

## July 2, 2023

**This Week:** 9:30 a.m. Reading Service  
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD 8)

**Next Week:** 9:30 a.m. Reading Service  
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD 9)

### Advance Notices:

- Church cleaning is planned for Saturday, **July 15** 10:00 a.m.
- Saturday, **July 22** from 4:00-8:30 PM, Youth Afternoon at Sandy Hollow for all those entering 9th grade and older. No RSVP necessary.
- Church picnic on **July 25** at 6:30 p.m.

-All the Lord willing-

**Collections:** Today: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund Next week: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund  
2<sup>nd</sup> Kingdom Boundaries 2<sup>nd</sup> Prison Diaries

### We Remember in Prayer:

- The call sent out to Ds. Zondag to come over and help us.
- Our widows and lonely ones, the unborn, our married couples, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.

## MEDITATIONS

### THE CRY OF A CONVICTED SINNER

THOU RIGHTEOUS AND HOLY SOVEREIGN,  
In whose hand is my life and whose are all my ways,  
Keep me from fluttering about religion;  
fix me firm in it,  
for I am irresolute;  
my decisions are smoke and vapour,  
and I do not glorify Thee,  
or behave according to Thy will;

Cut me not off before my thoughts grow to responses,  
and the budding of my soul into full flower,  
for Thou art forbearing and good,  
patient and kind.

Save me from myself,  
from the artifices and deceits of sin,  
from the treachery of my perverse nature,  
from denying Thy charge against my offences,  
from a life of continual rebellion against Thee,  
from wrong principles, views, and ends;  
for I know that all my thoughts, affections,  
desires and pursuits are alienated from Thee.

I have acted as if I hated Thee, although Thou art love itself;  
have contrived to tempt Thee to the uttermost,  
to wear out Thy patience;  
have lived evilly in word and action.  
Had I been a prince  
I would long ago have crushed such a rebel;  
Had I been a father  
I would long since have rejected my child.

O, Thou Father of my spirit,  
Thou King of my life,  
cast me not into destruction,  
drive me not from Thy presence,  
but wound my heart that it may be healed;  
break it that Thine own hand may make it whole.  
— *Puritan poem from "Valley of Vision"*

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*For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith:  
as it is written, The just shall live by faith. Romans 1:17*

The faith in Christ and the gospel method of becoming righteous are the great themes of Romans. They are here so introduced to us. Faith and righteousness are here and elsewhere fitly joined together. Several kinds of faith are not saving – do not secure to us righteousness. Devils have an awful and fixed persuasion of the truths of religion, so that they believe and tremble, but are neither made pure nor just thereby. The stony ground hearers had a temporary faith, which led them for a time to receive the Word of God with joy, but all passed away without any thorough change of heart, Matthew 13:20, 21, Some have a historical faith, by which they are so far persuaded of the truths of God's Word, that they have not an intellectual doubt of them. Still they obey them not, nor are changed by them. Such was the faith of Agrippa, Acts 26:27. Then there is the faith of miracles, whereby one is persuaded that by him or for him God will suspend the laws of nature, Acts 14:9; 1 Corinthians 13:2. One may have any or all of these kinds of faith,

and yet remain under condemnation. But saving faith not only historically credits the truths of God, but with the heart believes them, Romans 10:10. Such faith receives God's witness concerning the divine nature and law, concerning man's sinful and guilty condition, and especially concerning Jesus Christ as the sole author of eternal salvation, and so it receives and rests upon Christ, as the way, the truth and the life, the one blessed Mediator between God and man. By this faith we are engrafted into Christ, and derive our fruitfulness from him. This is the faith of God's elect. It purifies the heart, Acts 15:9; it works by love, Galatians 5:9; it overcomes the world, 1 John 5:4, 5; it successfully resists temptation, Ephesians 6:16. This faith abides in God's children, Ephesians 3:17; it justifies all who have it, Romans 5:1; and it is a mighty operative principle, James 2:22. This is the faith spoken of in our verse.

~ William Plumer

This doctrine of the Trinity should be taught and maintained in the church: 1. *On account of the glory of God*, that he may thus be distinguished from idols, with whom he will not be confounded; and that he may be known and worshipped as such an one as he has revealed himself to be. 2. *On account of our comfort and salvation*; for no one is saved without a knowledge of God the Father. But the Father is not known without the Son. "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." "Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father." (John 1:18. 1 John 2:23.) Again, no man is saved without faith in the Son of God, our Mediator. "This is the true God, and eternal life." "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed, and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?" (1 John 5:20. Rom. 10:14.) Likewise, no man is sanctified and saved without a knowledge of the Holy Spirit; for he who does not receive the Holy Spirit is not saved, according to the declaration of Scripture, "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." (Rom. 8:9.) But no one receives the Holy Ghost who is ignorant of him, according as it is said, "Whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him." (John 14:17.) Wherefore, he who does not know the Holy Spirit cannot be saved. It is necessary, then, that all who will be saved, should have a knowledge of the one God, the eternal Father, the co-eternal Son, and the co-eternal Holy Ghost; for unless he is known as such an one as he has revealed himself, he does not communicate himself unto us, neither can we expect eternal life from him. ~Ursinus

Consistory

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Consistory meets the first Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

# Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to  
my supplications: in thy faithfulness  
answer me, and in thy righteousness.  
Psalm 143:1*

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