

# Meditation

## On the Commandments of God

February 21, 2010 – Lent 1 – Pastor Mark Voss



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

**C: Amen.**

P: Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees;

**C: then I will keep them to the end.**

*Psalm 119:33*

P: Direct me in the path of your commands.

**C: for there I find delight.**

*Psalm 119:35*

P: How I long for your precepts!

**C: Preserve my life in your righteousness.**

*Psalm 119:40*

### MUSICAL SELECTION – Quartet

**“Day by Day”**

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### PRAYER

P: Lord God, you are compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in love. Fill us with the peace of your forgiveness so that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### HYMN – “Lord, Open Now My Heart to Heart”

**CW 282**

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**Lord, open now my heart to hear, And through your Word to me draw near.**

**Let me your Word e'er pure retain; Let me your child and heir remain.**

**Your Word inspires my heart within; Your Word grants healing from my sin.**

**Your Word has pow'r to guide and bless; Your Word brings peace and happiness.**

**To God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit, Three in One,**

**Shall glory, praise, and honor be Now and throughout eternity.**

### PSALM OF CONFESSION – Psalm 143

**All: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

P: O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy, in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.

**C: Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you.**

P: My spirit grows faint within me; my heart within me is dismayed.

**All: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

**C: Answer me quickly, O Lord; do not hide your face from me.**

P: Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you.

**C: Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.**

**All: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

CW 236 vv 1 & 2 Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**Sing: All praise to God who reigns above, The God of all creation,  
The God of wonders, pow'r, and love, The God of our salvation!  
With healing balm my soul he fills, The God who ev'ry sorrow stills –  
To God all praise and glory!**

**I cried to him in time of need: Lord God, oh, hear my calling!  
For death he gave me life indeed And kept my feet from falling.  
For this my thanks shall endless be; Oh, thank him, thank our God with me --  
To God all praise and glory!**

**Old Testament – Deuteronomy 26:5-10 “Deliverance Motivates Our Firstfruits”** <sup>5</sup>Then you shall declare before the LORD your God: "My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. <sup>6</sup>But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, putting us to hard labor. <sup>7</sup>Then we cried out to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. <sup>8</sup>So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders. <sup>9</sup>He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; <sup>10</sup>and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, O LORD, have given me." Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him.

## READING FROM THE CATECHISM – *Our Love For God, His Name, and His Word*

P: The First Commandment

**C: You shall have no others gods.**

P: *What does this mean?*

**C: We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.**

P: The Second Commandment

**C: You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**

P: *What does this mean?*

**C: We should fear and love God that we do not use his name to curse, swear, lie or deceive, or use it superstitiously, but call upon God's name in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks.**

P: The Third Commandment

**C: Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy.**

P: *What does this mean?*

**C: We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as holy, and gladly hear and learn it.**

**Epistle – Romans 10:8-13 “Through the Gospel God's Love is Near”** <sup>8</sup>But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: <sup>9</sup>That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. <sup>11</sup>As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." <sup>12</sup>For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup>for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

## SERMON HYMN - *"From the River to the Desert"*

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**From the river to the desert, Forty days that give no rest;  
Fast and pray and wait and wrestle, Face the Adversary's test  
Prince of Peace and Prince of Darkness Meet in lonely wilderness.**

**If You are the one God chooses, You can turn these stones to bread.  
See, the children yearn and hunger, By Your deeds the poor are fed.  
"Don't you know that it is written: No one lives by bread alone."**

**If You are the one God offers, Leap into the angels' hands.  
Show Your power and Your glory, Then belief will sweep the land.  
"Don't you know that it is written: Do not tempt the Lord your God."**

**Since we are the ones You gather, And from sin and death have freed,  
Jesus, knowing all our weakness, Now at God's high altar plead.  
For we know that it is written That Your grace is all we need.**

## SERMON – The Journey to War

*Luke 4:1-13*

<sup>1</sup>Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, <sup>2</sup>where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'" <sup>5</sup>The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup>And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to."

<sup>7</sup>So if you worship me, it will all be yours." <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

<sup>9</sup>The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. <sup>10</sup>For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; <sup>11</sup>they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" <sup>12</sup>Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>13</sup>When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.



## OFFERING

### RESPONSIVE PRAYER

P: Lord God Almighty, we stand in violation of your holy will.

**C: There is no one who does good, not even one.**

*Psalm 14:3*

P: In mercy, you sent your Son, the Passover Lamb without blemish, to atone for our sins.

**C: This is the name by which he is called: The LORD Our Righteousness.**

*Jeremiah 23:6*

P: Teach our hearts to praise you for your saving love.

**C: Lead us to fear, love, and trust in you above all things.**

P: You have taught us to pray:

**C: 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.**

**LORD'S SUPPER** 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!

### SCRIPTURE READING – 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

#### COME TO THE TABLE OF MERCY

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**Come to the table of mercy,  
Pre-pared with the wine and the bread;  
All who are hungry and thirsty,  
Come and your souls will be fed.  
Come at the Lord's invitation;  
Receive from His nail-scarred hand.  
Eat of the bread of salvation;  
Drink of the blood of the Lamb.**

#### DISTRIBUTION AND HYMN – “*Savior, When in Dust to You*”

**CW 124**

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

##### BLESSING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

**C: Amen.**

#### CLOSING HYMN – “*O Jesus Blessed, Lord to Thee*”

**CW 316**