

Fifth Sunday In Lent (21st March, 2021)

Pastor Peter Ghalayini

M: The days are surely coming, says the Lord,

All: **when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.**

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

All: **Amen**

Opening Hymn – O Jesus, I have promised *LH 371*

1. **O Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou for ever near me,
My master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle
If Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If Thou wilt be my guide.**
2. **O let me feel Thee near me
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.**
3. **O let me hear Thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten or control:
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou guardian of my soul.**

4. **O Jesus Thou hast promised
To all who follow Thee,
That where Thou art in glory
There shall Thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end:
O give me grace to follow,
My master and my friend.**
5. **O let me see Thy footmarks,
And in them plant mine own:
My hope to follow duly
Is in Thy strength alone.
O guide me, call me, draw me,
Uphold me to the end;
And then in heaven receive me,
My Saviour and my friend.**

*Music: W.H.Ferguson 1874-1950 (1919);
Words: John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)
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M: Friends in Christ:

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard.

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: With my whole heart I seek you;
Lord have mercy,

All: **Lord have mercy,**

M: let me not stray from your commandments.
Christ have mercy,

All: **Christ have mercy.**

M: I treasure your promise in my heart,
Lord have mercy,

All: **Lord have mercy.**

M: The Lord be with you,

All: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray that we remain united with Christ.

All: **Jesus our Saviour,
thank you for coming to give us life
through your suffering and death.
Keep us following you
wherever you lead us,
because we know that you have promised to take us home to God.
For you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.**

First Reading – Jeremiah 31:31-34

God promises a new covenant

³¹ ‘The days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,’ declares the Lord. ³³ ‘This is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time,’ declares the Lord. ‘I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.’

³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, "Know the Lord," because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,' declares the Lord. 'For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.'

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 51:1-12 (*Spoken responsively*)

M: ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

All: ² **Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.**

M: ³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.

All: ⁴ **Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.**

M: ⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

All: ⁶ **Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me
wisdom in that secret place.**

M: ⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

All: ⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.**

M: ⁹ Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.

All: ¹⁰ **Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

M: ¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

All: ¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

Second Reading – Hebrews 5:5-10

Jesus the great high priest, made perfect through suffering

⁵ In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father.'⁶ And he says in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, in the order of Melchizedek.'⁷ During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.⁸ Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered⁹ and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him¹⁰ and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

M: Jesus said: 'Whoever serves me must follow me,

All: **and where I am, there will be my servant also.'**

Gospel Reading – John 12:20-33

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

Jesus announces that his hour has come

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival.²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. 'Sir,' they said, 'we would like to see Jesus.'²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.²³ Jesus replied, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.'²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be.

My Father will honour the one who serves me.²⁷ 'Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.'²⁸ Father, glorify your name!' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.'²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered;

others said an angel had spoken to him. ³⁰ Jesus said, 'This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' ³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: (Spoken) Praise to you, O Christ

**Lord Jesus,
thank you for giving up your life for our sake.
Make us ready to give up ourselves and follow you.**

Amen.

Gospel Hymn – Mighty God, we praise Thy name *LH 457*

- 1. Mighty God, we praise Thy name;
Lord of all, our hearts adore Thee.
All creation must proclaim
Thy great works, and bow before Thee.
Ages roll, but Thou wilt be
Lord throughout eternity.**
- 2. King of glory, God's own Son,
Humbly our poor nature sharing,
Now to save us Thou art come,
All our sin and sorrow bearing;
Thou hast brought us saving grace,
Freed from guilt our sinful race.**
- 3. O have mercy on us, Lord;
Shed on us Thy richest blessing;
Keep us steadfast in Thy word,
Ever Thy great name confessing.
Lord, we trust alone in Thee;
Thine we are eternally.**

*Music: 'Katholisches Gesangbuch,' Vienna 1774 ad. J.H. Schicht's
'Choralbuch' 1819;
Words: asc. To Ignaz Franz (1719-1790), Tr. Frederick William
Herzberger.
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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 – There is a green hill

TIS 350

1. There is a green hill far away,
without a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified,
who died to save us all.
2. We may not know, we cannot tell,
what pains he had to bear,
but we believe it was for us
he hung and suffered there.
3. He died that we might be forgiven,
he died to make us good,

that we might go at last to heaven,
saved by his precious blood.

4. There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin,
he only could unlock the gate
of heaven, and let us in.
5. O dearly, dearly has he loved,
and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do.

<p><i>Music: William Horsley 1774-1858</i> <i>Words: Cecil Frances Alexander 1818-95</i> <i>Public domain</i></p>

M: Let us pray:

Thank you, Lord, for making us yours
through the sacrifice of your Son.
Let your Spirit live in us
to make us more and more like Christ.
Lead us to serve others
with all that you have given us.

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 to follow and serve the Lord.

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 Hymn – The Church's one foundation *LH 191*

- 1. The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word:
From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.**
- 2. Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With every grace endued.**
- 3. Though with a scornful wonder
Men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,**

**By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping,
Their cry goes up, 'How long?'
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.**

**4. Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace for evermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.**

**5. Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with Thee.**

*Music: S.S. Wesley 1810-1876 (1864);
Words: Samuel John Stone (1839-1900)
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