

***Pentecost 24 (15<sup>th</sup> November, 2020)***

**Pastor Peter Ghalayini**

*M:* Be silent in the presence of the Lord God;

*All:* **for the day of the Lord is at hand.**

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

*C:* **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn – *LH 206***

**Stand up, stand up for Jesus**

- 1. Stand up, stand up for Jesus,  
Ye soldiers of the cross!  
Lift high His royal banner,  
It must not suffer loss.  
From victory unto victory  
His army shall He lead,  
Till every foe is vanquished,  
And Christ is Lord indeed.**
- 2. Stand up, stand up for Jesus!  
The trumpet call obey;  
Forth to the mighty conflict  
In this His glorious day.  
Ye that are men now serve Him  
Against unnumbered foes;  
Let courage rise with danger,  
And strength to strength oppose.**
- 3. Stand up, stand up for Jesus!  
Stand in His strength alone;  
The arm of flesh will fail you,  
Ye dare not trust your own.  
Put on the gospel armour,  
Each piece put on with prayer;  
Where duty calls, or danger,  
Be never wanting there.**

**4. Stand up, stand up for Jesus!  
The strife will not be long;  
This day the noise of battle,  
The next the victor's song.  
To those who vanquish evil  
A crown of life shall be;  
They with the king of glory  
Shall reign eternally.**

*Music: G.J. Webb 1803-1887 (1837/Church use: 1842);  
Words: George Duffield (1818-1888)  
In the public domain*

*M:* God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 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:* Lord, you have been our refuge,  
Lord have mercy,

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

*L:* from age to age you are God  
Christ have mercy,

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

*L:* Lord, you have been our refuge,  
Lord have mercy,

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

*M:* The Lord be with you,

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

*M:* Let us pray to be ready for Christ's return.

*C:* **Help us, Lord Jesus Christ,  
to wait for you,  
to wish for you,  
and to watch for you,  
so that when you come again  
you will find us ready.  
For you live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

**First Reading – Zephaniah 1:7,12-18**

*The day of the Lord is near*

<sup>7</sup> Be silent before the Sovereign Lord, for the day of the Lord is near. The Lord has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated those he has invited.

The Lord says: <sup>12</sup> At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, 'The Lord will do nothing, either good or bad.' <sup>13</sup> Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished. Though they build houses, they will not live in them; though they plant vineyards, they will not drink the wine." <sup>14</sup> The great day of the Lord is near— near and coming quickly. The cry on the day of the Lord is bitter; the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry. <sup>15</sup> That day will be a day of wrath— a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness— <sup>16</sup> a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers. <sup>17</sup> "I will bring such distress on all people that they will grope about like those who are blind, because they have sinned against the Lord. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their entrails like dung. <sup>18</sup> Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath." In the fire of his jealousy the whole earth will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live on the earth.

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

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

**Psalm 90:1-8, 12** (*Spoken responsively*)

*M:* <sup>1</sup> Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
throughout all generations.

*All:* <sup>2</sup> **Before the mountains were born  
or you brought forth the whole world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

*M:* <sup>3</sup> You turn people back to dust,  
saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."

*All:* <sup>4</sup> **A thousand years in your sight  
are like a day that has just gone by,  
or like a watch in the night.**

*M:* <sup>5</sup> Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—

*All:* **they are like the new grass of the morning:**

*M:* <sup>6</sup> In the morning it springs up new,  
but by evening it is dry and withered.

*All:* <sup>7</sup> **We are consumed by your anger  
and terrified by your indignation.**

*M:* <sup>8</sup> You have set our iniquities before you,

*All:* **our secret sins in the light of your presence.**

*M:* <sup>12</sup> Teach us to number our days,

*All:* **that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

**Second Reading** – *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*

*Be ready for the Lord's coming*

<sup>1</sup> Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, <sup>2</sup> for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup> You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But

since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. <sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup> He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

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

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

*M:* Alleluia, alleluia.

But you are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief;

*All:* **for you are all children of light and children of the day.**  
**Alleluia.**

### **Gospel Reading – Matthew 25:14-30**

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

*The parable of the talents*

Jesus said: <sup>14</sup> “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. <sup>17</sup> So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. <sup>18</sup> But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup> “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’ <sup>21</sup> “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ <sup>22</sup> “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’ <sup>23</sup> “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ <sup>24</sup> “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you

are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup> So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' <sup>26</sup> "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?' <sup>27</sup> Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. <sup>28</sup> "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. <sup>29</sup> For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. <sup>30</sup> And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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

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

**Thank you, Lord Jesus,  
for entrusting each of us with various gifts.  
Help us to be faithful servants.  
Amen.**

**Gospel Hymn –** *LH 352*

**Fight the good fight**

- 1. Fight the good fight with all thy might,  
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;  
Lay hold on life, and it shall be  
Thy joy and crown eternally.**
- 2. Run the straight race through  
God's good grace,  
Lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face;  
Life with its way before us lies,  
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.**
- 3. Cast care aside, lean on thy guide;  
God's boundless mercy will provide;  
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove  
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.**
- 4. Faint not nor fear, God's arms are near;  
God changeth not, and thou art dear;**

**Only believe, and thou shalt see  
That Christ is all in all to thee.**

*Music: J.P. Lohe 1869–1952;  
Words: John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-1875), 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 – Lord, keep us steadfast in your word** *LH 197*

- 1. Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;  
curb those who by deceit or sword  
would wrest the kingdom from your Son  
and bring to naught all he has done.**
- 2. Lord Jesus Christ, your power  
make known,**

**for you are Lord of lords alone;  
defend your holy church, that we  
may sing your praise eternally.**

- 3. O Comforter of priceless worth,  
send peace and unity on earth;  
support us in our final strife,  
and lead us out of death to life.**

*Music: 15<sup>th</sup> Cent. M. Luther 1483-1546 (1543);  
Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546)  
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.  
In the public domain*

*L:* Thank you, Lord,  
for all the gifts you have entrusted to us.  
Help us to remember  
that all we have comes from you  
and is to be used to serve you.  
Make us faithful and trustworthy servants,  
always ready for your return.

*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, doing the Lord's work while it is day.

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 – Stay awake**      AT303

*Chorus:*

*Stay awake and watch for me,  
stay awake and watch for me,  
stay awake and watch for me,  
stay awake and watch for me,  
watch for me.*

1. You might see me in stars at night,  
winter light, beaches bright.  
If you miss me then, catch a sight  
in the hungry and the refugees' flight;

*O...*

*Stay awake and watch for me,  
stay awake and watch for me,  
stay awake and watch for me,  
stay awake and watch for me,  
watch for me.*

2. You can see me in bread and wine,  
food and drink here in time;  
hear me speaking and see the signs  
in the word that I have left behind;

*O ...*

*Stay awake and watch for me,  
stay awake and watch for me,  
stay awake and watch for me,*

***stay awake and watch for me,  
watch for me.***

- 3. Sun keeps shining and the  
earth goes round,  
some get lost, some get found.  
I'll be with you till the stars close down –  
stay awake until you hear that sound.**

***O ...***

***Stay awake and watch for me,  
stay awake and watch for me,  
stay awake and watch for me,  
stay awake and watch for me,  
watch for me.***

*Music & Words: © 1984 Robin Mann,  
words based on Mark 13:33-37  
Used by Permission. CCLI Licence # 224866*