

First Sunday In Lent (21st February, 2021)

Pastor Peter Ghalayini

M: God says: I have set my bow in the clouds,

All: **and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.**

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

All: **Amen**

Opening Hymn – O Lord, throughout these forty days *LHS 756*

- 1. O Lord, throughout these forty days
you prayed and kept the fast;
inspire repentance for our sin,
and free us from our past.**
- 2. You strove with Satan, and you won;
your faithfulness endured;
lend us your love, your skill, and trust
in God's eternal Word.**
- 3. Though parched and hungry,
yet you prayed
and fixed your mind above;
so teach us to deny ourselves
since we have known God's love.**
- 4. Be with us through this season, Lord,
and all our earthly days,
that when the final Easter dawns,
we join in heaven's praise.**

*Music: Scottish Psalter, 1635;
Words: Composite, Supplement compilers;
Based on Claudia F. Hernaman 1838-1898, &
Gilbert E. Doan 1930 - . In the public domain.*

M: Friends in Christ:

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent,
and believe in the good news.”

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.

M: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
Lord have mercy,

All: **Lord have mercy,**

M: my God, I put my trust in you;
Christ have mercy,

All: **Christ have mercy.**

M: All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness;
Lord have mercy,

All: **Lord have mercy.**

M: The Lord be with you,

All: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray for strength in temptation.

All: **Almighty and merciful God,
your Son fasted in the desert
and was tempted as we are,
yet without sin.
Protect us when we are tempted,
and help us to resist the devil
by trusting in your word.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading – Genesis 9:8-17

God's covenant with Noah

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹ “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹² And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: ¹³ I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. ¹⁶ Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.” ¹⁷ So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-10 (*Spoken responsively*)

M: ¹ In you, Lord my God,
I put my trust.

All: ² **I trust in you;
do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

M: ³ No one who hopes in you
will ever be put to shame,

All: **but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause.**

M: ⁴ Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.

All: ⁵ **Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.**

M: ⁶ Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love,

All: **for they are from of old.**

M: ⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;

All: **according to your love remember me,
for you, Lord, are good.**

M: ⁸ Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.

All: ⁹ **He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.**

M: ¹⁰ All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful

All: **toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.**

Second Reading – 1 Peter 3:18-22

The flood a symbol of baptism

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— ²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

M: Jesus said: The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;

All: **repent, and believe in the good news.**

Gospel Reading – Mark 1:9-15

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

The baptism, temptation, and preaching of Jesus

⁹At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” ¹²At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. ¹⁴After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for coming from God and overcoming sin and evil for us.

Lead us to repent and believe.

Amen.

Gospel Hymn – God is love *LH 394*

- 1. God is love: let heaven adore Him;
God is love: let earth rejoice;
Let creation sing before Him,
And exalt Him with one voice.
God who laid the earth’s foundation,
God who spread the heavens above,
God who breathes through all creation,
God is love, eternal love.**
- 2. God is love: and love enfolds us
All the world in one embrace;
With unfailing grasp God holds us
Every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
Under sorrow’s iron rod,**

**Then we find that same self-aching
deep within heart of God.**

- 3. God is love: and though with blindness
Sin afflicts all human life,
God's eternal loving-kindness
Guides us through our earthly strife.
Sin and death and hell shall never
O'er us final triumph gain;
God is love, so love for ever
O'er the universe must reign.**

*Music: C.V. Taylor 1907- (1941);
Words: Timothy Rees (1874-1939), 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 – 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: 15th Cent. M. Luther 1483-1546 (1543);
Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546)
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
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M: Let us pray:

Thank you, Lord, for washing away our sins,
and for promising to be our God forever.
As our real life is with Christ,
help us to live as members of your kingdom,
trusting and serving you
and giving ourselves in love to others.

All: **Amen.**

Prayer of the church

M: Lord, teach us to pray:

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: May Christ our crucified Saviour draw you to himself, so that you may find in him the assurance of sins forgiven and the gift of eternal life;
Go in peace. Turn away from your sins and believe the good news.

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

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 – Father welcomes TIS 491

Refrain:

***Father welcomes all his children
to his family through his Son;
Father giving his salvation,
life for ever has been won.***

**1. Little children, come to me,
for my kingdom is of these;
life and love I have to give,
mercy for your sin.**

Refrain:

***Father welcomes all his children
to his family through his Son;***

***Father giving his salvation,
life for ever has been won.***

2. In the water, in the word
in his promise, be assured:
those who are baptized and believe
shall be born again.

Refrain:

***Father welcomes all his children
to his family through his Son;
Father giving his salvation,
life for ever has been won.***

3. Let us daily die to sin,
let us daily rise with him,
walk in the love of Christ our Lord,
live in the peace of God.

Refrain:

***Father welcomes all his children
to his family through his Son;
Father giving his salvation,
life for ever has been won.***

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