



## **ROCK-SOLID LIFE**

*Worship Folder for June 14th, 2020*

Christ Lutheran Church

32962 Vickers St, NE

Cambridge, MN

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Welcome! Though I am not able to physically worship with you, it is an honor to share God's word with you and direct your worship to our great God, he is most worthy of our praise and worship!

I cannot direct you to the restroom or a quiet place for your children, I trust you to know that wherever you might be. However, I would like to encourage you to put distractions aside, they can wait. Give your time and attention to God. I would also like to remind you of God's promise that his Holy Spirit is actively working wherever his word is (Hebrews 4:12).

I would also like to give you some brief info concerning the service. This particular order of service, was chosen for its simplicity but also because of the message it reminds us of, namely, that God has given to each believer the power to forgive or not forgive sins. Worship in confidence that God hears and recognizes your praise even if it is in the setting of your own home for a time.

You can go through the service together as a family, individually, or with someone leading and the rest joining in on the **bold** sections.

Finally, **links have been included for the two hymns, a sermon, and the children's message.** They will take you to YOUTUBE where there will be words, music and an additional voice singing (for the first hymn but not for the second). If it helps your worship please make use of it, if you don't prefer that, or prefer just follow along and meditate on the words that is, obviously, also fine.

Today we continue to celebrate the season of Pentecost. It is a season that celebrates and encourages the Christian life. It celebrates growth of faith. It celebrates active faith. It celebrates the Holy Spirit living and dwelling in our lives and empowering our faith. Today, we look at how our lives can be rock-solid in the face of life's storms. As we turn to God's Word for that confidence may we listen and may God bless our worship.

-Pastor Sam Biebert

## MEDITATION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS

**Opening Hymn – “How Firm A Foundation”** – CW Hymn #416

[\(Click Here For Song and Lyrics\)](#)

*(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism)*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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

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

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

**We lie and do not live by the truth.**

If we claim to be without sin,

**We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

### **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**

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.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*The words of this lesson inscribed on parchment have filled the phylacteries, a small leather box tied onto the head and hand, of Jews for thousands of years. Though they tied them to their hands and bound them to their foreheads, they failed to fix the Word of God in their hearts and minds. And so when the Word made flesh stood before them, they could not see the Messiah long promised. The teachers of Israel became false prophets, phylacteries and all. When God spoke these words through the ministry of Moses, he meant for them to have a home in our hearts, rather than just tied to our heads. Moses proclaimed the Word that gives both promise and warning. When the Israelites retold the blessing and the curse, they did it next to Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal. The mountains stood as a timeless testimony that there are only two choices: the rock---solid truth of God's Word that brings fruitful life or the barren words of the false teachers that lead to nothing but death. How do we prepare ourselves to watch out for false teachers? We fix this rock---solid truth in our hearts and minds.*

### **First Lesson: Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28**

<sup>18</sup> Put these words of mine in your hearts and in your soul, and tie them on your wrists as signs and as symbols on your forehead. <sup>19</sup> Teach them to your children by talking about them when you sit in your house and when you travel on the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>20</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, <sup>21</sup> so that your days and the days of your children may be many on the land that the LORD promised to your fathers with an oath, as many as the days that the heavens remain over the earth. <sup>26</sup> You see, I am placing before you today a blessing and a curse: <sup>27</sup> the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God that I am giving you today, <sup>28</sup> or the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of the LORD your God and you turn away from the path that I am commanding you today by walking after other gods whom you did not know.

In the context of this Sunday and its lessons, the point here is the content of the rock---solid truth proclaimed by the Holy Ministry. Namely, that only through Christ's cross could both the Law and the Gospel be upheld. Only through Christ's cross could all God's words be kept. Only through Christ's cross could God be both just and justifier. Only through Christ's cross could man be justified by faith. That is rock---solid truth.

### **Second Lesson: Romans 3:21-25a, 27,28**

<sup>21</sup> But now, completely apart from the law, a righteousness from God has been made known. The Law and the Prophets testify to it. <sup>22</sup> This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all and over all who believe. In fact, there is no difference, <sup>23</sup> because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God <sup>24</sup> and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God publicly displayed as the atonement seat through faith in his blood. <sup>27</sup> What happens to boasting then? It has been eliminated. By what principle—by the principle of works? No, but by the principle of faith. <sup>28</sup> For we conclude that a person is justified by faith without the works of the law.

### **VERSE OF THE DAY**

Alleluia. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Alleluia. (Psalm 119:105)

## **Gospel Reading (Sermon Text): Matthew 7:15-29**

<sup>15</sup> “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> By their fruit you will recognize them. You do not gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles, do you? <sup>17</sup> So then, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> So then, by their fruit you will recognize them. <sup>21</sup> Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and drive out demons in your name and perform many miracles in your name?’ <sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.’

<sup>24</sup> “Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on bedrock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house. But it did not fall, because it was founded on bedrock. <sup>26</sup> Everyone who hears these words of mine but does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—it was completely destroyed.”

<sup>28</sup> When Jesus finished speaking these words, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> because he taught them as one who had authority, and not like their experts in the law.

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH** (Apostle’s Creed)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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

## Sermon on Matthew 7:15-29 (Emphasis on verses 24-29)

Theme: “Rock Solid Life”

[Click Here For Sermon](#)

[Click Here For Children's Message](#)

Theme: Rock-Solid Life

6-14-2020

Are you shaken? Are you upset? Are you fed up? Are you overwhelmed? Are you plagued by guilt? If you are any of these things, and let me be the first to say I have had had all of these thoughts in the past two months, the very next question we need to ask ourselves is what are you building on? It is an important question because if we answer yes to any of those questions, we really need to re-examine what we are building on because a Christian has no reason to be any of those things. All of those things are a result of building on the wrong foundation to at least some degree. So, what are you building on?

It is an important question because having a rock solid life is not only the life that God desires for you but it is also the one that he is actively encouraging you towards through the power of the Holy Spirit. So how do we combat frustration and guilt? How do we free ourselves from being overwhelmed and shaken? How do we obtain this rock-solid life? We listen. We listen to Jesus today as he speaks to us from the Word of God. We listen to Jesus today as he tells us the things that will bring us to foolishly build on the sand instead of where we should be building. We listen to Jesus today as he tells us what to watch out for and what to focus on and then, filled with the Spirit, motivated by the Son and blessed by our Father, we act on that advice.

Let's listen once more to our lesson from Matthew 7.

**<sup>15</sup> “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> By their fruit you will recognize them. You do not gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles, do you? <sup>17</sup> So then, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> So then, by their fruit you will recognize them. <sup>21</sup> Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and drive out demons in your name and perform many miracles in your name?’ <sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.’**

**<sup>24</sup> “Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on bedrock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house. But it did not fall, because it was founded on bedrock. <sup>26</sup> Everyone who hears these words of mine but does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—it was completely destroyed.”**

**<sup>28</sup> When Jesus finished speaking these words, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> because he taught them as one who had authority, and not like their experts in the law.**

Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing Jesus says. In other words, they are not going to appear to be false prophets, they are not even going to ones that you would expect to be false prophets. There was a long time in my life that I looked at this section and immediately thought about the church down the road which didn’t teach what the Bible taught and specifically, the pastor of said church. But the very fact that this was my first reaction really showed just how wrong that was. Yes, maybe they were

false prophets and maybe they were speaking on behalf of God in a way that was not accurate, but the very fact that this was so obvious to me was the dangerous part. God is saying, and very clearly, I might add, that the most dangerous of false prophets are going to be the ones you don't expect. Maybe I should have been looking in the mirror more often, and maybe you should be checking all that I say is soundly founded on God's Word more often.

And while that is true, and while God does encourage you and me to test everything and to daily study the scriptures to make sure what is being preached is God's Word, I find it very helpful to look at the rest of the verses in our lesson, verses which are given in the context of "watch out for false prophets". Today, I would ask that we specifically focus on the last 6 verses of this lesson. "Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man... and everyone who hears these words of mind but does not do them will be like a foolish man..."

Jesus connects hearing with doing. So, what are you doing? If we are frustrated and shaken and fed up and overwhelmed and plagued it is clearly time to analyze what we are doing because that is not how God's Word leaves us. In fact, that is the exact opposite of how God's Word should leave us. If we are those things, the fact is we are building a beach house as a tsunami is approaching. We are being foolish and oblivious to impending danger. We are not rock-solid.

So, what is making us so because it certainly sounds like we have been bending our ear to another source, a source that is not building us up but, rather, a source that is selling us some dangerous real estate. Could it be that we are looking for God's peace not in his word but in politics? Hoping and thinking that if the right person or people are removed and this person or people stay, well then all will be well, and my life will be good. Do we look to our political leaders to be the champions of God's word, the ones to shove it down the throats of the ungodly? Is it possible that politics could be the wolf in sheep's clothing because it is something everyone has an interest in because it is something that impacts all? Definitely. Especially if we see here is something that is affecting my ears from hearing God's promises and causing my life to feel shaky, if this is something that is affecting the rock-solid foundation God wants me to have.

Or maybe our false teacher comes to us in a different outfit, but one which seems just as innocent. Maybe we see that false teacher every time we look in the mirror. Maybe it is a teacher who preaches a lot about worry. A teacher who builds up your mental faculties or a teacher who coaxes out that worry within you. It is a teacher who turns you from the comfort of "I am with you always" to listen to the news, look at your world burn, look at the economy, look at your health, THIS IS YOUR LIFE, THIS IS YOUR WORLD! You better start worrying! You better start taking things into your own hands because it seems like God is sitting this one out.

Or maybe, we find ourselves going to far the other way and we find ourselves looking in the mirror for other reasons, but the false teacher is the same. Look at those fools. They are wearing masks; don't they trust God? Look at those fools taking all those precautions. Look at those who are upset, there is no way they have a valid point. Am I the only one who is sane in this world? And slowly but surely bitterness and frustration set in. Slowly but surely, we start building our homes on the sands of our own ego and pride and we lose site of the wisdom that comes from building on God's presence and promises.

Jesus makes it clear false teachers will come and we will be susceptible because they will not be easily recognizable. So, what do we do? Do we let that inner false teacher of hopelessness take over in this aspect as well?

Our lesson ends by saying, "<sup>28</sup> **When Jesus finished speaking these words, the crowds were amazed at his teaching,** <sup>29</sup> **because he taught them as one who had authority, and not like their experts in the law.**" And there we see the key. A false teacher is only dangerous when we allow them to teach. So why do we?

Especially when here in Jesus you have the one who speaks to you with absolute authority. You have the one to whom every president and politician must or one day will bow to, you have the one the media cannot influence and you have the one who creates a new person inside of you and me through that same authority. May we simply always be amazed at his teaching! There is no other teacher who can compare because all other teachers can only speak what is common to man. There is no other teacher who can compare because there is no one who holds the authority over all. There is no other teacher who can show the way because Jesus and only Jesus is the one who authored Salvation. He is speaking as one who holds authority over death. He is speaking as the one who pressed Satan's head under his foot. He is speaking as the one who faced the full brunt of the Father's wrath for you in his suffering for your sins. He is the one who knows the best way to build and he tells you simply, fill yourself with him. Fill your life with the authority of God's living and eternal word and watch your house stand, solid as a rock, in the worst of life's storms. Amen. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

**Offering:** (Though we are not meeting together at this time please do not forget the opportunity to give back what is rightfully God's with respect to what he has given us. Offerings can be mailed or dropped off at church. You can also make use of online giving through the giveplus app or by going to the church's website ([www.christcambridge.com](http://www.christcambridge.com)) and selecting the "Donate" tab under "About" in the site menu.)

**Prayer:**

L: Lord God, heavenly Father, we praise you for all that you have done for us. You have not only provided all that we need for life but have enriched us with treasures that will never perish, spoil, or fade – your Word in this life, the glories of heaven in the life to come – through your Son Jesus Christ.

**C: Let your blessing be on us as we trust, O God, in you.**

L: Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Word made flesh. You have revealed who our God is by becoming man so that we might see, know, and believe that love which is beyond our comprehension. Through your example of meekness and humility encourage and enable us to proclaim who you are both by what we say and by how we live.

**C: Let your blessing be on us as we trust, O God, in you.**

L: Holy Spirit, the days are evil. Satan is cunning. Our sinful natures rebel against all that you are and do. Yet by your grace we continue to stand fast. Purify us from all sin. As much as it depends on us, help us to live in peace with all people. Enable us to reflect our Savior whether we are persecuted or when we are praised.

**C: Let your blessing be on us as we trust, O God, in you.**

L: Lord of the nations, we bring our petitions before you for our land. People are in distress because of what is being reported daily in the news: COVID-19, the rioting and looting, sins of past and present corruption, the financial and emotional turmoil because of the shut-

down in the economy. The difficulty is compounded because they do not know or believe that you are in control of all things. May they hear your Word and be instructed and comforted by it. Be with our leaders that they may give good guidance in these times.

**C: Let your blessing be on us as we trust, O God, in you.**

*Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.*

L: Heavenly Father, you are able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine. It is in that knowledge that we bring our praise and petitions before you and pray as your Son has taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**BLESSING:**

**The Lord bless you and keep you.**

**The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.**

**The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.**

**Closing Hymn: “Lord Jesus Christ, The Church’s Head” – Christian Worship Hymn #536**

**[\(Click Here For Song and Lyrics\)](#)**