

THE KEYS



Church of St. Peter the Apostle
Anglican Catholic Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic States
www.dmas-acc.org

The Rev. Peter Geromel OHI, Th.M, Vicar
March 2021
<https://stpetersacc.org>

The Vicar's Volleyed Verbiage

You may notice that on our program for Lent there are two Evening Prayers in which we recite the Office of Instruction after the second lesson and before the Nunc Dimittis (as is traditional). The practice of Lenten Catechizing is part of the Anglican tradition and is a “throwback” to the fact that Lent is the historic time to prepare (catechize) candidates (or catechumens) for Holy Baptism at Easter. In my previous parish at St. Paul's, Allentown, both offices of instruction were said at some point along with Stations of the Cross on Fridays in Lent. When I was attending Holy Trinity, Hillsdale, as a student, we would work through the offices of instruction after our Lenten soup and salad fellowship.

In addition to the “Church Catechism,” as the one in the Prayer Book is called, there were always additional or supplemental catechisms both among the Anglicans and the “Dissenters” (Presbyterians, Methodists, Congregationalists, Baptists). Such span centuries. We have evidence of clergy handing them out to parishioners, especially the poor, in the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. One newer such is found in *The Practice of Religion*, which is occasionally available from the Anglican Parish Association of the Anglican Catholic Church. Tim Keller, the well-known Presbyterian, has published one. We mentioned one from Alexander Jolly, a Scottish Episcopal Bishop, in *The Keys* a couple months ago.

Below, please read this fascinating one to your soul's health. It is by Robert Leighton (1611-1684). I found it in an antique edition of his works in the library of Westminster Seminary, Philadelphia, last year. Leighton, sometime-Archbishop of Glasgow, was one of those unique individuals in a unique time in Scottish history, when the Church of

Scotland was “halting” between two opinions, Presbyterianism and Episcopal polity. Leighton was a bridge-builder and attempted to pacify both the “Covenanters” and the Episcopalians - a thankless task. His catechism is really fascinating because you can find traces of both our Church Catechism in the Prayer Book and the Westminster Catechism of the Presbyterians. You can read one section at a time devotionally if you wish.

Section I

Question: What is naturally every man's desire?

Answer: *To be happy.*

Q: Which is the way to true happiness?

A: *True religion.*

Q: What is true religion?

A: *The true and lively knowledge of the Only True God, and of Him whom He hath sent, Jesus Christ.*

Q: Whence is this knowledge to be learned?

A: *All the works of God declare His being and His glory; but the clearer knowledge of Himself and His Son, Jesus Christ is to be learned from His own word, contained in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament.*

Q: What do these Scriptures teach us concerning God?

A: *That He is One, Infinite, Eternal Spirit, most wise, and holy, and just, and merciful, and the all-powerful Maker and Ruler of the world.*

Q: What do they further teach us concerning Him?



A: *That He is Three in One, and One in Three, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.*

Q: What will that lively knowledge of God effectually work in us?

A: *It will cause us to believe in Him, and to love Him above all things, even above ourselves, to adore and worship Him, to pray to Him, and to praise Him, and exalt Him with all our might, and to yield up ourselves to the obedience of all His commandments as having both made us, and made Himself known to us for that very end.*

Rehearse then the articles of our Belief.

A: *I believe in God the Father, &c.*

Rehearse then the Ten Commandments of the Law, which are the rule of our obedience and so the trial of our love.

A: *God spake these words, I am the Lord thy God, &c.*

Q: What is the summary our Saviour hath given us of this Law?

A: *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thyself.*

Q: What is the great and effectual means of obtaining increase of faith and power to obey, and generally, all graces and blessings at the hand of God.

A: *Prayer.*

Rehearse that most excellent and perfect Prayer that our Saviour hath taught us.

A: *Our Father, which art in heaven, &c.*

Section II.

Q: In what estate was man created?

A: After the image of God in holiness and righteousness.

Q: Did he continue in that estate?

A: No. But by breaking the commandment which is Maker gave him, eating of the fruit of that tree which was forbidden him, he made himself and his whole posterity subject to sin and death.

Q: Hath God left man in this misery without all means and hopes of recovery?

A: No. For He so love the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Q: What is then the great doctrine of the Gospel?

A: That same coming of the Son of God in the flesh, and giving Himself to the death of the cross to take away the sin of the world, and His rising again from the dead, and ascending into glory.

Q: What doth the Gospel mainly teach and persuade all the followers of it to do?

A: It teacheth them to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.

Q: How hath our Lord Jesus Himself expressed the great and necessary duty of all His disciples?

A: That they deny themselves, and take up their cross and follow Him.

Rehearse then some of the chief points wherein we are to follow our Lord Jesus Christ.

A:

- I. To surrender ourselves wholly to our Heavenly Father and His good pleasure in all things, even in the sharpest afflictions and sufferings: and not at all to do our own will, or design our own praise and advantage, but in all things to do His will and intend His glory.
- II. To be spotless, chaste, and holy, in our whole conversation.
- III. To be meek and lowly in heart, not to slander or reproach, to mock or despise any; and if any do so to us to bear it patiently, yea to rejoice in it.
- IV. Unfeignedly to love our Christian brethren, and to be charitably and kindly affected towards all men, even to our enemies, forgiving them, yea and praying for them, and returning them good for evil: to comfort the afflicted and relieve the poor, and to do good to all as we are able.

Q: Is it necessary that all Christians live according to these rules?

A: So absolutely necessary that they who do not so, in some good measure, whatsoever they profess, do not really believe in Jesus Christ nor have any portion in Him.

Section III.

Q: What visible seals hath our Saviour annexed to the Gospel, to conform our faith in it, and to convey the grace of it to us?

A: The two Sacraments of the New Testament, Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Q: What doth Baptism signify and seal?

A: Our washing from sin, and our new birth in Jesus Christ.

Q: What doth the Lord's Supper signify and seal?

A: Our spiritual nourishment and growth in Him, and the transforming of us more and more into His likeness, by commemorating His death, and feeding on His body and blood under the figures of bread and wine.

Q: What is required to make fit and worthy communicants of the Lord's Supper?

A: Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, repentance towards God, and charity towards all men.

Q: What is faith in our Lord Jesus?

A: It is the grace by which we both believe His whole doctrine, and trust in Him as the Redeemer and Saviour of the world, and entirely deliver up ourselves to Him, to be taught and saved and ruled by Him, as our Prophet, Priest, and King.

Q: What is repentance?

A: It is a godly sorrow for sin, and a hearty and real turning from all sin unto God.

Q: What is the final portion of unbelieving and unrepentant sinners?

A: The everlasting torments of devils.

Q: What is the final portion of them that truly repent and believe, and obey the Gospel?

A: The blessed life of angels in the vision of God for ever.

A question for young Persons before their first Admission to the Lord's Supper

Q: Whereas you were in your infancy baptized into the name of Jesus Christ, do you now upon distinct knowledge, and with a firm belief and pious affection, own that Christian Faith of which you have given an account, and withal, your Baptismal Vow of renouncing the service of Satan, and the world, and the lusts of the flesh, and of devoting yourself to God in all holiness of life?

A: I do sincerely and heartily declare my belief of that Faith, and own my engagement to that holy Vow, and resolve by the assistance of God's grace to continue in the careful observance of it all my days.¹

News and Information

Vestry is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17th, 7:30 pm. There will be a Mass prior to this at 7 pm.

Lenten Services

March 10th, Evening Prayer w/ Second Office of Instruction & Stations of the Cross, Guest Preacher – 7 PM

March 17th, Mass for St. Patrick's Day – 7 PM

March 24th, Family Evening Prayer, Stations of the Cross & Benediction, Guest Preacher – 7 PM

HOLY WEEK Services

March 28th, **Palm Sunday**: 8 am Matins & Mass, 10 am Blessing of Palms, Procession, and Holy Eucharist

March 29th, Monday before Easter: Mass at 7 PM

March 30th, Tuesday before Easter: Noon Mass, Stations of the Cross at 7 PM

March 31st, Wednesday before Easter: Noon Mass, Tenebrae at 7 PM

April 1st, **Maundy Thursday**: Festive Holy Eucharist, 6 PM, NO SEDER, Watch Following

April 2nd, **Good Friday**: Noon Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, etc. Confessions heard after 3 PM.

7 PM Evening Prayer and Stations of the Cross

April 3rd, **Holy Saturday**: Noon Ante-Communion. Confessions heard after 1 PM. Vigil of Easter, 6 PM.

April 4th, **Easter**: 8 AM Matins & Mass, 10 AM Festive Holy Eucharist

¹ Robert Leighton, *Expository Lectures: With Additions and Corrections from MSS*. Edited by William West (London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1870) 371-375

MARCH, 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	[1]	[2]	[3] 7:00 p.m. Lenten services	[4] 12 noon HC	[5]	[6]
[7] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS LENT III	[8]	[9]	[10] 7:00 p.m. Lenten services with guest preacher	[11] 12 noon HC	[12]	[13]
[14] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS LENT IV	[15]	[16]	[17] 7:00 p.m. HC 7:30 p.m. Vestry ST. PATRICK'S DAY	[18] 12 noon HC	[19]	[20]
[21] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS PASSION SUNDAY	[22]	[23]	[24] 7:00 p.m. Lenten services with guest preacher	[25] 12 noon HC	[26]	[27]
[28] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS PALM SUNDAY	[29] 7:00 p.m. HC MONDAY BEFORE EASTER	[30] 12 noon HC 7:00 p.m. Stations TUESDAY BEFORE EASTER	[31] 12 noon HC 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae WEDNESDAY BEFORE EASTER	LEGEND: HC - Holy Communion; FHE – Festal Holy Eucharist; HE - Holy Eucharist; SS – Sunday School; PG - Prayer Group; EP – Evening Prayer; MP – Morning Prayer; P&HU – Prayers and Holy Unction		

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Please — If you cannot fulfill your assigned duty because of an urgent reason, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SECURE YOUR OWN REPLACEMENT!

Week beginning Sunday →	March 7	March 14	March 21	March 28	April 4
Altar Guild	B. Higginbotham	B. Higginbotham	M. Slayton	B. Higginbotham	B. Higginbotham
	J. Butterfield	V. Williams	C. deRosset	J. Butterfield	V. Williams
Coffee Hour	--	--	--	--	--
Ushers	--	--	--	--	--
	--	--	--	--	--
Epistoler	A. Butterfield	G. Terrell	B. Paisley	T. Paisley	T. Paisley
Server	P. Williams	T. Paisley	C. Von Claparede	P. Williams	P. Williams
Crucifer	C. Von Claparede	W. Paisley	W. Paisley	B. Paisley	W. Paisley

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2021 Vestry: Allen Butterfield, Dan Drysdale, Phil Pappas, Marnie Slayton, Clemens Von Claparede, Phil Williams