king,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
Accept the praise I bring.**
5. **How weak the effort of my heart,
How cold my warmest thought;
But when I see Thee as Thou art,
I'll praise Thee as I ought.**
6. **Till then I would Thy love proclaim
With every fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name
Refresh my soul in death.**

<p><i>Music: A.R. Reinagle 1799-1877 (1830); Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt. In the public domain</i></p>
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L: Thank you, Lord, for having mercy on us
and accepting us as your people.
Help us to be more and more like you,
and work harmoniously with one another.
Teach us to show love to each other,
and to all people as they have needs.

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 in harmony with 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 Song – May we be one AT 172

1. **May we be one,
Bound in love for ever,
Growing close together day by day;
Growing as God fills us with His life;
We are joined in Him,
He makes us one.**

2. **May we be one,
As our Father planned it.
May the love of Jesus make us strong,
No one can harm us when He is near;
He has brought us peace,
He makes us one.**
3. **May we be one –
Jesus' truth to bind us.
With His body He unites us all;
Dying our death, He restores our life:
Living with us now, He makes us one.**
4. **May we be one,
Sharing life together
With the Father and His only Son.
Now we have life in this world of death;
Heaven has begun, He makes us one.
Heaven has begun, He makes us one.**

*Music and Words: Robin Mann
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