

March 26, 2023

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Passion Reading Service
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service
Classes after the morning service

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Passion Reading Service
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (dB #1)
Classes after the morning service

Thursday: 7:30 p.m. Asaph Choir meets at the NRC School.

Thursday: The Siouxland Modern Media Committee would like to invite everyone to tune into a live Zoom Workshop at 7:30 p.m. We will be covering the topic of 'Apps that Parents Should Know'. Communications will be sent out later this week with the link, or check the school newsletter for the QR Code.

Advance Notices:

- Thursday, **April 6**, Our Good Friday service with Rev. Slingerland.
- April 16**, Rev. Adams hopes to be in our midst for both services.
- April 23**, Student Kleijer hopes to be in our midst for both services.
- April 30**, Rev. Vogelaar hopes to be in our midst in the evening.

-All the Lord willing-

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

We Remember in Prayer:

- Our widows and lonely ones, the unborn, our married couples, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.
- Classis Midwest, which meets this week Tuesday.
- Mr. Rick Rozeboom, who had his knee procedure this past week.

MEDITATIONS

THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST

Words will never express the deep sorrow of heart when a sinner is called before His tribunal, and there to experience the bitter sorrow he has brought upon the bleeding Redeemer Who had cried: "My God, My God, Why hast Thou forsaken Me." It was in Him and in Him only that reconciliation was wrought. This had become for Paul an inexpressible depth, for which he could not find

words to express; that He died for the ungodly: "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!" Rom. 11:33. It was here that Paul experienced: "That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."

I Tim. 1:15.

Paul here beheld Christ's perfection, and His pre-eminence, and found Christ as his beloved: "My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand." Song of Sol. 5:10. How inscrutable are the riches of Christ. Christ became the guilt bearer for His people, and they receive His righteousness. The sinner deserves a threefold death, but Christ grants eternal life for His own. The gospel of salvation is to the furtherance of the exaltation of Christ, for we read: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation unto Zion, Thy God reigneth." Isa. 52:7.

It was the unsearchable riches of Christ Paul was to preach. Salvation for condemned sinners. The word unsearchable means; that it cannot be searched into or explored; it remains inscrutable, and mysterious. Can a righteous God condescend so low, that He will have mercy on a hell deserving sinner, who has demerited any and all of His temporal and spiritual favors, that He should find a ransom for the chief of sinners? This is what Paul preached: "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." I Tim. 1:15. For such, and only for such who have learned to accept the righteousness of God to pass them by, and for whom sin has become exceedingly sinful, for the poor in spirit; He has promised them to share in the unsearchable riches of Christ. The inheritance of God's elect: "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor (spiritually poor) of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him?" Heb. 11:26. Yea, it remaineth a paradox: "There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing; there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches." Pr. 13:7. Having received spiritual vision: "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints." Eph. 1:18. And for those who have become discomfited, and have learned to place no trust in themselves; we find a promise of His immutability: "For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of My peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee." Isa. 54:10.

Dear Readers, does not such love far exceed all your worldly enjoyments and expectations: May the Lord excite your hearts to the knowledge of the unsearchable riches of Christ. "Love not the

world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John 2:15.

Words, and tongues fail to express the unsearchable riches of Christ. Eternity will not be too long for the redeemed to extol His eternal praises.

~C.F. Boerkoel, Sr.

As we close out our study of prayer and also our study through the Heidelberg Catechism, let us be encouraged to often bend our knees and implore the Lord for His grace, mercy and wisdom. It is the chief part of thankfulness which God requires of us, and also, God will give His grace and Holy Spirit to those only who with sincere desires continually ask them of Him, and are thankful for them.

*I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised:
So shall I be saved from mine enemies. Ps 18:3.*

There is in Scripture hardly any limit to the commendations of prayer. Here we have an example to arouse us. Here, as elsewhere, prayer and praise are also united, see also Philippians 4:6; Colossians 4:2; 1 Timothy 2:1. Many a prayer is hindered because while it supplicates blessings, it fails to adore God for what he is and to thank him for what he has already done. Morison: "What honor has been put upon prayer and praise in every age! They have been as a mystic ladder between heaven and earth, upon which the angels of mercy have been ascending and descending." Luther: "One cannot believe what a powerful assistance such praise of God is in pressing danger. For the moment thou wilt begin to praise God, the evil also will begin to abate, the consoled heart will grow, and then will follow the calling upon God with confidence.

~Plumber

Consistory

Elders: Mr. Rick Rozeboom, Mr. Craig Timmer

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Contacts

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Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of
the Lord, at the presence of the God of
Jacob;
Psalm 114:6*

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