

## May 12, 2024

**This Week:** 9:30 a.m. Reading Service  
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD41Q108)  
A sing along is planned at the school after the evening service in the Rock Valley church. Anyone from 16 years to young married adults are encouraged to attend.

**Next Week:** 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD41Q109)  
6:30 p.m. Pentecost Reading 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> Disaster Relief 2<sup>nd</sup> NAGMission\*  
*\*Annual Special Mission Collection for Pentecost Sunday*

### We Remember in Prayer:

- Our graduates
- Our widows and lonely ones, prodigal sons and daughters, and those with hidden crosses

## MEDITATIONS

### Orphan Sunday

The Lords' Day between Christ's Ascension and Pentecost has been called Orphan Sunday. That is because this Lord's Day is between the departing of Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit. The disciples stood alone. They were as orphans, who had no father and mother. Who could protect them? They could not live on their own.

It was God's wisdom to leave them alone for ten days because in these days they could learn so much. They could see who they were in themselves and would realize that Jesus was indispensable. They needed Him and would sense their poverty and weakness. These ten days were part of a plan to guide His children. They waited patiently expecting the coming of the Spirit because the Lord had promised to give another Comforter that would abide with him forever. They did not wait in vain because the Lord had given them a pleading ground in Scripture.

Have you also become an orphan? Do you also know something of not being able to find relief outside of communion with heaven? Then one will also learn to wait patiently for what the Lord has promised in His Word, "Though it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come, it will not tarry" (Hab 2:3) The Lord is a surprising God. He comes when one no longer dares to expect Him. ~Rev. Frans Bakker



There is no doubtful holiness with God. He requires in his people definite and distinct purity. He likes us to make much use of his Holy Spirit, so that our freedom from the world's snares and the world's maxims may be plain to every eye. Oh, how holy is our God! How holy in himself. His heart has no other than holiness as its feeling. And when his eye looks abroad on us, it is holiness it searches for. He seeks for holiness in our person, and holiness in our circumstances – a holy people moving amid holiness! Hence it was that when Isaiah was enjoying a truly spiritual and heavenly gaze of the Lord of Glory, he perceived at once that both the person and his circumstances ought to be holy before such a God. He felt, "Woe is me, because I am a man of unclean lips!" but even had he been himself holy and pure, still, before such a God, how distressing the thought, "I dwell among a people of unclean lips!" Alas! Alas! I am a leper myself And my garments have the fretting leprosy also! ~Andrew Bonar



### "Remember thou me for thy goodness' sake." Ps. 25. 7

*T. Haweis C.M.*

O thou from whom all goodness flows,  
I lift my heart to thee;  
In all my sorrows, conflicts, woes,  
Jesus, remember me.

When on my mourning, burdened heart,  
My sins lie heavily;  
My pardon speak, thy peace impart;  
In love remember me.

Temptations sore obstruct my way,  
And ills I cannot flee;  
O give me strength, Lord, as my day;  
For good remember me.

The office of the Holy Ghost is to produce sanctification in the people of God. This he performs immediately from the Father and the Son. It is for this reason that he is called the Spirit of holiness. The office of the Holy Ghost may be said to embrace the following things: to instruct, to regenerate, to unite to Christ and God, to rule, to comfort and strengthen us.

1. The Holy Ghost enlightens and teaches us that we may know those things which we ought, and correctly understand them according to the promise of Christ: "He shall teach you all things." "He will guide you into all truth." (John 14:26; 16:13.) It was in this way that he taught the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, who before were ignorant of the doctrine pertaining to the death and kingdom of Christ. He produced new light in their mind, communicated unto them the remarkable knowledge of tongues, and fulfilled the prophecy of Joel. It is for this reason that the Holy Spirit is called in Scripture the teacher of truth, the Spirit of wisdom, revelation, understanding, counsel, knowledge, &c.

2. The Holy Spirit regenerates us, when he creates in our hearts new feelings, desires and inclinations, or effects in us faith and repentance. "Except a man be born of the water and of the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but he that cometh after me shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." (John 3:6. Matt. 3:11.) This baptism which Christ performs is regeneration itself—that which was signified by the external baptism of John and other ministers.

3. He unites us to Christ, that we may be his members and be quickened by him, and so be made partakers of all his benefits. "I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh." "But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body." "And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us." "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit." (Joel 2:28. 1 Cor. 6:11; 12; 13. John 3:24. 1 Cor. 12:3, 4.)

4. He rules us. To be ruled by the Holy Spirit is to be guided and directed by him in all our actions, to be inclined to follow that which is right and good, and to do those things which love to God and our neighbor require, which comprehends all the christian virtues of the first and second table. "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." "The Apostles began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Rom. 8:14. Acts 2:4.)

5. The Holy Ghost comforts us in our dangers and afflictions. The Apostles at first fled and concealed themselves for fear of the Jews; but when they had received the Holy Ghost, they went forth publicly, and rejoiced when they were called to suffer, on account of their profession of the gospel. "He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever." (John 14:16.)

6. The Holy Ghost strengthens and establishes us when weak and wavering in our faith, and assures us of our salvation, or what is the same thing, he continues and preserves in us the benefits of Christ even unto the end. It was in this way that the Apostles, who at first were timid and filled with many doubts, were made bold and courageous, which any one may see who will compare the sermon of Peter on the day of Pentecost with the conversation of the two disciples on their way to Emmaus: "We trusted that it had been he, which should have redeemed Israel," &c. Christ speaks of this when he says: "Your hearts shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you." "He shall abide with you for ever." (Luke 24:21. John 16:22; 14:16.) It is for this reason that the Holy Ghost is called the Spirit of boldness, and the earnest of our inheritance

# NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

**Sioux Falls, SD**



*Hear my prayer, O LORD, and let my  
cry come unto thee. Psalm 102:1*

Services at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 or 6:30 p.m.

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#### Consistory

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

#### Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Slingerland, Clerk: [nrcfsd@gmail.com](mailto:nrcfsd@gmail.com)  
Website: [nrcsf.com](http://nrcsf.com)