

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost (18th October, 2020)

Pastor Peter Ghalayini

- M:** You have turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God,
All: **and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead.**
M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

Opening Hymn – Thy hand, O God, has guided

LH 194

- 1. Thy hand, O God, has guided
Thy flock, from age to age;
The wondrous tale is written,
Full clear, on every page;
Our fathers owned Thy goodness,
And we their deeds record;
And both of this bear witness:
'One Church, one faith, one Lord.'**
- 2. Thy heralds brought glad tidings
To greatest, as to least;
They bade men rise, and hasten
To share the great King's feast;
Their gospel of redemption,
Sin pardoned, right restored,
Was all in this enfolded
'One Church, one faith, one Lord.'**
- 3. Thy mercy will not fail us,
Nor leave Thy work undone;
With Thy right hand to help us,
The victory shall be won;
And then by men and angels
Thy name shall be adored,
And this shall be their anthem:
'One Church, one faith, one Lord.'**

*Music: B. Harwood 1859-1949 (1898);
Words: Edward Hayes Plumptre (1821-1891)
In the public domain*

M: As we wait for God's Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead--
Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming,
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: Sing to the Lord a new song;
Lord have mercy,

C: **Lord have mercy.**

L: Sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
Christ have mercy,

C: **Christ have mercy.**

L: Sing to the Lord and bless his Name;
Lord have mercy,

C: **Lord have mercy.**

M: The Lord be with you,

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray that we may approach God with confidence.

Almighty and merciful God,
the Lord of heaven and earth,
your Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence.
Give us pure hearts and a sure faith
to draw near to you as our Father,
and to ask you for whatever we need.

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 – Isaiah 45:1-7

The Lord appoints King Cyrus of Persia to do his will

¹“This is what the Lord says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: ²I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. ³I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name. ⁴For the sake of Jacob my servant, of Israel my chosen, I summon you by name and bestow on you a title of honour, though you do not acknowledge me. ⁵I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, ⁶so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting people may know there is none besides me. I am the Lord, and there is no other. ⁷I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96:1-9 (Spoken responsively)

M: ¹ Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

All: ² **Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.**

M: ³ Declare his glory among the nations,

All: **his marvelous deeds among all peoples.**

M: ⁴ For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;

All: he is to be feared above all gods.

M: ⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.

All: ⁶ **Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.**

M: ⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations,

All: ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

M: ⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;

All: bring an offering and come into his courts.

M: ⁹ Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness;

All: tremble before him, all the earth.

Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Serving God in faith, hope, and love

¹ Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. ² We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. ³ We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. ⁶ You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. ⁷ And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. ⁸ The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, ⁹ for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

L: Alleluia, alleluia.

The message of the gospel came to you not in word only,

All: **but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.**

Alleluia.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 22:15-22

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

The question about paying taxes

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap Jesus in his words. ¹⁶ They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. ¹⁷ Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, ²⁰ and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?” ²¹ “Caesar’s,” they replied. Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for bringing us into your kingdom.

Make us obedient to earthly authorities,

and above all to our heavenly Father.

Amen.

Gospel Hymn – Jesus shall reign where’er the sun

LH 219

- 1. Jesus shall reign where’er the sun
Does it’s successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

2. To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume shall arise
With every morning sacrifice.
3. People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.
4. Blessings abound where'er He reigns:
The prisoners leap to lose their chains;
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blest.
5. Let every creature rise and bring
Honours peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud Amen.

*Music: T. Williams' 'Psalmody Evangelica' 1789;
Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.
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 – God of Mercy

TIS 452

1. **God of mercy, God of grace,
show the brightness of Thy face;
shine upon us, Saviour, shine,
fill Thy church with light divine;
and Thy saving health extend
unto earth's remotest end.**
2. **Let the people praise Thee, Lord;
be by all that live adored;
let the nations shout and sing
glory to their Saviour king;
at Thy feet their tribute pay,
and Thy holy will obey.**
3. **Let the people praise Thee, Lord;
earth shall then her fruits afford;
God to man his blessing give,
man to God devoted live:
all below, and all above,
one in joy and light and love.**

<p><i>Music: Henry Thomas Smart 1813-79</i> <i>Words: Henry Francis Lyte 1793-1847</i> <i>from Psalm 67</i> <i>In the public domain</i></p>

L: Our loving God,
we thank you for protecting us in our daily lives by providing an ordered
and peaceful existence.
Help us to obey and respect the governing authorities.
But above all, lead us to honour and obey you, our Lord, and to serve
you with all that you have given us.

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. Serve the Lord, and obey all lawful authorities.

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.*

4. 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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