

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost (4th October, 2020)

Pastor Peter Ghalayini

M: We do not have a righteousness of our own that comes from the law,

All: **but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.**

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

C: **Amen.**

Opening Hymn – Christ is made the sure foundation *LH 248*

- 1. Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord, and precious,
Binding all the Church in one:
Holy Zion's help for ever,
And her confidence alone.**
- 2. To this temple, where we call Thee,
Come, O Lord of hosts, today;
With your constant loving-kindness
Hear your servants as they pray;
And your fullest benediction
Shed within these walls always.**
- 3. Praise and honour to the Father,
Praise and honour to the Son,
Praise and honour to the Spirit,
Ever three and ever one;
One in might, and one in glory,
While unending ages run.**

<p><i>Music: H.T. Smart 1813-1879 (1867); Words: Latin hymn, 7th or 8th century Tr. John Mason Neale, 1851, alt. In the public</i></p>
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M: Let us be found in Christ, not having a righteousness of our own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.

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: Restore us, O God of hosts;
Lord have mercy,

C: Lord have mercy.

L: Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved;
Christ have mercy,

C: Christ have mercy.

L: Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;
Lord have mercy,

C: Lord have mercy.

M: The Lord be with you,

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray that we faithfully do God's work.
Lord God,
you have planted your church
to be a flourishing fruitful vineyard.
Make us loyal and productive,
doing the work you have given us to do.
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 5:1-7

The song of the vineyard

¹I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. ²He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. ³“Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? ⁵Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled. ⁶I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it.” ⁷The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:7-15 (*Spoken responsively*)

M: ⁷Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

All: ⁸**You transplanted a vine from Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.**

M: ⁹You cleared the ground for it, and it took root and filled the land.

All: ¹⁰**The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches.**

M: ¹¹Its branches reached as far as the Sea,
its shoots as far as the River.

All: ¹²**Why have you broken down its walls
so that all who pass by pick its grapes?**

M: ¹³Boars from the forest ravage it,
and insects from the fields feed on it.

All: ¹⁴ **Return to us, God Almighty!**
Look down from heaven and see!
Watch over this vine,

M: ¹⁵ the root your right hand has planted,

All: **the son you have raised up for yourself.**

Second Reading – *Philippians 3:4b-14*

Everything loss compared to Christ

^{4b} though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. ⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

L: Alleluia, alleluia.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

**All: this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes.
Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading – Matthew 21:33-46

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

Parable of the tenants in the vineyard

Jesus said: ³³ “Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ³⁴ When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. ³⁵ “The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶ Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. ³⁷ Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. ³⁸ “But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰ “Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.” ⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? ⁴³ “Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. ⁴⁴ Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.” ⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them. ⁴⁶ They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Lord Jesus, thank you for letting us work in your vineyard.
Help us to acknowledge you as God's Son, and be faithful and
fruitful workers.**

Amen.

Gospel Hymn – Beautiful Saviour

- 1. Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, truly I'd serve Thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my Crown.**
- 2. Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;
he makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.**
- 3. Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.**
- 4. Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be Thine!**

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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 Song – Pentecost Prayer AT 99

- 1. When this earth was created,
It was God who spoke the word,
and it was done;
Gave his warmth to the cold earth;
All was new and all was young,
Time had begun.**

Chorus:

***Make me warm, when I am cold;
Make me young, when I am old;
Move me, touch me inside;
Let your love burn in me now.***

- 2. If I'm rough, make me gentle;
If my words are hard and sharp,
soften this heart.
If I'm weak, make me stronger,
Let me look to you for strength
To make a new start.**

Chorus:

***Make me warm, when I am cold;
Make me young, when I am old;
Move me, touch me inside;
Let your love burn in me now.***

- 3. If I'm deaf, break the silence;
If I'm blinded by the dark,
give me your light.
If I'm lame and I stumble,
Let me take your hand again,
And hold it so tight.**

Chorus:

***Make me warm, when I am cold;
Make me young, when I am old;
Move me, touch me inside;
Let your love burn in me now.***

- 4. If you speak, let me hear you;
Help me recognise your voice
everywhere.
If you pass, let me see you;
Help me know the face is yours,
Help me to care.**

Chorus:

***Make me warm, when I am cold;
Make me young, when I am old;
Move me, touch me inside;
Let your love burn in me now.***

***Make me warm, when I am cold;
Make me young, when I am old;
Move me, touch me inside;
Let your love burn in me now.***

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- L:** Thank you, Lord, for making us members of your kingdom and calling us to be tenants in your vineyard.
Help us to remember that you are the owner of the vineyard, the Lord of our lives, and we are responsible to you.
Make us obedient and productive, serving you and other people.

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 as faithful servants of the Lord.

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 – Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go *LH 346*

1. Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go,
My daily labour to pursue;
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know,
In all I think or speak or do.
2. The task Thy wisdom hath assigned
O let me cheerfully fulfil,
In all my works Thy presence find,
And prove Thy good and perfect will.
3. Thee may I set at my right hand,
Whose eyes my inmost substance see,
And labour on at Thy command,
And offer all my works to Thee.
4. For Thee delightfully employ
Whate'er Thy bounteous grace hath given,

**And run my course with even joy,
And closely walk with Thee to heaven.**

Music: O. Gibbons 1583-1625 (1623);

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

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