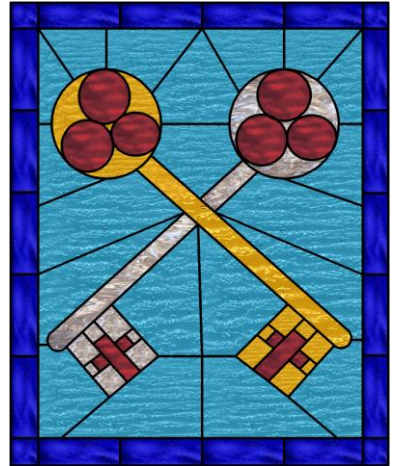


Meditation ~ On the Ministry of the Keys

March 7, 2010 - 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 1-4

LESSONS

Old Testament – Exodus 3:1-4, 10-15 “The Lord Calls Us To Serve” ¹Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight--why the bush does not burn up." ⁴When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."

¹⁰So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." ¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹²And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will

worship God on this mountain." ¹³Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" ¹⁴God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob--has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.

VERSE OF THE DAY (Sing)

CW557 v 3 *Text: c 1982 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission of CPH.
Tune and Setting: public domain.

**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.**

Epistle – 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 “Always A Way Out” ¹For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ²They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert. ⁶Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry." ⁸We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did--and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. ⁹We should not test the Lord, as some of them did--and were killed by snakes. ¹⁰And do not grumble, as some of them did--and were killed by the destroying angel. ¹¹These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. ¹²So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! ¹³No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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 HYMN - "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

CW 389

SERMON

"Y B H"

Luke 13:1-9

¹Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ²Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them--do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish." ⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. ⁷So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' ⁸"Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"



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: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: 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

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

CW195 v 1 Text, Tune, Setting: Public Domain

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen

LAMB OF GOD

CCLI Song #16787 Text & Music Twila Paris ©1985 Straightway Music & Mountain Spring Music, All rights Reserved. CCLI License #2291251

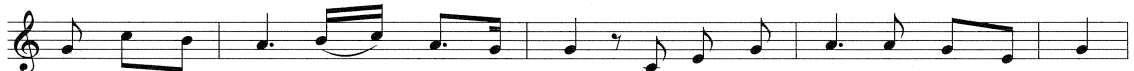
One of the blessings of Lord's Supper is to remember the death of our dear Savior. We do that as we sing this hymn based on John 1:29 "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"



Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side
Your gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and scorned Him as He died;
I was so lost I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side



To walk up - on this guilt - y sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God.
The hum - ble King they named a fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God.



O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God; I love the ho - ly Lamb of God.
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God; I love the ho - ly Lamb of God.
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God; I love the ho - ly Lamb of God.



O wash me in His pre - cious blood. My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.
O wash me in His pre - cious blood. My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.
O wash me in His pre - cious blood. My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION

DISTRIBUTION AND HYMN – “Jesus Grant That Balm and Healing”

CW 121

THANKSGIVING

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

C: 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: Amen

BLESSING

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

2 John 3

C: Amen.

CLOSING “On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

CW 320