

May 21, 2023

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (dB LD3)

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

Advance Notice:

June 18, (note date change) Rev. Witvoet at 2:30 p.m.

-All the Lord willing-

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

We Remember in Prayer:

-Mr. & Mrs. Tyler Maassen and further family in the loss of their cousin, Walter Wynia, who passed away last week Saturday at the age of 18 years.

-Our widows and lonely ones, the unborn, our married couples, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

A KNOCKING FRIEND

“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” Luke 11:13

The company of praying ones in Jerusalem, after the Lord’s Ascension, knew what they were missing. They were longing for the assurance of their salvation in the coming of the Third Person in the Holy Trinity, the Holy Spirit which was promised unto them by a departing Jesus.

The knocking man in the parable, who had to help a friend who was in need, came to the door of a friend at a very inconvenient time. When our soul is in need we do not look if it is day or night; we need help. He hears the needy when they cry.

Dear reader, is it not remarkable in this parable, that the Lord Jesus instructed His disciples to persevere? In what? In prayer.

So in between Ascension Day and Pentecost we do not have a people lying upon their bed, but upon their knees. And the outcome? Read it in verse 13: “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” This is all the more remarkable when we read the verses 11 and 12.

Oh young and old, and middle-aged ones, it will soon be Pentecost. Let this so-called Orphan’s Sabbath Day be used by doing as that friend did, who came to his friend for a friend, and remained knocking at his door. Because the coming of the Holy Spirit is today the greatest need in our churches. He makes it full with the beneficial knowledge of a triune God. He discovers, making room for Jesus Christ. He was sent by an exalted Mediator and by the Father. He is the Spirit of prayer and supplication, but also of justification, sanctification and glorification. -Rev. G.M. de Leeuw

BEGGING FOR MERCY

Wouldest Thou the heavens rend,
And salvation to us send?
Grant, O Lord, a wonder true;
What we cannot, wilt Thou do.

Ruin is our portion just,
We must die and turn to dust.
Mounts of sins rise very high,
Lost and ruined, here we lie.

Closed is heaven, and we bow.
Yet, O Lord, grant prayer now,
If the heav’ns Thou wouldest rend,
And the Saviour to us send.

Yearning, Lord, for Thee we wait,
Grant us mercy, very great.
All our sins wilt Thou remove,
And Thy kindness to us prove.

Oh, the heavens for us rend,
And the mighty Saviour send.
He alone can help our case.
We shall ever praise Thy grace.

The Savior calls by his word, his providence, his ministers, conscience. But ye refused. Not till his calls have been refused, does he thunder forth his warnings. But such grace, so rich and free, yet rejected — who can take the gauge of this guilt? All creatures beside are his servants. (Psalms 119:91.) Man alone resists his yoke. He stretched out his hand (Isaiah 65:2) to afford help; to confer a blessing; to beseech its acceptance; yea, even to command attention to his call. (See Acts 21:40.) But no man regarded. The wisest counsel, the most solemn reproof, all is set at nought. Thus does he “endure with much long-suffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction.” (Romans 9:22.) But, O sinner! The day cometh, when he, who once yearned, and wept, and prayed, and died, will have no pity (Ezekiel 5:11. Ezekiel 8:18, with Ezekiel 33:11); when he shall be, as if he laughed and mocked at your calamity (Compare Judges 10:14. Isaiah 1:24); when he shall delight in the exercise of his sovereign justice over you. (Compare Deuteronomy 28:63. Eze 5:13.) All will then be the desolation of realized fear (Proverbs 10:24); sudden as a whirlwind; the distress and anguish of utter despair. (Job 15:24. Daniel 5:5-6, Daniel 5:30.)

~Charles Bridges

Can they whom pride and passion sway,
Who Mammon and the world obey,
In envy or contention live
Presume that they indeed believe?

True faith unites to CHRIST the root
By him producing holy fruit;
And they who no such fruit can show,
Still on the stock of nature grow.

LORD, let thy word effectual prove,
To work in us obedient love!
And may each one who hears it dread
A name to live; and yet be dead.
~Olney Hymns

Consistory

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Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*As the mountains are round about
Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about
his people from henceforth even for ever.
Psalm 125:2*

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