# March 17, 2024

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Passion Reading Service

6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD37)

Classes after the morning service.

There will be a short meeting directly after the morning service for all of our members and attendees dealing with the upcoming call to be sent out.

**Next Week:** 9:30 a.m. Service with Rev. Kleijer

6:30 p.m. Service with Rev. Kleijer

**Tuesday:** The prayer service for the classis meeting will be held in Sheboygan at 7:00 p.m., led by Rev. Witvoet.

Wednesday: Classis Midwest will meet in Sheboygan, Wisconsin

**Thursday**: Rev. Hofman hopes to be in Sioux Center for a Prayer Day service at 7:00 p.m.

Advance Notices: March 27 7:00 p.m. midweek service for Good

Friday with Rev. Slingerland

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

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

April 28 Classes end for the season

-All the Lord willing-

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

## We Remember in Prayer:

- -The delegates traveling to the classis meeting
- -The decisions made at the classis meeting
- -Our widows and lonely ones, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.

# **MEDITATIONS**

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30b).

What a beautiful question we have here—a question awakened by God—a question asked in a prison where two servants of the most high God are held in the stocks. Although their body is held in captivity, their soul flies upwards unto God. The Lord often deems a spiritual prison necessary for His dear children so that in bondage they may again be taught to pray. As these servants of the Lord sing the praises of their God, the prisoners hear them. Yes, deep in the night the Lord cares for His children.

In this prison where such wonderful things are taking place, there is one person who is sleeping. Although, the Lord has come near, he is not asking to be saved. Perhaps that is the same calamity we face. The Lord often comes near in His precious Word, but we are asleep and do not ask for salvation.

In the prison it has become God's time to awaken a sleeping sinner, and when the sweet sounds of the gospel do not awaken this man, the Lord uses other means—He sends a great earthquake. The prison shakes, the doors open, and the jailor is awakened. Then he sees death before him. Yet, he hears a voice which gives a ray of hope in his life, and that causes the question to be pressed out of his heart: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Dear reader, has the Lord already awakened you out of the deep sleep in which you are, by nature? How blessed you are when also out of your heart the Lord may press a prayer, "Lord, what must I do to be saved?" Will there be an answer for such weeping sinners? Yes, the Lord never leaves people in doubt pertaining to where saving may be found. Listen to the servant of the Lord who says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

~Rev. J. den Hoed



It is most lamentable for any living soul to be in constant religious engagements for the good of others—while following Jesus "afar off." Very many such I fear there are; as well as hundreds who only know Him in the judgment—and yet are continually reading, teaching, and conversing on His blessed name. This is a day of great profession—but yet real vital godliness is at a low ebb, and close walking with God in sweet communion is too little sought after.

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Is not sinful curiosity natural to us? And is not this a print of Adam's image? Is not man naturally much more desirous to know new things, than to practice old known truths? How much like old Adam do we look in this eagerness for novelties, and disrelish of old solid doctrines? We seek after knowledge rather than holiness, and study most to know those things which are least edifying. Our wild and roving fancies need a bridle to curb them, while good solid affections must be quickened and spurred on. ~Thomas Boston

### **Sabbath Day Encouragement**

Christians are to see the Sabbath rest as a time to stop our worldly labors and self-interests and dedicate ourselves wholly to God's worship. Business should stop, and the affairs of daily life should pause to the call to remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

Central to the Sabbath is the gathering of the church for public worship at least twice each Lord's Day. Congregations come together to unite in prayer, psalm-singing, and hearing the Word of God proclaimed. After the morning service, families should return to their homes, where the remainder of the day should be spent in prayer, study, and reflection. Parents should lead their households in the reading of Scripture, explaining the stories of the Bible, teaching their loved ones to walk in righteousness and to avoid sin and temptation. Children should be taught the principles of faith, and their young minds should be nurtured in the rich soil of biblical truth. Let us remember that the Lord's Day is not merely a time for public worship—it is a day for personal reflection, meditation, and spiritual renewal.

In a world consumed by endless activity and chasing after money, we are called to follow the example and devotion of our forefathers by observing the Lord's Day with reverence and solemnity. Let us set it apart as a sacred day where we can be fed the meat that never perishes. May the stillness of the Sabbath be a refuge for our souls and a sanctuary for our spirits. Let us seek God's presence and communion with him.

Let us guard this holy day, cherishing it as a precious jewel. Let us resist the temptation to fill the Sabbath with busyness and distraction, instead, embracing the gift of rest that has been graciously given to us by our Creator. It is His command for us to keep it—remembering that this is a picture that points to the eternal Sabbath. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest. (Hebrews 4:11)

Consistory

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# NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

Sioux Falls, SD



O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

Psalm 8:9

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