

Third Sunday In Lent (7th March, 2021)

Pastor Peter Ghalayini

M: The Lord said to Israel: If you obey my voice and keep my covenant,

All: **you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.**

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

All: **Amen**

Opening Hymn – Glorious things of thee are spoken TIS 446

- 1. Glorious things of Thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God:
he whose word cannot be broken
formed Thee for his own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake Thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all Thy foes.**
- 2. See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply Thy sons and daughters
and all fear of want remove:
who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage —
grace, which like the Lord the giver
never fails from age to age.**
- 3. Saviour, since of Zion's city
I, through grace, a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in Thy name:
fading is the worldling's pleasure,
all his boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Zion's children know.**

Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor 1907-91,

Words: John Newton 1725–1807 alt.

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M: Friends in Christ:

The message about the cross is foolishness
to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power
of God.

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: The heavens declare the glory of God,
Lord have mercy,

All: **Lord have mercy,**

M: the firmament shows his handiwork.
Christ have mercy,

All: **Christ have mercy.**

M: The heavens declare the glory of God.
Lord have mercy,

All: **Lord have mercy.**

M: The Lord be with you,

All: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray that we live repentant lives.

All: **Holy and merciful God,
we thank you for giving your Son Jesus to die on the cross for us
sinners.**

**Turn us away from our sins
and back to a life of trust in you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns**

**with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

First Reading – Exodus 20:1-17

The Ten Commandments

¹ And God spoke all these words: ² ‘I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ³ You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷ You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. ⁸ Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labour and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. ¹² ‘Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³ ‘You shall not murder. ¹⁴ ‘You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ ‘You shall not steal. ¹⁶ ‘You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour. ¹⁷ ‘You shall not covet your neighbour’s house. You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.’

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19 (Spoken responsively)

M: ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

- All:* ²**Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.**
- M:* ³They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
- All:* ⁴**Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.**
- M:* ⁵It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course.
- All:* ⁶**It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.**
- M:* ⁷The law of the Lord is perfect,
refreshing the soul.
- All:* **The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.**
- M:* ⁸The precepts of the Lord are right,
giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.
- All:* ⁹**The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring for ever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them
are righteous.**
- M:* ¹⁰They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
- All:* **they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.**
- M:* ¹¹By them your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
- All:* ¹²**But who can discern their own errors?
Forgive my hidden faults.**
- M:* ¹³Keep your servant also from wilful sins;
may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.
- All:* ¹⁴**May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be
pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Christ crucified - God's power and wisdom

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written: ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.’ ²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

M: After he was raised from the dead,

All: **his disciples believed the scripture
and the word that Jesus had spoken.**

Gospel Reading – John 2:13-22

(Spoken) Glory to you, O Lord,

Jesus cleanses the temple and gives a sign

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, ‘Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!’ ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’ ¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, ‘What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?’ ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.’ ²⁰ They

replied, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?’²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body.²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Thank you, Lord Jesus,
for coming from God with his power and authority.
Help us to trust in you alone.**

Amen.

Gospel Hymn – Built on a rock

LH 188

- 1. Built on the rock the Church doth stand,
Even when steeples are falling;
Crumbled have spires in every land,
Bells still are chiming and calling;
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the soul distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.**
- 2. Surely in temples made with hands,
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth His temple stands,
All earthly temples excelling.
Yet He whom heavens cannot contain
Chose to abide on earth with men,
Built in our bodies his temple.**
- 3. We are God’s house of living stones,
Builded for His habitation;
He through baptismal grace us owns,
Heirs of His wondrous salvation.
Were we but two His name to tell,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell,
With all His grace and His favour.**

4. Now we may gather with our King
E'en in the lowliest dwelling;
Praises to Him we there may bring,
His wondrous mercy forthtelling.
Jesus His grace to us accords;
Spirit and life are all His words;
His truth doth hallow the temple.
5. Still we our earthly temples rear
That we may herald His praises;
They are the homes where He draws near
And little children embraces.
Beautiful things in them are said;
God there with us His covenant made,
Making us heirs of His kingdom.
6. Here stands the font before our eyes
Telling how God did receive us;
The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice
And what His table doth give us;
Here sounds the Word
that doth proclaim
Christ yesterday, today, the same,
Yea, and for aye our Redeemer.
7. Grant then, O God, where'er men roam,
That, when the church-bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come
Where Christ His message is bringing:
"I know Mine own, Mine own know me;
Ye, not the world, My face shall see.
My peace I leave with you." Amen.

*Music: L.M. Lindeman 1812-1887 (1840);
Words: Nikolaj Frederik Severin Grundtvig (1783-1872)
Tr. Carl Doving, 1909; Revised, Fred C.M. Hansen, 1958
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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 – Lift high the cross TIS 351

Refrain:

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

1. Come, Christians, follow
this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God,
in unity combine:

Refrain:

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

2. Each newborn servant
of the Crucified,
bears on the brow
the seal of him who died:

Refrain:

***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.***

3. **O Lord once lifted
on the glorious tree
as Thou hast promised
draw the world to thee:**

Refrain:

***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.***

4. **So shall our song of
triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified
for victory.**

Refrain:

***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.***

Music: Sydney Hugo Nicholson 1875-1947;
Words: George William Kitchin, 1827-1912 and
Michael Robert Newbolt 1874-1956, alt.
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M: Let us pray:

Thank you, Lord, for Christ crucified,
as your wisdom and the power that saves us.
Help us to have no other gods but you,
and to live our lives fully committed to you,
obeying your commandments
and loving and serving other people.

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;

Be strong in the strength of 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 – O Praise Ye the Lord LHS 468

- 1. O praise ye the Lord!**
Praise him in the height;
rejoice in his Word,
ye angels of light;
ye heavens, adore him
by whom ye were made,
and worship before him,
in brightness arrayed.

- 2. O praise ye the Lord!**
Praise him upon earth,
in tuneful accord,
ye sons of new birth;
praise him who hath brought you

his grace from above,
praise him who hath taught you
to sing of his love.

3. O praise ye the Lord!
All things that give sound;
each jubilant chord
re-echo around;
loud organs, his glory
forth tell in deep tone,
and sweet harp, the story
of what he hath done.

4. O praise ye the Lord!
Thanksgiving and song
to him be outpoured
all ages along!
For love in creation,
for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation,
O praise ye the Lord!

C.H.H Parry 1848-1918 (1864/1916)
Henry Williams Baker (1821/1877)
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