

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost (11th October, 2020)

Pastor Peter Ghalayini

M: Rejoice in the Lord always;

All: **again I will say, Rejoice.**

M: Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

All: **The Lord is near.**

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

C: **Amen.**

Opening Hymn – Wake, awake, for night is flying *LH 487*

- 1. Wake, awake, for night is flying,
the watchmen on the heights are crying,
Awake, Jerusalem, at last.
Midnight hears the welcome voices,
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
Come forth, ye virgins, night has passed.
The bridegroom comes, awake!
Your lamps with gladness take.
Alleluia!
And for his marriage feast prepare,
for we must go to meet him there.**
- 2. Zion hears the watchmen singing,
and all her heart with joy is springing;
she wakes, she rises from her gloom.
For her Lord comes down all-glorious,
the strong in grace, in truth victorious;
her star is risen, her light is come.
Ah come, Thou blessèd one,
God's own beloved Son,
Alleluia!
We follow till
the halls we see
where Thou hast bid us sup with Thee.**
- 3. Now let all the heavens adore Thee,
and men and angels sing before Thee
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone.**

**Of one pearl each shining portal;
where we are with the choir immortal
of angels round Thy dazzling throne.
Nor eye hath seen, nor ear
hath yet attained to hear.
What there is ours;
But we rejoice and sing to Thee
our hymn of joy eternally.**

*Music: based on H. Sachs 1494-1576 (1513),
P. Nicolai 1556-1608 (1599);
Words: Philipp Nicolai 1556-1608
tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78 alt.
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M: St Paul says: The Lord is near.
Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and
supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to 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: The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want. Lord have mercy,

C: **Lord have mercy.**

L: He makes me lie down in green pastures,
Christ have mercy,

C: **Christ have mercy.**

L: He leads me beside still waters.
Lord have mercy,

C: **Lord have mercy.**

M: The Lord be with you,

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray that we rejoice in the Lord.

God of joy, keep us from being weighed down by worry.

Encourage us instead to lay our burdens on you.

Make us cheerful and glad

because your Son Jesus is always with us.

For he lives and reigns

with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

First Reading – Isaiah 25:1-9

God swallows up death in the feast of victory

¹ Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago. ² You have made the city a heap of rubble, the fortified town a ruin, the foreigners' stronghold a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. ³ Therefore strong peoples will honor you; cities of ruthless nations will revere you. ⁴ You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat. For the breath of the ruthless is like a storm driving against a wall ⁵ and like the heat of the desert. You silence the uproar of foreigners; as heat is reduced by the shadow of a cloud, so the song of the ruthless is stilled. ⁶ On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine— the best of meats and the finest of wines. ⁷ On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken. ⁹ In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23– The Lord’s my shepherd *LH 387*

- 1. The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green: He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.**
- 2. My soul He doth restore again:
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E’en for His own name’s sake.**
- 3. Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.**
- 4. My table Thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,**
- 5. Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God’s house for evermore
My dwelling-place shall be.
And my cup overflows.**

<p><i>Music: J.S. Irvine 1836-1887 (1872); Words: ‘Scottish Psalter’, 1650 Based on Francis Rous, 1641, and others In the public domain</i></p>

Second Reading – Philippians 4:1-9

Rejoice in the Lord always

¹Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends! ²I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is

true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

L: Alleluia, alleluia.
Look, I have prepared my dinner,
and everything is ready;

All: **come to the wedding banquet.**
Alleluia.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 22:1-14

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

The parable of the wedding feast

¹Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. ⁴“Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. ⁶The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ ¹⁰So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹²He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless. ¹³“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie his hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be

weeping and gnashing of teeth.’¹⁴ “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Thank you, Lord Jesus,
for inviting us to your wedding feast.
Make us acceptable and grateful guests.
Amen.**

Gospel Hymn – Seek, O seek the Lord

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*Seek, O seek the Lord, while He is near;
Trust Him, speak to Him in prayer,
and He will hear.*

*Seek, O seek the Lord, while He is near;
Trust Him, speak to Him in prayer,
and He will hear.*

- 1. God be with us in our lives,
direct us in our calling;
break the snares the world contrives,
keep us from falling.**

*Seek, O seek the Lord, while He is near;
Trust Him, speak to Him in prayer,
and He will hear.*

- 2. God, increase in us the life
that Christ by dying gave us.
Though we faint with mortal strife,
His blood will save us.**

*Seek, O seek the Lord, while He is near;
Trust Him, speak to Him in prayer,
and He will hear.*

- 3. Strengthen in our hearts thy love
we owe to one another.
How can we love God above
and not each other?**

***Seek, O seek the Lord, while He is near;
Trust Him, speak to Him in prayer,
and He will hear.***

James McAuley Richard Connolly

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 God, our help in ages past LH 556

**1. O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:**

2. **Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.**
3. **Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.**
4. **A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.**
5. **Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.**
6. **O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal home.**

<p><i>Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt Music: asc. W Croft 1678-1727 In the public domain</i></p>
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L: Thank you, Lord, for inviting us to your feast,
and showering on us so many good things.
Help us to value the privilege
of being your people and serving you.
Lead us gladly to accept your call,
and use us to bring others to your banquet.

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: Go in peace. Rejoice in the Lord,
and serve him with the power that he gives.

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 – Great shepherd of Thy people, hear *LH 422*

- 1. Great Shepherd of your people, hear,
Your presence now display;
As you have given a place for prayer,
So give us hearts to pray.**
- 2. Within these walls let holy peace
And love and friendship dwell;
Here give the troubled conscience ease,
With wounded spirit heal.**
- 3. May we in faith receive your Word,
In faith present our prayers,
And in the presence of our Lord
Unburden all our cares.**

- 4. The hearing ear, the seeing eye,
The contrite heart, bestow;
And shine upon us from on high,
That we in grace may grow.**

Music: R. Courteville c. 1677-1772 (1697)

Words: John Newton (1725-1807)

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