# **April 28, 2024**

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Rev. Slingerland Communion service

6:30 p.m. Rev. Slingerland Reflection service

**Next Week:** 9:30 a.m. ???

6:30 p.m. ??????

**Thursday** is the National Day of Prayer. Sioux Center's service is on Tuesday with Rev. Hofman at 7:00 p.m. Rock Valley's on Thursday with Rev. Witvoet at 7:30 p.m.

### **Advance Notices:**

-May 8 7:00 p.m. Rev. Slingerland Ascension Day service

-A sing along is scheduled for **May 12** at school after the evening service in the Rock Valley church. Anyone from 16 years to young married adults are encouraged to attend.

-All the Lord willing-

**Collections:** Today: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund Next week: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund 2<sup>nd</sup> NAGMission 2<sup>nd</sup> Hudson Taylor

New Periodicals: Church/School Directories, Blue Books

# We Remember in Prayer:

- -Our continued need, as Rev. Maljaars could not accept our call.
- -Our widows and lonely ones, prodigal sons and daughters, and those with hidden crosses

# **MEDITATIONS**

"The lively preaching" need not be a preaching with much commotion. No, but it is a preaching in which the way of God is plainly and clearly portrayed, and the life of a child of God is sketched according to the Word of God. The sermon can never be too simple, and a calm Dear child of God, how sweet and preacher is very desirable. good it is when your soul may be lively under the lively preaching of His Word. That is medicine for your soul. Such a sermon is balm for your wounds; it is food and drink for your spiritual life, it is sustenance upon your way. Then God is to you as they that take off the voke on your jaws and laid good meat unto you. Then you sing with David, "The habitation of Thy house is ever my delight." Then you sing, "Sweeter are Thy words to me than all other good can be." Then you are as a watered garden. Then instructed in His holy law to praise His Word you lift your voice. ~Rev. G. van Reenen

# Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness

Jesus those happy souls does bless, Who hunger for His righteousness; Who seek the smilings of His face, And thirst for fresh supplies of grace.

They cannot here contented live On all the dainties earth can give; Their souls can feast on nothing less Than Christ's eternal righteousness.

Some sweet foretastes they have below, But the bright world, to which they go, Will them a glorious banquet yield; There shall their souls be ever filled.

May this my blest experience be; To hunger, Lord, and thirst for Thee, And on Thy righteousness to live, Which can both food and comfort give!

Then when at death my soul shall rise
To the blest banquet in the skies,
I shall partake the heavenly store,
And feast and sing forevermore.

~S. Medley

Doves love their accustomed dwelling place. Would you ascertain whether you belong to the spiritual flock of doves, examine how you feel in the world, whether happy or miserable - for by this we may know it. If we are the doves of Christ, born of Him, we shall feel restrained, unhappy, dejected, and anxious, wherever He is not, we shall not take delight in worldly society and worldly pursuits, as if we were at home in them; on the contrary, we are there with disquietude and weariness- the heart becomes oppressed, and lifts its wings to seek a better country. As a little child is alarmed among strangers, and ceases not to inquire for its parents, and as the soul of the exile in a foreign clime pants with inexpressible longings for the land of its birth, so do the doves of Christ feel in the atmosphere of this world. They cannot live in peace, they will be ever asking for their Father, and in no place will they feel very happy if out of the air that blows around Jerusalem's mount. ~F. W. Krummacher

## To whom is the Lord's Supper to be administered?

It must be administered to true believers. Only true believers have a right for themselves to the promises, Christ, and the communion of saints, and thus also to the signs of the covenant. The church, however, does not judge concerning man's internal state; the knowledge of someone's regeneration is not the basis upon which she admits persons to the holy table, but she admits all who have made a conscious confession of the true doctrine of the gospel, and who lead a life which is in harmony with their confession.

What should you do if you do not know whether you are converted, if you are tossed between hope and fear? Should you then abstain?

Answer: To this, we reply:

- 1. The essence of repentance and faith does not consist in being assured of them. Someone may have repented and be a believer, and yet not be assured that this is so.
- 2. You, therefore, need to examine yourself whether you engage in repenting and believing as described above, praying that the Lord would grant grace to engage in proper self-examination so that you will not deceive yourself in a matter of such importance. Therefore, you are to examine yourselves whether you have a true knowledge of spiritual matters such as a godly sorrow, a holy yearning, and the extrinsic activities of faith—activities such as a warfare between the flesh and the Spirit, initiated by an internal hatred against sin, and a heartfelt love for pure holiness in order to live a life that is pleasing to the Lord.
- 3. If your conscience can affirm this to be so, then, hoping against hope, you are to rely upon God's Word, and you may be at liberty to come to the Lord's Table even if you are not fully assured of your spiritual state. By partaking of the elements, you will then be assured that those promises are made to such a one as you are, and your faith will then be strengthened.

What are we to do when our soul is in serious disarray? When the truth has no effect upon our soul? When sin abounds and we are not affected by it with heartfelt sorrow? When we do not long for the Lord's Supper? When we are fearful of eating and drinking judgment to ourselves? When unbelieving and atheistic thoughts arise in our soul?

Answer: We are then to bare our heart before the Lord, declaring to Him how wretched our condition is, and in so doing, seek to come before Him as utterly needy and destitute. Nevertheless, we are to conduct ourselves wisely, seek to encourage ourselves, and trust in and rely upon the Word of God. We should not wander away from the Lord, for that which we desire and seek is to be found nowhere else but with Him. Instead, we are to come to the Lord's Table prayerfully and expectantly in order to see whether it would please Him graciously to meet us there and to bestow a blessing upon us.

~Wilhelmus à Brakel

# NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

Sioux Falls, SD



This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Luke 22:19b

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

Consistory

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

Moderator: Rev. Slingerland, Clerk: <a href="mailto:nrcsfsd@gmail.com">nrcsfsd@gmail.com</a>
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