

May 30, 2021

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service, 6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service. Scripture reading following morning service.

Wednesday, Bible Study groups meet at 7:00 p.m. at Living Bread
Friday, 7:30 p.m. Preparatory Topic Evening on the Lord's Supper with Rev. Vergunst

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Communion service and 2:30 p.m. Reflection service with Rev. Vergunst.

Advance Notices:

June 11 7:00 p.m. Singalong at Hudson Community Center
June 18 7:00 p.m. Ladies bridal shower for Shelley Hup at SplitRock Fire Station
June 27 baptism service with Rev. Hofman
-All the Lord willing-

Membership: The membership papers of Mr. & Mrs. David and Sandra Hoogendoorn and 3 baptized children were transferred to the Sioux Center congregation at their request. We wish them the Lord's blessing.

Offerings Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
 2nd Alpha Center 2nd School Fund

We Remember in Prayer:

-Mrs. van Voorst who is recovering from hip replacement surgery.
-Our widows, widowers and lonely ones, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, those undergoing treatments, and all those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATION

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

The question whether a person may partake of Holy Supper is clearly answered in Scripture and in our old Form. The Form for the Administration of the Lord's Supper is, in fact, a reverent and thorough account of that which Holy Scripture says about the sacrament. Actually, that is how all our liturgical forms are written! In the Form for the Administration of the Lord's Supper, in the part which teaches that we must "rightly examine ourselves," three things are mentioned wherein we must examine ourselves. Let

everyone seriously read this Form, and if necessary, read it again. Truly Scripture speaks there!

In reading the Form and meditating upon it however, several things should be considered. In the first place, the three "parts" which are mentioned there must all be known for a profitable partaking of the Holy Supper. It cannot be can it, that that person thinks he has indeed experienced something of knowing his sins and the curse, but does not want to say that "he purposeth henceforth to show true thankfulness to God in his whole life and to walk uprightly before Him." In the second place, the three parts of the Form must indeed be known, but the measure in which they are known and experienced can vary considerably. The point here is not the depth, but the truth in the inward parts.

It is moving how simple and solemn our old Form is, as it is grafted onto Scripture! "That everyone consider by himself his sins and the curse to him for them!" Already those words alone ought to fill us with fear and trembling. Do we know ourselves in that manner, as lying under the curse of the Almighty on account of our existence before God? Is there that abhorring of ourselves and humbling ourselves before God, which teaches us to fall unto Him and causes us to loathe ourselves?

Furthermore, "that everyone examine his own heart, whether he doth believe this faithful promise of God that all his sins are forgiven him only for the sake of the passion and death of Jesus Christ." Once again, the issue here is not the extent or measure whereby this faithful promise is believed. It has been pointed out many times already that it does not say: whether we firmly believe this promise, but whether there is faith in this faithful (Dutch: sure, firm) promise. In other words, that faith can also be a weak, assailed, assaulted faith. But still! If there is not the least experimental knowledge of the Mediator in our heart, which is experienced before God, we must not go to the table. Holy Supper is not instituted so that we would come to conversion at the table. Neither is it instituted so that we would come to know the Lord Jesus at the table. It is a sacrament for the strengthening of faith. And in order to be strengthened, there must first be something. One can pour ever so much water upon a pot full of soil, but if there is no little plant in that pot, there can never be an increase.

Let us consider that also the Lord Jesus did not begin in the life of His disciples with instituting Holy Supper. That took three years. First, He wrought in their hearts by His Spirit, some sanctified knowledge of His Person, although, at the time of their first attendance at the table, they were so entirely blind for His Priestly labour. But if there is not the least knowledge of Christ in our hearts, how shall we then ever discern the Lord's body! Whoever does not do so, eat and drink damnation to themselves, do they not, according to the word of the apostle?

Finally, “that every one examine his own conscience” with regard to our going to the table. Our Form speaks of this as well. Does our conscience bear us witness that we are an enemy of all sins, and desire to walk uprightly before God’s countenance? Is there also a firm resolve henceforward to walk in true love and peace with our neighbor? Or do we think that rumors and slander regarding our neighbors - within or without the church - can very well go together with eating Christ’s body and drinking His blood? Whoever is a stranger of these things in his heart, should not break through.

People eat and drink damnation to themselves so easily. Oh, it is true, it does not say that people eat the damnation to themselves. It means a judgment or condemnation, and is a judgment of becoming accustomed, of being blinded, of gradual hardening, not awful enough? It is so very difficult to persuade a person of the error of his way, who has taken to the custom, on faulty grounds, to go to the table.

On the other hand, if one is not a stranger of these things, may he “therefore” go to the table and partake? That would be a great misunderstanding. Also in such a case there can be a reason that God’s wrath, for our sake, can come upon the congregation. Also God’s sincere children can come to the table in such a wrong condition, resting upon their experiences, deliverances, or former grace. Then we become so very converted. And - without realizing it ourselves - we become so obnoxious before God and men.

Only a sinner that is poor, blind, loathing himself, but thirsting after Christ’s righteousness - let only such a sinner come. He shall not be put to shame. If it is right, every time of going to the Holy Supper, there is something experienced in the heart of God’s child of Mephibosheth’s astonished language: “What is thy servant, that Thou lookest upon such a dead dog as I am?”

Rev. A. Moerkerken

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

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Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer craigtimmer@ymail.com
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Website: nrscf.com

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*

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