

May 28, 2023

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Pentecost Reading Service
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (dB LD4)

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (dB LD5)

Advance Notices:

- Rev. G.M. de Leeuw was granted emeritus status at the recent Classis Far West meeting. He is planning to preach a farewell sermon to the Nobleford Congregation on Wednesday, **June 7** at 7:00 PM (local time). Access to the service is available at 403-694-0135 or at nrcnobleford.ca.
- Rev. Witvoet hopes to be in our midst June 18 at 2:30 p.m.

-All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd School Fund 2nd NAGMission

We Remember in Prayer:

- The Curatorium, which will meet this week Wednesday, May 31.
- Our widows and lonely ones, the unborn, our married couples, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

We are living in evil times, and very distressing times lie before us. Great dangers are threatening us and our children. On the one hand we have the enormously great danger, living as we do in a world which is departing from and forsaking God, of being dragged along into the abyss of infidelity and superstition; times which tend to a false security in a religion without God and a Christianity without Christ. The great apostasy or “man of sin” is becoming more apparent and is treading to the foreground unashamed and unabashed. God’s Name is being profaned, His day is desecrated, and His holy commandments are trodden underfoot, while the consciences of people are becoming so calloused and obdurate that they become more and more immersed in the evil of sin. The world is ripening itself for the judgments of God and for imminent destruction such as it has not known heretofore. O that a consciousness of the awful justice of God and also of the greatness and heinousness of sin would dawn upon the aged and the young, for all are living on very unconcernedly.

In the face of a godless world which is increasingly exhausting itself through wickedness as time goes on, we have a feeble, cowardly and lame Christendom which can hardly distinguish between truth and error. Let us not conceal the fact, but honestly confess that there is hardly any acquaintance left anymore even with the history of truth. The churches are filled with people, who, as far as the truth is concerned, cannot distinguish between their right hand and their left. How few there are also among the rising generation who display any interest in the truth or take it to heart!

On the one hand, we have a generation which ridicules God and despises His Name, and on the other hand, a part which is not affected to become hot or cold under impending judgments or under the pure ministration of the Word of life.

O that God would grant a change, and that He would work by His Spirit once again. His arm is not shortened and His might is not diminished. There is infinite power with God, and all power has been given by the Father to Christ as Mediator in heaven and on earth.

The Holy Spirit is an actual and essential Person Who works mightily and irresistibly. When He goes forth, all shall have to yield to Him.

On the notable feast of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended, having been merited by Christ and promised by the Father. The Holy Spirit “filled all the house where they were sitting,” but He also filled their hearts. The Holy Spirit confirmed the disciples in their state of grace, but also in their offices. They began to speak of the wonderful works of God with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. The powers of hell displayed their enmity, but the Spirit of God would not be repressed. On that first day, three thousand souls were felled by the preaching of the apostles. The Word of Truth relates that they were “pricked in their hearts, and they said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles: ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’”

These people were subdued by the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. They were foreordained and chosen in Christ unto salvation from eternity. While the Lord Jesus was on the cross, He had also prayed for them, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” The blessed Surety had entered into death and made satisfaction to the justice of God for them also. They belonged to and were a component part of the blessed seed which was given to Christ by the Father from everlasting. Behold; now the hour of God’s good pleasure had struck for them. O beloved, whoever we may be or wherever we may live upon this earth, such a period of time must strike for us shall it be well with us for eternity,

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Those people were born again, and passed from death unto life on that day. They knew by experience the bitterness of having sinned against the most high majesty of God, and that they had done that which was evil in the eyes of God. They condemned themselves and justified God in His righteousness. They have come to their proper place at the feet of God as poor and miserable sinners, where the balm of the gospel was poured into the wounds of their soul. They were made acquainted with the redemption which is in Christ to the joy and salvation of their soul.

O may I pray you, young and old, grownups and children, and all who read these lines, that you pause upon your course and pathway of life and duly consider such things as may serve to your eternal peace. Do not fling to the winds the admonitions that come to you in God's name, and do not live on in disregard of them. This message shall at one time also be demanded at your hands. After this present time, time shall be no more, therefore, "Today if you will hear His voice, harden not your heart," but be persuaded.

People of God, may the perilous state of the world and of the Church of God be impressed upon your souls. Let us implore that travail may come upon Zion and that sons and daughters may still be born in her, for we oftentimes live slothfully on. May the Spirit from on high be poured out upon us, in order that it may be made manifest by the fruits unto the glory of God and our own joy.

Your well-wishing minister,
Rev. W. C. Lamain

(This excerpt was taken from *Pastoral Letters*, dated June 3, 1948, written in Grand Rapids, Michigan.)

*When as a child I laughed and wept, Time crept.
When as a youth I dreamed and talked, Time walked.
When I became a full-grown man, Time ran.
And later as I older grew, Time flew.
Soon I shall find while travelling on, Time gone.*

Consistory

Elders: Mr. Rick Rozeboom, Mr. Craig Timmer

Deacon: Mr. Norm DeWit

Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Slingerland

Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer nrcsfsd@gmail.com

*Blessed is every one that feareth the
LORD; that walketh in his ways.*

Psalm 128:1

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