

**Second Sunday In Lent (28<sup>th</sup> February, 2021)**

**Pastor Peter Ghalayini**

*M:* The Lord said to Abraham: I will establish my covenant between me and you:

*All:* **an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.**

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

*All:* **Amen**

**Opening Hymn – LH 456**

**The God of Abraham praise**

- 1. The God of Abraham praise,  
Who reigns enthroned above;  
Ancient of everlasting days,  
And God of love.  
Jehovah, great I AM,  
By earth and heaven confessed;  
I bow and bless the sacred name,  
Forever blest.**
- 2. The God of Abraham praise,  
At whose supreme command  
From earth I rise and seek the joys  
At His right hand.  
I all on earth forsake,  
Its wisdom, fame, and power;  
And Him my only portion make,  
My shield and tower.**
- 3. He by Himself hath sworn,  
I on His oath depend,  
I shall, on eagle's wings upborne,  
To heaven ascend;  
I shall behold His face,  
I shall His power adore,**

**And sing the wonders of His grace  
Forevermore.**

4. **The whole triumphant host  
Give thanks to God on high;  
“Hail, Father, Son and Holy Ghost!”  
They ever cry.  
Hail, Abraham’s God and mine!  
I join the heavenly lays;  
All might and majesty are Thine,  
And endless praise.**

*Music: Hebrew synagogue melody transc. M. Lyon 1751-1797, arr T. Olivers (c 1770);  
Words: Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), alt based on the medieval Hebrew ,Yigdal.  
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*M:* Friends in Christ:

Jesus says: ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.’  
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:* Praise the Lord, you that fear him;  
Lord have mercy,

*All:* **Lord have mercy,**

*M:* stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;  
Christ have mercy,

*All:* **Christ have mercy,**

*M:* all you of Jacob's line, give glory.  
Lord have mercy,

*All:* **Lord have mercy.**

*M:* The Lord be with you,

*All:* **And also with you.**

*M:* Let us pray that we deny ourselves and trust in Christ.

*All:* **Merciful God,  
we thank you for sending your Son  
to suffer and give his life for all people.  
Teach us, who have been born again, to forget ourselves  
and rely only on Christ our Saviour.  
For he lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

### **First Reading – Genesis 17:1-7,15,16**

#### *God's promise to Abraham and Sarah*

<sup>1</sup> When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. <sup>2</sup> Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.'

<sup>3</sup> Abram fell face down, and God said to him, <sup>4</sup> 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: you will be the father of many nations. <sup>5</sup> No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. <sup>7</sup> I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. <sup>15</sup> God also said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. <sup>16</sup> I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.'

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

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

**Psalm 22:23-31** (*Spoken responsively*)

*M:* <sup>23</sup> You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
All you descendants of Jacob, honour him!

*All:* **Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!**

*M:* <sup>24</sup> For he has not despised or scorned  
the suffering of the afflicted one;

*All:* **he has not hidden his face from him  
but has listened to his cry for help.**

*M:* <sup>25</sup> From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;

*All:* **before those who fear you I will fulfil my vows.**

*M:* <sup>26</sup> The poor will eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek the Lord will praise him –

*All:* **may your hearts live for ever!**

*M:* <sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth  
will remember and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations  
will bow down before him,

*All:* <sup>28</sup> **for dominion belongs to the Lord  
and he rules over the nations.**

*M:* All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;

*All:* **all who go down to the dust will kneel before him – those who cannot  
keep themselves alive.**

*M:* <sup>30</sup> Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about the Lord.

*All:* <sup>31</sup> **They will proclaim his righteousness,  
declaring to a people yet unborn:  
He has done it!**

**Second Reading** – *Romans 4:13-25*

*Abraham received God's promise through faith*

<sup>13</sup> It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. <sup>14</sup> For if those who depend on the law

are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless,<sup>15</sup> because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.<sup>16</sup> Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring – not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.<sup>17</sup> As it is written: 'I have made you a father of many nations.' He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed – the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.<sup>18</sup> Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.'<sup>19</sup> Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead – since he was about a hundred years old – and that Sarah's womb was also dead.<sup>20</sup> Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,<sup>21</sup> being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.<sup>22</sup> This is why 'it was credited to him as righteousness.'<sup>23</sup> The words 'it was credited to him' were written not for him alone,<sup>24</sup> but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness – for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.<sup>25</sup> He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

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

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

*M:* Jesus said: 'If any want to become my followers,

*All:* **let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'**

**Gospel Reading – Mark 8:31-38**

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

*The cost of discipleship*

<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.<sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.<sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. 'Get behind me, Satan!' he said. 'You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.'<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: 'Whoever wants to be my

disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.'

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

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

**Lord Jesus, thank you for suffering, dying, and rising again for our sake.  
Help us to carry our cross and follow you.**

**Amen.**

**Hymn – 'Take up your cross,' the  
Saviour said *LH 351***

- 1. Take up thy cross,' the Saviour said,  
'If thou wouldst My disciple be;  
Deny thyself, the world forsake,  
And humbly follow after Me.'**
- 2. Take up thy cross; let not its weight  
Fill thy weak spirit with alarm;  
His strength shall bear thy spirit up,  
And brace thy heart, and nerve thine arm.**
- 3. Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,  
Nor let thy foolish pride rebel;  
Thy Lord for thee the cross endured,  
To save thy soul from death and hell.**
- 4. Take up thy cross then in His strength,  
And calmly every danger brave;  
'Twill guide thee to a better home,  
And lead to victory o'er the grave.**
- 5. Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,  
Nor think till death to lay it down;  
For only he who bears the cross  
May hope to wear the glorious crown.**

6. **To Thee, great Lord, the One in Three,  
All praise for evermore ascend;  
O grant us in our home to see  
The heavenly life that knows no end.**

*Music: J. Law 1899- (1931);  
Words: Charles William Everest (1814-1877)  
Revised, 'Hymns Ancient and Modern', 1861  
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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 – Come, Follow Me, the Saviour Spake LHS 336**

1. **"Come, follow Me," the Saviour spake,  
"All in My way abiding;  
Deny yourselves, the world forsake,**

**Obey My call and guiding.  
O bear the cross, whate'er betide,  
Take my example for your guide.**

- 2. "I am the Light, I light the way,  
A godly life displaying;  
I bid you walk as in the day;  
I keep your feet from straying.  
I am the way, and well I show  
How you must sojourn here below.**
- 3. "My heart abounds in lowliness,  
My soul with love is glowing;  
And gracious words My lips express,  
With meekness overflowing.  
My heart, My mind, My strength, My all,  
To God I yield, on Him I call.**
- 4. "I teach you how to shun and flee  
What harms your soul's salvation,  
Your heart from ev'ry guile to free,  
From sin and its temptation.  
I am the refuge of the soul  
And lead you to your heav'nly goal."**
- 5. Then let us follow Christ, our Lord,  
And take the cross appointed  
And, firmly clinging to His Word,  
In suff'ring be undaunted.  
For those who bear the battle's strain  
The crown of life shall not obtain.**

<p>B. Gesius c. 1560-1613 (1605) ad. J.H Schein 1586-1630 (1628) Johann Schellfer, 1912 Tr. Charles William Schaeffer, 1912 In Public Domain</p>
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*M:* Let us pray:

Lord God, help us always rely on your promises to us.  
Strengthen us for service as your followers.  
Lead us to forget ourselves for your sake,  
and give of ourselves for 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;

Take up your cross and follow Christ.

*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 – May The Feet Of God Walk With You AT 194**

**May the feet of God walk with you,  
and His hand hold you tight,  
May the eye of God rest on you,  
and His ear hear your cry.**

**May the smile of God be for you,  
and His breath give you life.  
May the child of God grow in you,  
and His love bring you home.**

**May the feet of God walk with you,  
and His hand hold you tight,  
May the eye of God rest on you,  
and His ear hear your cry.  
May the smile of God be for you,  
and His breath give you life.  
May the child of God grow in you,  
and His love bring you home.**

*Music: Robin Mann; Words: Aubrey Podlich  
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