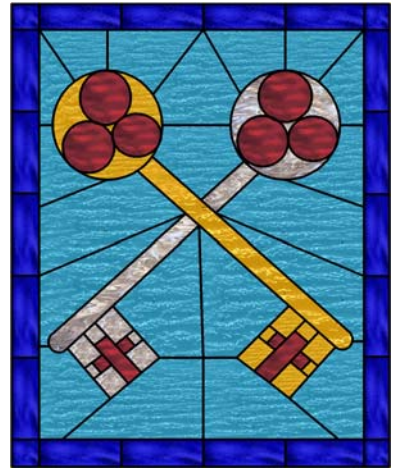


Meditation – On the Ministry of the Keys

October 4, 2009
Pastor Mark Voss



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

C: Amen.

P: This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:

C: **God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.**

P: If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness,

C: **we lie and do not live by the truth.**

P: If we claim to be without sin,

C: **we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

1 John 1:5-8

CONFESSION OF SIN

Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child.

Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt.

For his sake, O God, be merciful to me, a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.

Silence for personal examination and confession

ABSOLUTION

P: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

1 John 1:9

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

HYMN – *“Jesus, Sinners Does Receive”*

CW 304 vv 1, 5-7

LESSONS

James 3:13-18 *“Heavenly Wisdom”* ¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. ¹⁶For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. ¹⁷But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

**His strength within my weakness Will make me bold to say
How his redeeming power Transforms my stubborn clay.
His touch of fire ignites me; With courage I am sent,
My tongue-tied silence broken, With grace made eloquent.**

Mark 9:30-37 *"In God's Kingdom Last Is First"* ³⁰They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." ³²But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it. ³³They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" ³⁴But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. ³⁵Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." ³⁶He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

READING FROM CATECHISM – The Ministry of the Keys

The Keys

P: What is the use of the Keys?

C: The use of the Keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth, to forgive the sins of penitent sinners but to refuse forgiveness to the impenitent as long as they do not repent.

P: Where is this written?

C: The holy Evangelist John writes in chapter 20, "Jesus breathed on his disciples and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.' "

The Public Use of the Keys

P: How does a Christian congregation use the Keys?

C: A Christian congregation with its called servant of Christ uses the Keys in accordance with Christ's command by forgiving those who repent of their sin and are willing to amend, and by excluding from the congregation those who are plainly impenitent that they may repent. I believe that, when this is done, it is as valid and certain in heaven also, as if Christ, our dear Lord, dealt with us himself.

P: Where is this written:

C: Jesus says in Matthew, chapter 18, "Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

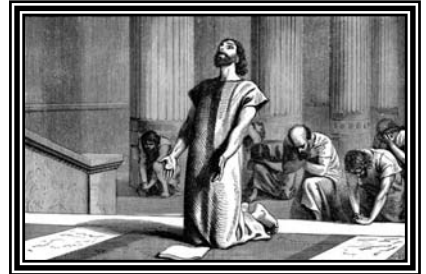
SERMON SERIES – Courageous Heroes of Faith

Hezekiah – 2 Chronicles 29:1-3, 30:1-4, 32:24-26

¹Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abijah daughter of Zechariah. ²He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done. ³In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple of the LORD and repaired them.

¹Hezekiah sent word to all Israel and Judah and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, inviting them to come to the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover to the LORD, the God of Israel. ²The king and his officials and the whole assembly in Jerusalem decided to celebrate the Passover in the second month. ³They had not been able to celebrate it at the regular time because not enough priests had consecrated themselves and the people had not assembled in Jerusalem. ⁴The plan seemed right both to the king and to the whole assembly.

²⁴In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. He prayed to the LORD, who answered him and gave him a miraculous sign. ²⁵But Hezekiah's heart was proud and he did not respond to the kindness shown him; therefore the LORD's wrath was on him and on Judah and Jerusalem. ²⁶Then Hezekiah repented of the pride of his heart, as did the people of Jerusalem; therefore the LORD's wrath did not come upon them during the days of Hezekiah.



OFFERING

PRAYERS

THE SACRAMENT

God's word requires proper preparation and understanding for receiving the Lord's Supper. We practice membership communion, and ask that those who partake first become members or belong to a congregation of our church body, the Wisconsin Synod. Please ask for an informational sheet from one of the ushers for a fuller explanation from the scriptures. Thank you!

PREFACE P: The Lord be with you
C: (sing) **And also with you.**
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: (sing) **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
C: (sing) **It is good and right so to do.**

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (sing) **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts;
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

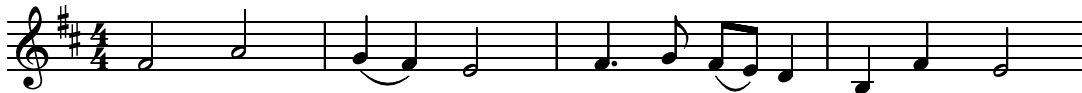
WORDS OF INSTITUTION P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: (sing) **Amen**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD (sing)

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.

During the Distribution the choir will sing "Draw Near", the congregation will join in on the refrain.

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Draw near, draw near! Take the bod-y of your Lord.



Draw near, draw near! Drink the blood for you out-poured!

THANKSGIVING - Song of Simeon (sing)

Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace according to your word.
For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people,
A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.

P: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: (sing) **And his mercy endures forever**

P: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sing) **Amen**

BLESSING

P: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.

2 John 3

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING *"I Pray You, Dear Lord Jesus"*

CW 510