

February 19, 2023

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

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service and 2:30 p.m. Passion Service with Rev. Witvoet. No classes.

-All the Lord willing-

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

Collections Received in January:

General Fund	\$2448
Prison Diary Ministry	\$105
Living Bread	\$816
Emeritus Fund	\$594

We wish to thank the congregation for their generosity. We periodically receive thank you notes from the various organizations that we collect for and would like to pass on their thanks also.

We Remember in Prayer:

- Mr. Rick Rozeboom, who hopes to undergo a knee procedure this Wednesday.
- Mrs. Jongetjes who commemorated her 72nd birthday this past Monday, February 13.
- Our widows and lonely ones, the unborn, our married couples, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

Prophet, Priest, and King

“Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odor of the ointment.” John 12:3

Mary did not talk too much. She listened to Jesus. She listened and the fruit of her listening led her to recognize Him as her Saviour. She, therefore, wished to honour Him and anointed Him with precious spikenard.

When Mary anointed Jesus, she anointed Him as Prophet, for He spoke as Prophet about His coming humiliation. The disciples only thought about His exaltation, but Mary looked deeper. At the feet of this Prophet she came to understand that Christ had to suffer and die so that the church of God could be saved. Secondly, she anointed him as Priest, because He was the Priest that would enter death for His people. He was Priest and sacrifice at the same time. She anointed Him as the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. Thirdly, she anointed Him as King, because in this spikenard lies the odor of victory. Jesus would overcome death. In this anointing Mary cleaves to a dying King, believing that He will not die forever but will rise from the dead. Herein lays the significance of this anointing. What a privilege if we would also acknowledge Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King. We need to see Christ as a dying King and as a Priest who intercedes for His people as the Lamb of God. And we need to acknowledge Him as Prophet, who foretold all these things. We have to have Mary's understanding of Jesus as Surety and Saviour.

If He is not acknowledged as such, we cannot be saved. We are at the time of the year when we meditate on the sufferings of Christ. Mary had looked into His grave. What do you think of Christ? Do you desire Him? Do you need Him? Have you, like Mary, learned to look into His grave? To do that you first have to look into your own grave and recognize that we are worthy of death. You will see death within you and that from our side there is no hope. Christ came for such hopeless ones. Those who see their own death cannot do with less than a dying Jesus. Those who have seen the grave of their temporal, spiritual, and eternal death cannot live anymore without Him. It will be a blessed Passion season for us when we learn to look into His grave.

Mary did a good work and now there is only one good work for us to do in these weeks of commemorating Christ's sufferings. That is to do as she did. We must recognize Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, as Surety and Savior. That is the only good work we can do. Everything else is refuse.

~Rev. F. Bakker

What Christians need is not less trial, or lighter affliction, but stronger and simpler faith. There are but few men who impiously deny the truth of Scripture. But Calvin well observes that “those, who while lying in the shade and living at their ease, liberally extol by their praises the truth of God's Word, when they come to struggle with adversity in good earnest, although they may not venture openly to pour forth blasphemies against God, often charge Him with not keeping His word. Whenever He delays His assistance we call in question His fidelity to His promises and murmur just as if He

had deceived us. There is no truth which is more generally received among men than that God is true; but there are few who frankly give Him credit for this when they are in adversity." ~Plumer

Do you know to some measure that you lie in the midst of death, that you have fallen away from God in your covenant head, Adam; that you have set the seal of your approbation upon this breach of the covenant by your actual transgressions?

Do you perhaps respond to this terrible view with: "Woe is me, for I am beyond hope"? Well, my friend, I would remind you that this is a blessed hopelessness; remember that God Himself has sworn that He does not desire your death. Confess this: "Lord, by nature I desire my own death." For such as these there is a balm in Gilead from the great Physician there.

It was God's lament to the people: "Thou art wearied in the greatness of thy way; yet saidst thou not, There is no hope" (Isa. 57:10). Therefore, the comforting Physician of the soul could not begin anything with them.

On the other hand, the Lord will show His good dealings to those who in their own estimation are beyond hope. ~G. Wisse

*More likely to rob than to feed,
Were ravens who live upon prey;
But when the Lord's people have need,
His goodness will find out a way:*

*This instance to those may seem strange,
Who know not how faith can prevail;
But sooner all nature shall change,
Than one of God's promises fail.*

~J. Newton

Consistory

Elders: Mr. Rick Rozeboom, Mr. Craig Timmer

Deacon: Mr. Norm DeWit

Contacts

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Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Be thou exalted, O God, above the
heavens: and thy glory above all the
earth;*

Psalms 108:5

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