

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

April 2024

The Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven

The Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven is the doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ which He gave to His Disciples and to all who have the Holy Spirit when he had completed the redemptive work of man after His Resurrection on the first day of the week. This took place that evening after the events of the passion week

Holy Week begins with the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. This was the event which took place as the Prophet Zechariah has foretold to the Jews of the coming of their King, the Messiah in Zech 9:9. "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion: behold thy King cometh unto thee: He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the fawn of an ass": The disciples did not understand at the first but when Jesus was glorified then remembered they the things that were written of Him.

At this time Jesus rode into Jerusalem with the multitude praising Him. The only praise Jesus received was from His own followers who received Him and believed he was the Messiah. Luke 19:37-38 "And when He was come nigh, even now at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen. Saying "Blessed be the King that cometh in the Name of the Lord: peace in heaven and glory in the highest."

Jesus desired to eat the Passover feast with His disciples before He suffered and died. Luke 22:15 and Matt: 26:20-29. At this time He institutes the Lord's Supper. And later makes known to them which of His disciples will betray Him.

Luke 22:39-46 Jesus went to the Mount of Olives and his disciples with Him where He prays in agony for the sins of the entire world "Father, if Thou be willing remove this cup from me. Nevertheless not my will, but thine be done." When Jesus rose up from prayer and came to His disciples He found them sleeping for sorrow. And He said unto them "Why sleep ye? Arise and pray lest ye enter into temptation." This is an exhortation that we also must lay hold of in these perilous times. We earnestly need to pray for God's strength and faith to endure unto the end and watch that we do not fall asleep on the journey

Jesus was being nailed to the cross Luke 23:34 "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them for they know not what they do" Now we see his death on the cross where Jesus suffered and died His blood flowed from His nailed pierced wounds availing salvation to all who believe. Even in this agony His love and compassion showed for one of the malefactors who acknowledged his death was justified and said unto Jesus, Lord remember me when thou comest into Thy Kingdom. He comprehended that Jesus was innocent and undeserving of crucifixion. Jesus said unto him, "Verily I say unto thee, today thou shalt be with me in paradise" Luke 23:43. Jesus' words on the cross (John 19:30) "It is finished" conclude the payment for our sins and by faith which God gives us we believe in Jesus merits on the cross in our behalf.

On Easter Sunday we see the victorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene and other women early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre and looking in saw it empty. As they were much perplexed they behold two men in shining garments saying He is not here but is risen. John 20:19-23 "Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them and saith unto them, Receive ye the

Holy Ghost, Whosoever sins ye remit they are remitted unto them and whosoever sins ye retain they are retained

Matt 16:19` Jesus said unto Peter "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Here he gave the authority to preach the forgiveness of sins. This is not done by any human power but it is Jesus Christ living in His own by the Holy Spirit. This word brings peace and comfort to the sin burdened soul." Believe your sins forgiven in Jesus Name and Precious Atoning Blood." Jesus commanded his disciples to preach repentance and the forgiveness of sins. Acts 13:38-39 "Be it known, therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins. And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."

God' Peace and blessing be with you all.

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