

Didache Divine Service
Session 22—The Office of the Keys and Confession
6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 19, 2023

1. Invocation and Prayer
2. Hymn: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing” LSB 475
3. **The Resurrection Gospel—Jesus Appears in the Upper Room—John 20:19-23**
4. **The Healing of the Paralytic—Matthew 9:1-8, 35—10:1, 40**
 - What does the boat so often signify in the Gospel narrative?
 - How does the infirmity of being a “paralytic” illustrate the effects of sin upon a person?
 - Who brought the paralytic to Jesus? In whom was their faith?
 - By forgiving the sins of the paralytic, what does Jesus teach us is our greatest need and the source of all our maladies?
 - What did people object to and what do they accuse Jesus of?
 - What is blasphemy?
 - When Jesus says, *“which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk?’*” He is talking about speech that has the POWER to do and give what it says. Performative speech is impossible for us UNLESS God has given us the authority to use that speech according to His command and promise. This is what the Office of the ministry is about.
 - OUR words cannot make a paralytic walk nor can they take away sin before God, but God’s Word can.
 - Why did Jesus cause the paralytic to walk? “That we may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins” and that He has given that authority to His Church.
 - What “power” or “authority” was given to men (plural) that caused the multitudes to marvel? (This is the peculiar and special power to forgive sins).
 - Verse 35 through chapter 10, verse 1 describes Jesus’ ministry which would continue in the Church and world today through the Office of the ministry.
 - Verse 40 is a comforting promise for every Pastor and for every penitent Christian: “He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”

The Small Catechism: The Office of the Keys—Lutheran Service Book p. 326

- **What is the Office of the Keys? LSB p. 326**
 - a. Title comes from Matthew 16:18-19; 18:15-22; Revelation 1:18
 - b. “Resurrection” and “Absolution” go together because the forgiveness of sins gives new life and raises the dead. Jesus spoke the words, “Peace be with you!” on Easter night in the upper room (John 20:19-23).
 - c. It is called a “special” or “peculiar” power because the power to forgive sins before God is only found in the Church
 - d. Repentant sinners are believers who know their sin and flee to Christ for absolution.
 - e. Unrepentant sinners are unbelievers who do not know their sin and who turn away from Christ.
 - f. Withholding forgiveness is for the sake of creating repentance.

- **Where is this written? p. 326**
 - a. The Holy Spirit is breathed upon the Christian by the Word of Absolution.
 - b. This passage speaks of the promise and authority of the Office of the Ministry within the Church.

- **What do you believe according to these words? p. 326**
 - a. “The binding key” is exercised whenever the Law is preached or used to call a sinner to repentance.
 - b. “The loosing key” is exercised whenever the Gospel of forgiveness for Christ’s sake is preached or administered to repentant sinners.

- 5. Hymn: “‘Surely as I Live,’ God Said” – LSB 614 (stanzas 5-8)

- 6. The Holy Communion Liturgy

- 7. Hymn: “This Joyful Eastertide” – LSB 482