

## March 24, 2024

**This Week:** 9:30 a.m. Service with Rev. Kleijer  
6:30 p.m. Service with Rev. Kleijer

**Next Week:** 9:30 a.m. Easter Reading Service  
6:30 p.m. Easter Reading Service

**Tuesday:** The choir meets at 7:30 p.m. instead of Thursday.

**Wednesday:** 7:00 p.m. Our Good Friday service with Rev. Slingerland

**Thursday:** Sioux Center's Good Friday service 7:00 with Rev. Witvoet

**Friday:** Good Friday. Rock Valley has their service at 7:30

### Advance Notices:

**April 17** 7:00 p.m. midweek service with Ds. Evers

**April 21** 2:30 p.m. service with Ds. Evers (baptism)

-All the Lord willing-

**Collections:** Today: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund Next week: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund  
2<sup>nd</sup> Shepherds Way 2<sup>nd</sup> NAGMission

### We Remember in Prayer:

- Our widows and lonely ones, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.
- The Supreme Court in the coming week's decisions on chemical abortions.

## MEDITATIONS

### *The First Cross-Word*

My soul, art thou still taking thy stand at the foot of the cross? Art thou still looking up to Jesus? If so, listen now to His voice. There were seven expressions of Jesus, which were His last words which He uttered on the cross. The last words of dying friends are particularly regarded. How much more the last words of the best of all friends; even the dying Friend of poor, lost, perishing sinners.

This first cross-word contains the strong cry of Jesus to His Father for forgiveness to His murderers. And what endears those expressions yet more to the heart are that they are not only the first upon the cross, but they are wholly not for Himself, but the people. During the whole painful process of suffering, when they scourged Him, crowned Him with thorns, smote Him with their hands, and mocked Him, we hear no voice of complaint. "He was led as a lamb to the slaughter; and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth." Precious, meek Lamb of God! But now, when lifted up on the cross, Jesus broke silence, and cried out,

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Pause, my soul. Look again at the cross. Was not Jesus now entered upon His High Priestly office? Was not the cross as the altar from whence the sacrifice was offered? Was not Jesus Himself the sacrifice? And was not Jesus the sacrificer? Might not the pale, the dying, whitened visage of Jesus be compared to the white ephod of the high priest; the streaming blood, flowing over His sacred body from the several wounds, as the incense of His censer; and the dying sweat of His holy frame, like the smoke ascending with the sweetest savor before God? As the arms of Jesus, when He thus prayed, were stretched forth on the cross, so the high priest spread forth his hands when burning the incense for sacrifice in pleading for the people. Hail, Thou glorious High Priest in this the humblest moment, and the most powerful of Thine intercessions! Surely every wound of Thine, every look, every feature, every groan, pleaded with open mouth this gracious intercession for forgiveness of sinners.

Lord, was I not included in the prayer? Was not the eye of Jesus upon me in the moment of this all-prevailing advocacy? Oh, ye of every description and character who still sit unconcerned and unmoved at this cry of the Son of God, "Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?" Think, my poor unawakened brother, how justly that voice might have been heard for all the enemies of Jesus – "Depart from me, ye cursed," when the tender language of Jesus was, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." R. Hawker

### **"Made him to be sin for us." 2 Cor. 5. 21; Lu. 22. 44**

When I by faith my Maker see

In weakness and distress,

Brought down to that sad state for me

Which angels can't express;

When that great God to whom I go

For help, amazed I view,

By sin and sorrow sunk as low

As I, and lower too;

In this alone I can confide;

Here's righteousness enough.

What's all the boast of nature's pride?

What unsubstantial stuff!

[Rounds of dead service, forms, and ways,

Which some so much esteem,

Compared with this stupendous grace,

What trivial trash they seem!]

Lord, help a worthless worm, so weak

He can do nothing good;

May all I act, or think, or speak,

Be sprinkled with thy blood! ~J. Hart

## A Call to Worship

In a world filled with distractions and busyness, gathering together for public worship may seem like a quaint tradition of the past. Yet, for the church, it remains a cornerstone of spiritual life and growth. Far from being an outdated ritual, public worship is a vital component of the Christian faith, supported by a wealth of scriptural evidence suggesting the benefits of gathering together and even commanding us to do so. Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.

Hebrews 10:24-25 captures the essence of corporate worship: "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Here, the writer emphasizes the importance of gathering together to worship the Lord, encourage, and edify one another in faith. In a world filled with challenges and temptations, the necessity of corporate worship is far from merely a tradition of the past.

Furthermore, the Bible highlights the significance of corporate worship in the context of the early Christian church. Acts 2:42-47 describes how "they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers... And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." This passage underscores the corporate nature of worship, emphasizing the necessity of being taught by those whom God has called, fellowship, and the blessing that follows the use of the means.

Additionally, public worship honors God and fulfills His commandments. Psalm 95:6-7 exhorts, "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, the sheep of his hand." This passage emphasizes the reverence and adoration due to God in worship, as well as the acknowledgment of His sovereignty over His people.

In summary, gathering together for public worship is not merely a tradition or obligation, but a biblical mandate rooted in the principles of worship, reverence for God's commands and edification. Let us heed Scripture's exhortation to prioritize corporate worship, recognizing its profound significance in nurturing faith and glorifying our Creator.

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### Consistory

Elders: Mr. Derek Kattenberg, Mr. Craig Timmer  
Deacons: Mr. Norm DeWit, Mr. Rick Rozeboom

### Contacts

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# NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

**Sioux Falls, SD**



*Sing praises to the LORD, which  
dwelleth in Zion: declare among the  
people his doings.  
Psalm 9:11*

Services at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 or 6:30 p.m.