

June 6, 2021

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Communion service and 2:30 p.m. Reflection service with Rev. Vergunst.

Friday, June 11, 7:00 p.m. Singalong at Hudson Community Center

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service, 6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service. Scripture reading following morning service.

Advance Notices:

June 18 7:00 p.m. Ladies bridal shower for Shelley Hup at Split Rock Fire Station

June 27 9:30 a.m. baptism service with Rev. Hofman
-All the Lord willing-

Offerings Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
 2nd School Fund 2nd Treasured Med

In the foyer: new blue books, TBS updates, and article on Nigeria

We Remember in Prayer:

-The Christians in Nigeria who have been severely attacked and persecuted in the last weeks.

-Our widows, widowers and lonely ones, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, those undergoing treatments, and all those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATION

“Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things.” Psalm 103:5

The Lord has blessed us with the wonderful sense of taste. We can discern between that which is sweet and that which is sour, yes, we can experience many different tastes, including some which are not so pleasant. There are also “spiritual tastes”, and by nature we like the sweet taste very much; the sweet taste of hope, comfort and security, but at the same time we will try to avoid the bitter tastes. But it is difficult, yes, impossible, to avoid the bitter taste of the consequences of sin and that is the reason why many make artificial sweeteners, man-made tastes. But we know, dear reader, that this is false, and people with a knowledge of good taste will discern that this is not the real flavour of God’s Word, and it does not give soul-satisfaction, but leaves emptiness within. Oh, what do you eat to satisfy your heart? Is it the world and man-made religion? Do you avoid all bitter tastes, even the bitter taste of the fact that we have grieved God?

For God’s children, sin has become bitter, and the hiding of God’s face is to them more bitter than death. But they also know the sweetness of drawing nigh to the Lord with all their iniquities. Although they feel the bitterness of their sins, they experience that it is good to lie at God’s feet, before His throne. Such an experience is real, and carries no sense of artificiality with it. Oh, they know that they cannot feed themselves and everything besides the only Saviour is disappointing to their souls.

The above-mentioned text speaks of satisfaction: a satisfaction of the mouth with good things. Of course, the author intends to express this in a spiritual way. He had experienced the loving-kindness and tender mercies of the Lord, and as a consequence he was revitalized and renewed in spirit. He received strength to go on, just as Jonathan once did, when he ate of the honey and his strength was revived.

What exactly did David, the author of this text, taste? Well, David knew of the forgiveness of all his iniquities (verse 3). Consider what that means for God’s child. Do you, reader, have an appetite for this forgiveness of your sins? What is it worth to you? What do you wish to eat of, in this life and in the future? May you whole-heartedly hunger and thirst for the Lord, for the Living God Himself. He alone can satisfy us: with Himself, with His friendly countenance, through Christ. I beg you, consider what it would be to be near unto God, against Whom we have rebelled. Think of what it would be to experience His favour, in spite of the fact that we have left Him. To hide under His wings, to receive His protection, and to experience His undeserved grace, is more sweetness than the world can ever give. Today you may see the Lord’s table set for His children, who have a church right and a divine right. The Lord wishes to satisfy them with Himself. He says that He desires to commune with them. Oh, what a wonder! Hell-deserving people may come to the table! Ungodly ones, lying in the midst of death, may rise and walk to this table, to taste of His goodness to them in their forlorn state.

And what satisfies them? That is very simple: it is Jesus. He gives Himself to be “eaten.” He desires to be “eaten” by sinners to satisfy their souls. Notice that the food provided at the Lord’s table is the “body” and “blood” of Christ. Children of God, may we learn to expect more and more from Him. He alone can satisfy us. His flesh is truly meat and His blood is truly drink. Oh, eat of the good things of His House and may your souls be satisfied with the Saviour Who was willing to suffer and die for hopeless and lost sinners.

Draw nigh unto Him, oh wretched ones in yourselves. If you find that you cannot save yourself anymore and desire to be satisfied by this Saviour alone, come as an undeserving sinner to this kind Saviour. You who are so hungry and needful when you view your mountain of guilt: God’s Word states that *“whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely.”* -Rev. P. Van Ruitenburg

“And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her; and the Highest Himself shall establish her.” Psalm 87:5

This is a Psalm about the glory of the church. Zion is the name of it.

This was but a barren, dry, insignificant place. However, it was chosen by God as His dwelling place and therefore it was a beautiful mountain.

When we speak about its beauty, we could mention its foundation:

- a. eternal election
- b. the suffering and obedience of Christ;
- c. His blood and righteousness;
- d. His eternal council of peace;
- e. His unchangeableness

Much more could be said of Zion. God dwells there. Ps. 132:14, *“Here will I dwell: for I have desired it.”*

The question for us is: are we born there? The inhabitants are a multitude from many different nations. From ungodly heathen people. Rahab, Babel, Philistia, Tyre, and Ethiopia. The Pentecost blessing will go to all nations. The Spirit will give new births. Those births will be accompanied by the cries of new born life, as happened at the Day of Pentecost with 3000 people. The Highest shall establish her.

No, the Lord's Supper is not only for established Christians, that is, for those who know Whom they have believed, who have full assurance of salvation. It is for those who need God's preserving, protecting, and guiding grace and He will nourish the tender plants, the broken reeds, and the smoking flax He will not cast away. He will confirm His own work. That is also the fruit of the use of the Holy Supper.

Zion's King will gather His church, of Philistines, Tyrians, and Ethiopians, and wherever He found them to show unto them He is a surprising God who shows them His love and care. They may confess His beauty and have fellowship with each other. For they will, in spite of all differences of culture and character, behold the beauty of the King. They are in themselves black, but in His sight comely.

Come then, O sinners, who know that there is nothing beautiful in you, but only leprosy and the filth of sin. But honor Him, for Whose presence you long and confess that He is Lord and King. He has promised that He will gladden even the outcasts in His house. There they may rest awhile that the journey may not be too great for them. He is a surprising God for a poor and needy people that may trust in His name. ~Rev. C. Vogelaar

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Exalt the LORD our God, and
worship at his holy hill; for the
LORD our God is holy.
Psalm 99:9*

Church Times: 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 or 6:30 p.m.