

March 28, 2021

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Passion Reading Service
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service

Friday, Good Friday Reading Service at 7:00 p.m.

Next Week: 9:30 and 6:30 p.m. Easter reading services

April 7, Church Visitation at 2:00 p.m. Anyone who desires to be heard at the meeting should submit their request in writing to the consistory.

-All the Lord willing-

Offerings Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd Prison Diary Ministry 2nd School Fund

Collections Received:	<u>Jan 2021</u>	<u>Feb 2021</u>
General Fund	4204.59	915.00
Living Bread	1054.00	972.00
School Fund	447.00 (incl. Feb.)	
Theological School	883.00	
Emeritus Fund	687.00	
NAGMission		136.00
Alpha Center		692.00

We Remember in Prayer:

-Our widows, widowers and lonely ones, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, those undergoing treatments, and all those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATION

Good Friday

“Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly This was the Son of God.” Matt. 27:54

After the darkness which lasted three hours, Christ spoke again. For three hours, Zion's Surety was extraordinarily quiet as He was forsaken by the Father; forsaken so that His Church will never be forsaken by God. The price of sin was paid and God's justice was satisfied. Like a battle cry of victory, it was heard from the cross: "It

is finished." The price which the Father demanded was paid. Nothing, absolutely nothing additional was needed. The Devil lost his prey when Christ went into the house of the 'strong man armed'. (Luke 11:21). By His suffering on the cross, Christ delivered His children from the torment of the Devil and adorned God's attributes. The Lord confirmed His satisfaction with several signs. Even the heathens standing by the cross, noticed the signs and were frightened because of them.

In Matthew, we can read about these signs. The first sign that draws our attention occurred in Jerusalem. The priests were busy with their daily rituals in the temple, according to the ordinance of Aaron. Their work foreshadowed the work which Christ would complete on Golgotha. Because of their spiritual blindness, they really did not understand the symbolism of their labors. While they were busy in the Holy Place, an act of God act occurred; the heavy drape of the temple ripped into two pieces; from the top to the bottom. The drape separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies and was embroidered with cherubs. The cherubs signified the glory of God's justice which barred mankind from life with God. No one was allowed to enter into the Holy of Holies, except once a year, when the High Priest went in with the blood of atonement which he sprinkled on the golden mercy seat. It pointed to the way of redemption which could only be with blood.

Immediately after Jesus spoke the words "It is finished", the centuries-old drape tore apart. The Lord took away the separation between Himself and His people because Christ's work was complete. "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh" (Hebr. 10:19, 20).

The next sign the Lord gave occurred outside of Jerusalem. The earth trembled and rocks split. The earthquake was felt not only on Golgotha in Canaan, but as far away as Bithynia, part of current day Turkey, about 550 miles from Golgotha. (Rev. Hellenbroek researched this in Greek history.) In itself, this was a preaching of God: the earth responded to the completed work of Christ. Rocks split apart, symbolizing that our hardened hearts need to be broken as fruit of the Surety's work. Death was swallowed up in victory by Christ's death.

Life triumphed over death. The Lord showed that in another sign. We read about the graves of the saints, outside of Jerusalem. It was an incredible sight, when all of a sudden, the almighty hand of God rolled away the stones from the sepulchers and their graves were opened. The saints, God's children, who had fallen asleep in Christ, were delivered by the Spirit and the blood of Christ's mediatorial work. The saints left the graves. We don't know who they were, the Lord chose not to mention their names, as it was not

important. With God, they had a name and place better than of 'sons and daughters'. God knows them by name, also those in the grave. The saints hurried to the Holy City, Jerusalem, and appeared unto many. Their appearance teaches us that the power of death was taken away; a comfort to those with heavy hearts. "But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave..." (Psalm 49:15).

Another sign was the centurion and the Roman soldiers. They were standing guard by the cross. They had divided Christ's clothes and cast lots for his coat. They heard the words He spoke when he was hanging on the cross; they heard what He spoke to the murderer on the cross. While they watched the cross, they saw Christ lift up His head and cry out with a voice so loud that Heaven and earth could hear it: "It is finished". It was heard in the deepest recesses of Satan's dominion; Hell trembled. Even the soldiers had to confess: "Truly This was the Son of God". The heathens would also be His inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth His possession. (Psalm 2:8).

We have all 'heard' Christ's battle cry of victory on Golgotha. Has the Holy Spirit ever enlightened your heart with Christ's battle cry of victory?

Rev. P. Blok

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Exalt the LORD our God, and
worship at his holy hill; for the
LORD our God is holy.
Psalm 99:9*

All who would like to stand for the 3rd song are welcome to.

Consistory

Elders: Mr. Rick Rozeboom, Mr. Craig Timmer
Mr. Norm DeWit, Treasurer, Mr. Derek Kattenberg, Clerk

Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Hofman
Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer craigtimmer@ymail.com
Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom
Website: nrscf.com

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