# November 26, 2023

**This Week:** 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD 23)

6:30 p.m. Reading Service

Classes after the morning service

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Advent Reading Service

6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD 24)

Classes after the morning service

-All the Lord willing-

**Collections:** Today: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund Next week: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund 2<sup>nd</sup> Alpha Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Disaster Relief

### We Remember in Prayer:

-With thanksgiving, Mr. & Mrs. Craig & Anna Timmer, who were blessed with a healthy baby boy, Matteo William, this past Tuesday, November 21.

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

### **MEDITATIONS**

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Eph. 5:20

The annual Thanksgiving Day is again behind us. The Lord is worthy to be acknowledged for His manifold benefits. They are undeserved and should humble us before Him.

Paul writes this letter while being in prison. As he exhorts the people to a walk in the fear of God, he also exhorts them to give thanks always. That means: not only on Thanksgiving Day, not only when we are in a good frame, or when we have received a special blessing. No, always, that is: in all circumstances of life, in prosperity but also in adversity.

How is that possible? Giving thanks for the past, when the Lord faithfully cared. For the present in which He placed us, Ebenezer, hitherto the Lord has helped us. For the unknown future in which He will provide. Thanksgiving for all things. The temporal things, when He gives us bread, health, strength, wisdom, prosperity. The spiritual blessings. He gave us His Word that can make us wise unto salvation. He instructed, comforted, and refreshed His people with His promises, His truth, His ordinances, also with the Lord's Supper, so that the wilderness journey would not be too great for them.

Thanksgiving for His electing, redeeming, sanctifying, adopting, pardoning, and justifying grace. Thanks for His unspeakable Gift, for the Mediator, Jesus Christ.

However, for all things also means: also when we have many afflictions, trials, and adversities. For God's people all things will work together for their good. God uses those ways of afflictions to bring and keep them on their knees, to show them more of the evil, the rebellion in their hearts, to humble them to make them more strangers on earth.

Thanksgiving to God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. God the father is the Source of all blessing, but these come through Christ to an undeserving sinner. How precious He becomes to them. He who became poor though He was rich, that they through His poverty might be rich. His name they may confess also in the midst of the congregation. A confession of their own unworthiness, wretchedness, poverty, but also of their seeking of all they need in Him. A seeking by taking refuge to Him Who said, Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out.

What a surprising God He is for those who expect to be cast away, who deserve His wrath. Isa. 55:1, "Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

The rich, in their own foolish imagination, He will send empty away. The poor and needy He will gladden with His gifts. Therefore they will humbly acknowledge and praise Him.

## **Six Short Rules for Young Christians**

- I. Never neglect daily private prayer; and when you pray, remember that God is present, and that He hears your prayers. (Heb. xi. 6).
- II. Never neglect daily private Bible-reading and when you read, remember that God is speaking to you, and that you are to believe and act upon what He says. I believe all backsliding begins with the neglect of these two rules. (John v. 39).
- III. Never let a day pass without trying to do something for Jesus. Every night reflect on what Jesus has done for you, and then ask yourself, What am I doing for Him? (Matt. v. 13-16).
- IV. If you are in doubt as to a thing being right or wrong, go to your room, and kneel down and ask God's blessing upon it. (Col. iii. 17). If you cannot do this, it is wrong. (Rom. xiv. 23).
- V. Never take your Christianity from Christians, or argue that because such and such people do so and so, that therefore

- you may. (2 Cor. x. 12). You are to ask yourself, How would Christ act in my place? and strive to follow Him. (John x. 27).
- VI. Never believe what you feel, if it contradicts God's Word. Ask yourself, Can what I feel be true, if God's Word is true? and if both cannot be true, believe God, and make your own heart the liar. (Rom. iii. 4; 1 John v. 10, 11).

  ~BROWNLOW NORTH

Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbor's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee. Proverbs 25:1k7

No code of laws enters, as the Bible does, into minute regulations for the courtesies of life. Daily life is evangelized by the pervading influence of its wholesome principles. This rule illustrates one of our own proverbs, which has lost nothing of its significancy by traditionary usage. 'Familiarity breeds contempt.' This rule was however never intended to give a chill to the flow of neighborly love, or to restrain its practical exercise. "Make thy foot precious " to thy neighbor, by not giving it too often. It is far safer to err on the side of reserve, than to incur contempt by the opposite mistake. Nay — even the closer band of friendship requires its measure of prudent restraint.

Blessed be God! There is no need of this caution and reserve in our approach unto him. Once acquainted with the way of access, there is no wall of separation. Our earthly friend may be pressed too far. Kindness may be worn out by frequent use. But never can we come to our heavenly Friend unseasonably. Never is he weary of our importunity. His gates are always open; "blessed are they that are watching and waiting there." (Proverbs 8:34.) The more frequent the visits, the more welcome, and the more fruitful. What with man would be intrusion, with God is confidence. Earnestly does he invite to his closest and most endearing fellowship. (Song of Song of Solomon 5:1.) And does his child presume upon this most gracious privilege? Far from it. While he has the "boldness of access;" he seeks for "grace, whereby he may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." (Hebrews 12:28.)

~Charles Bridges

Consistory

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

# NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

Sioux Falls, SD



By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Hebrews 13:15

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