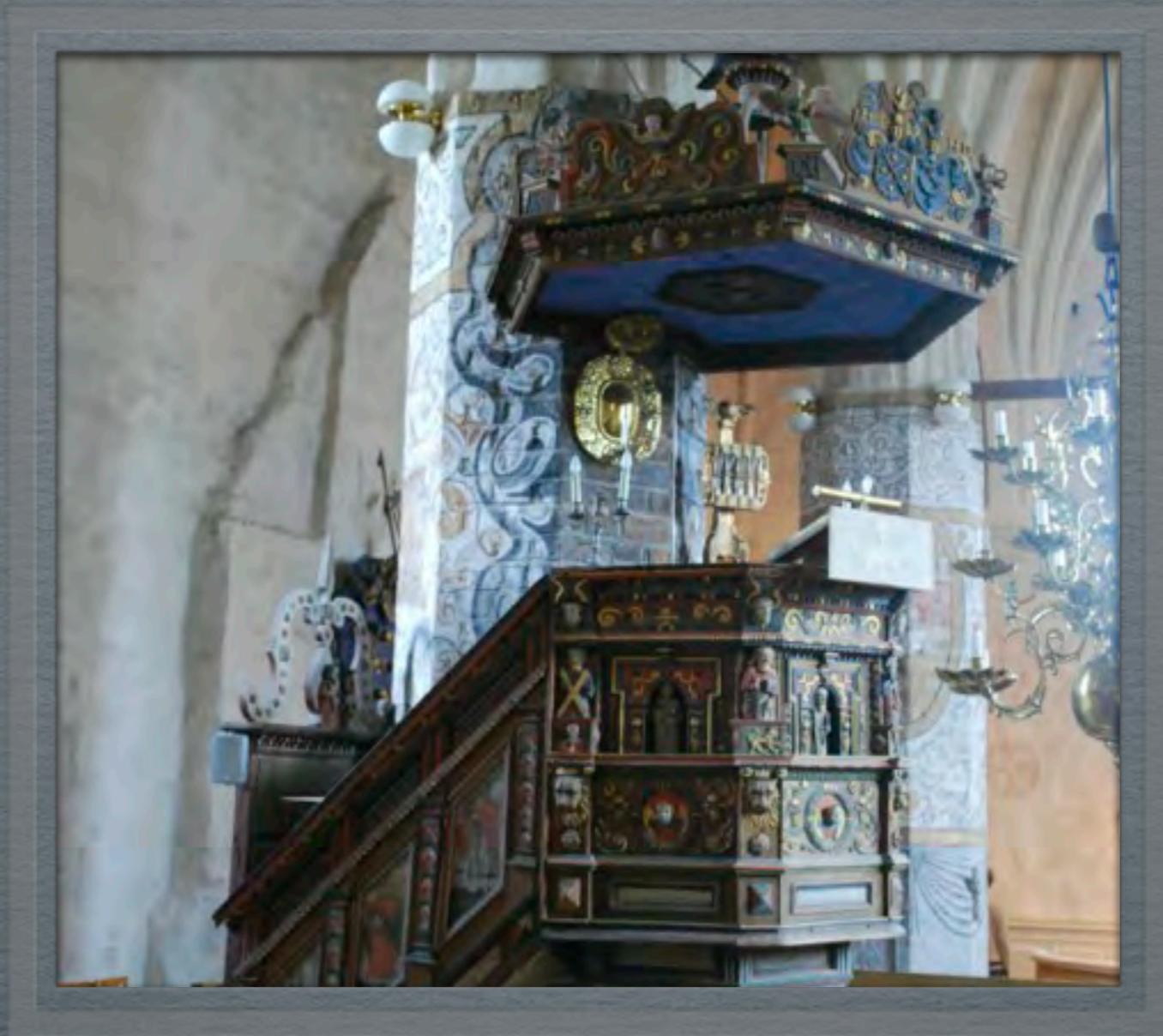




KEEPING IT REAL IN PREACHING



KEEPING IT REAL

ABOUT THE PREACHER

“ For Lutherans as well as for Reformed, there is also a concern for effective communications in the pulpit. But it has been the reformed tradition which encouraged the phenomenon of the “Prince of the Pulpit” - and today it has entered Lutheranism.”
Feuerhahn

THE LORD IS THE PREACHER

☼ Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me, “Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.”
Jeremiah 1:9

☼ “The one who hears you hears me”
Luke 10:16



“Similarly today, those who preach the Gospel are not themselves directly the preachers, but Christ speaks and preaches through them.”

- Luther

“Yes, I hear the sermon;
but who is speaking? The
minister? No, indeed!
You do not hear the
minister. True the voice is
his; but my God is
speaking the word which
he preaches or speaks.”
- Luther



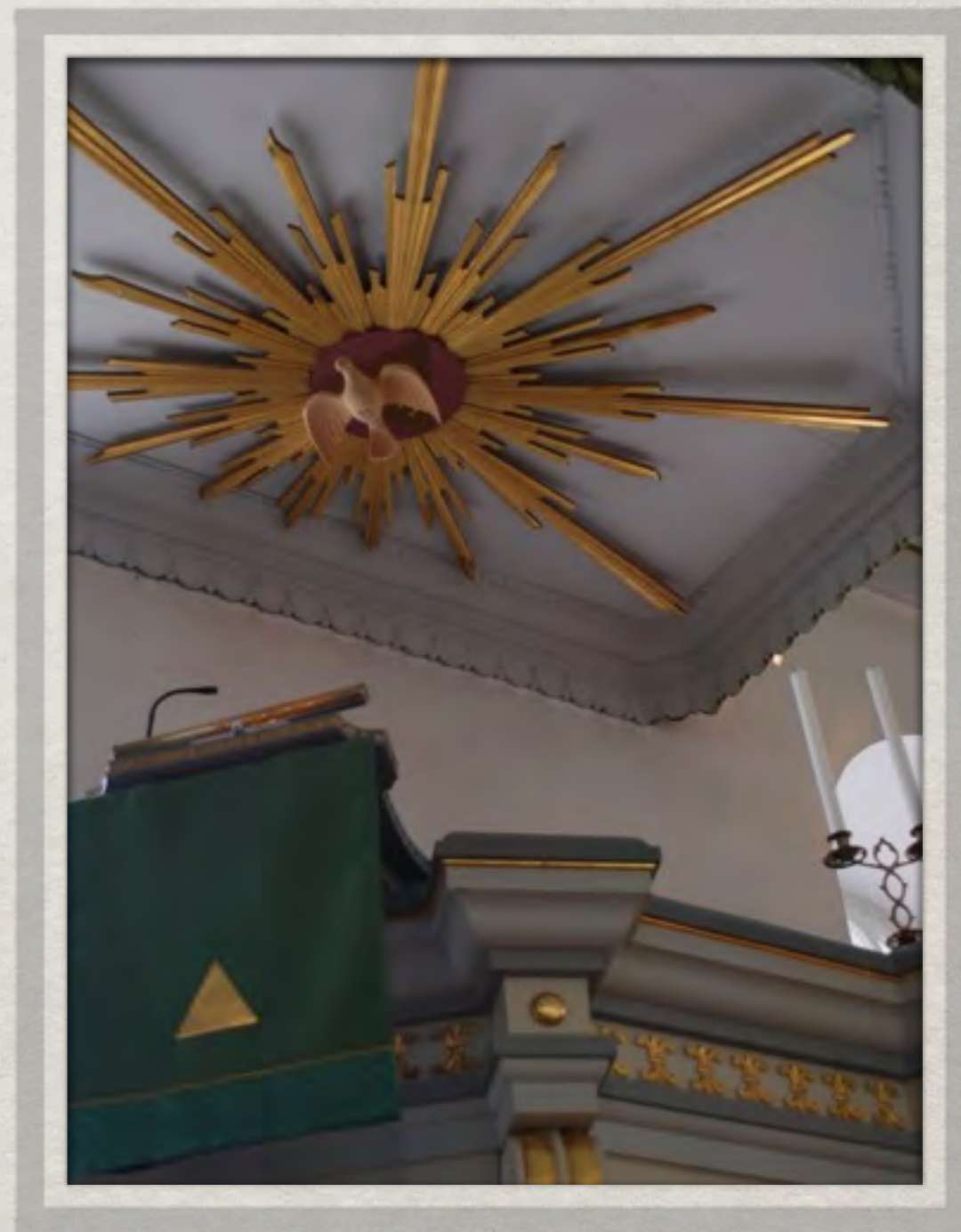
“The true God lies in the straw of the manger. From human mouths are heard the voice and tones of God, ‘not the voice that speaks from heaven above, but that which is down in the midst of men’.” - Luther

“It is not a prince, a king, or an archangel whom I hear; it is He who declares that He is able to dispense the water of eternal life. If we could believe this we would be content indeed. However, a fault which is manifest throughout the world and also in us is that we fail to recognize the gift and its Giver.... Flesh and blood are an impediment.”

- Luther



“Neither I nor anyone else can ever preach the word adequately; the Holy Spirit alone must utter and preach it. It is not preached these days, not by a long shot, God have mercy on us.”
- Luther





KEEPING IT REAL

ABOUT THE HEARER

WHO IS THE HEARER?

“Come, I will
show you the
Bride, the wife of
the Lamb”
Revelation 21:9



My beloved speaks and says to me:

“Arise, my love, my beautiful one,

and come away,

for behold, the winter is past;

the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth,

the time of singing has come,

and the voice of the turtledove

is heard in our land.

Song of Songs 2:10-12

The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. He must increase, but I must decrease.”

John 3:29-30

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. 1 John 3:1



How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

Romans 10:14

“Rather we must ask the mother in the home, the children on the street, the common man in the marketplace. We must be guided by their language, by the way they speak, and do our translating accordingly. Then they will understand it and recognize that we are speaking German to them.” - Luther

Preaching today, by necessity, cannot be like the preaching of the modern era, and preaching in the modern era was, by necessity, more didactic than it was kerygmatic; it was more mind than mouth; it was more education than proclamation. Why?

Very simply, it was believed that, to a greater or lesser degree, faith emerged from understanding, and not the other way around.

- Genig

“These are the three things, it is commonly said, that mark a good preacher; first, that he take his place; secondly, that he open his mouth and say something; thirdly, that he know when to stop.” - Luther





KEEPING IT REAL

ABOUT THE WORD

“This is the purpose of the Bible, to direct the preaching and teaching of the Holy Christian Church through the ages.
(Rom. 15:4; 1 Tim 4:13; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19)”
- Caemmerer

“For whatever departs from the word of God (which is the only way, as Christ says, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life’ [John 14:6]), however well and beautifully it may glitter, is without question error, lie, and death. It is without the word of God, that is, without the way, the truth, and the life. And what need would we have of the word if we could find ways for ourselves without it? ” - Luther

“Important for the understanding of the text is the force of the original Greek, Hebrew ... exegesis is a tool in his hand to a more primary end, and this is that the people hear the Word of God in their tongue.” - Caemmerer

...the pastor often excises the given pericope from the whole of the Biblical corpus and lectionary narrative, and begins his interpretation of that text using primarily historical, philological, and literary tools ... the more the pericope is studied in the foregoing manner, analogous to that of a coroner studying a corpse, the more the text loses its Christological character and intrinsic connection to the faithful gathered for the liturgical celebration. Necessarily, therefore, when this sort of homiletical preparation occurs, application of the given pericope to the people becomes secondary, not primary.

- Genig

... in preparing for the Sunday homily, the pastor uses very little of his time for actual sermon crafting. Why? The Spirit will see him through. In turn, with very little thoughtfulness beforehand... (he) must rely upon his winsomeness (which is often equated to the Spirit) to get him through, since he is lacking any real substance. Homilies such as these often come across as, at best, kitschy or, at worst, fuzzy, soft, and watered-down. Necessarily, therefore, this kind of preaching ends up being more about the preacher than it is about the Jesus.

- Genig

“... any approach to preaching which denies the role of the humanity of the preacher necessarily denies the humanity of Christ and, therefore, results in an incantation of sorts (the right words have the right effect), rather than a truly kerygmatic event where the viva vox Jesu speaks here-and-now ...”

- Genig

“The preacher must dip his pen into the blood of his heart; then
he can also reach the ear of his neighbour”.
- Gregory the Great



KEEPING IT REAL

ABOUT THE LAW

Through the preaching of the Law a person comes to know his sins and God's wrath. He experiences in his heart true terrors, contrition, and sorrow.

Formula SD II.54

“None is righteous, no, not one;
no one understands;
no one seeks for God.

All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;
no one does good,
not even one”

Romans 3:10-12

You have heard it said to those of old ... but I say to you ...
Go sell all that you have ...
If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father ...

Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye. Luke 6:41-43

“Cursed be anyone who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them. ’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.
Deuteronomy 27:26



KEEPING IT REAL

ABOUT THE GOSPEL

WE PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED

And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name
Acts 10:42-43



The gospel is “a preaching of the incarnate Son given to us without any merit on our part for salvation and peace. It is a word of salvation, a word of grace, a word of comfort, a word of joy, a voice of the bridegroom and the bride, a good word, a word of peace.” - Luther

The Gospel does not require anything good that man must furnish: not a good heart, not a good disposition, no improvement of his condition, no godliness, no love either of God or men. It issues no orders, but changes man. It plants love into his heart and makes him capable of all good works. It demands nothing, but it gives all. - Walther

“Even if Christ were given for us and crucified a thousand times, it would all be vain if the Word of God were absent and were not distributed and given to me with the bidding, this is for you, take what is yours.” - Luther



The Law tells us what we are to do. No such instruction is contained in the Gospel. On the contrary, the Gospel reveals to us only what God is doing. The law is speaking concerning our works; the Gospel, concerning the great works of God.”

- Walther

“Preaching to nonmembers of the church has sometimes been termed evangelistic. The designation is inept. It is either cause or result of the assumption that the primary Gospel, or “evangel,” should be preached to the goal of converting or reconverting people to Christ, while believing and active Christians need something else. But all preaching should be the preaching of the Cross.” - Caemmerer

“Whoever, therefore, does not know or preach the gospel is not only no priest or bishop, but he is a kind of pest to the church, who under the false title of priest or bishop, or dressed in sheep’s clothing, actually does violence to the gospel and plays the wolf [Matt. 7:15] in the church.” - Luther



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