

Pentecost 23 (8th November, 2020)

Pastor Peter Ghalayini

M: At midnight there comes a shout:

All: **Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!**

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

C: **Amen.**

Opening Hymn – Be still, my soul

LHS 854

- 1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to thy God to order and provide;
in every change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul:
thy best, thy heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**
- 2. Be still, my soul:
thy God doth undertake.
To guide the future, as he has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence
let nothing shake.
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul:
the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them
while he dwelt below.**
- 3. Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be for ever with the Lord.
When disappointment, grief, and fear
are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears
are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.
Amen!**

*Music: Jean Sibelius 1865-1957; Words:
Catharina A.D. von Schlegel 1697- ?
Tr. Jane Laurie Borthwick 1813-1897, alt., CCLI.
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M: Jesus says: Keep awake for you know neither the day nor the hour of my return.
That we may be ready 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: Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
Lord have mercy,

C: **Lord have mercy.**

L: O Lord, make haste to help me;
Christ have mercy,

C: **Christ have mercy.**

L: You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.
Lord have mercy,

C: **Lord have mercy.**

M: The Lord be with you,

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray for faithfulness until Christ's return.
Awaken us, Lord,
so that when your Son comes
we may be ready to receive him with joy
and serve you with clean hearts.
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 – Amos 5:18-24

The day of the Lord

¹⁸ Woe to you who long for the day of the Lord!

Why do you long for the day of the Lord? That day will be darkness, not light. ¹⁹ It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him. ²⁰ Will not the day of the Lord be darkness, not light— pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness? ²¹ “I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me.

²² Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. ²³ Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. ²⁴ But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 70 (Spoken responsively)

M: ¹ Hasten, O God, to save me;

All: **come quickly, Lord, to help me.**

M: ² May those who want to take my life be put to shame and confusion; may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace.

All: ³ **May those who say to me, “Aha! Aha!”
turn back because of their shame.**

M: ⁴ But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;

All: **may those who long for your saving help always say,
“The Lord is great!”**

M: ⁵ But as for me, I am poor and needy;
come quickly to me, O God.

**All: You are my help and my deliverer;
Lord, do not delay.**

Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Questions about the Lord's coming

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

L: Alleluia, alleluia.
Keep awake therefore,

**All: for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.
Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading – Matthew 25:1-13

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

Parable of the wise and foolish girls

Jesus said: ¹“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶ “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ ⁷ “Then all

the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' ⁹ "No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰ "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. ¹¹ "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!' ¹² "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.' ¹³ "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Thank you, Lord Jesus,
for promising to return as the heavenly bridegroom.
Make us always watchful and ready.
Amen.**

Gospel Hymn – At the name of Jesus

LHS 782

- 1. At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow
every tongue confess him
King of glory now;
'tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.**
- 2. Mighty and mysterious
in the highest height,
God from everlasting
very light of light.
In the Father's bosom
with the Spirit blest,
love, in love eternal,
rest, in perfect rest.**
- 3. Humbled for a season,
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,**

**faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious
when from death he passed.**

- 4. Bore it up triumphant
with it's human light,
through all ranks of creatures
to the central height.
To the throne of Godhead,
to the Father's breast,
filled it with the glory
of that perfect rest.**
- 5. In your hearts enthrone him,
there let him subdue
all that is nor holy,
all that is not true.
Crown him as your captain
in temptation's hour,
let his will enfold you
in it's light and power.**
- 6. Brothers, this Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with his Father's glory,
with his angel-train.
For all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of glory now.**

*Music: R. Vaughan Williams 1872-1958;
Words: Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877) alt.
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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 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 blessed 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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L: Thank you, Lord, for all your gifts,
and for giving us the privilege of serving you.
Help us to be alert and ready for your coming,
serving you faithfully and doing your will.

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, watching and waiting for the Lord's coming.

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– Give Me Oil In my Lamp

AT 85

- 1. Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,
give me oil in my lamp, I pray,
give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,
keep me burning 'till the break of day.**

Chorus

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King of kings.
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King.*

- 2. Make me a fisher of men keep me seeking,
make me a fisher of men I pray,
make me a fisher of men keep me seeking,
seeking souls 'till Jesus comes again.**

Chorus

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King of kings.
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King.*

3. Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
give me joy in my heart, I pray,
give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
keep me praising 'till the break of day.

Chorus

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King of kings.
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King.*

4. Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
give me love in my heart, I pray,
give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
keep me serving 'till the break of day.

Chorus

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King of kings.
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King.*

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King of kings.
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King.*

Written by: A. Sevison, C. Barny Robertson
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