June 11, 2023

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service

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

*Rev. Witvoet hopes to hold a sing along in the basement of the Rock Valley church after the evening service with the post high school/voung married adult group.

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

2:30 p.m. Rev. Witvoet

Advance Notices:

- -Thursday, **June 22**, 7:00 p.m., there will be a presentation in Sioux Center at the Interstates Building about the missionary work supported by Bonisa Mission. "Brother Charles" hopes to visit our area to speak about his work and experiences in China.
- -Congregational Meeting Monday, June 26, to vote on a duo for calling of a minister.
- -You are invited to the send out service of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Ymker as Church Worker for the North American General Mission in Bolivia on Wednesday, June 28. The service can be listened to on web-stream https://stream2.polycall.net/channel4 or 605-734-2075.
- Classis East and Midwest Joint Youth Conference will be held in Norwich, Ontario July 8. All young people age 16 and over as well as young adults are invited and encouraged to attend. The topics will be led by Rev. A.H. Verhoef and Rev. H. de Leeuw. Separate activities will be planned for the older youth. To register or for accommodation requests, please contact one of the following: Elder G. Ten Hove, text 519-536-3689 or email gtenhove@nrcnorwich.ca or Elder S. Van Brugge, text 226-888-5520 or email svanbrugge@nrcnorwich.ca.
- -Church cleaning is planned for July 15
- -Church picnic on **July 25** at 6:30 p.m.

-All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund 2nd Alpha Center 2nd Emeritus Fund

MEDITATIONS

Dear Congregation,

There are two ways that lead to the never-ending eternity. When the Lord Jesus Christ walked here below on earth, He spoke of them as the broad way and the narrow way, and each of us walks either on the one or the other. By nature, the old nature of a man, we all walk upon the broad way. We have come upon this way through our deep fall in Adam, and only by a wonder of God's grace shall we ever be brought from off the broad way and placed upon the narrow way. The narrow way is the only way that ends in the heart of the Father and in the kingdom that is above, whereas the broad way is the way that ends in the pit of darkness.

Do you feel something of it, my congregation? Do you feel something of the urgency that the Lord must open your heart and your understanding to see that you are not a traveler upon the narrow way, but that you must be brought upon it? Is this something that may be alive today and be a prayer in our congregation? Is there simply a prayer that may go up before the Lord? "Merciful God, if I never have been brought from off the broad way, is the Lord not able to do it? Wilt Thou not give a blessing upon the service in this hour because there needs to be a beginning in my life? There must be a new, a spiritual beginning."

If we have been brought upon the narrow way, then perhaps we are struggling with it. Perhaps we struggle with it upon that way, but the Lord will then explain our life and our walk and how He knows and sees us upon that way, for that is a work of His own hands. The Apostle Peter was brought upon the narrow way, and he may have seen it as a wonder of God's grace for the rest of his life. The Apostle Peter was kept. He was kept upon that narrow way, for he himself writes in one of his letters, "Kept by the power of God" (1 Peter 1:5). He felt so deeply in his heart the meaning of those words when he looked at his own life and saw what it was and what remained of self. Therefore, he writes, "Kept by the power of God." That became such a wonder in the life of this man, and I believe that it will become such a wonder in the lives of all God's people. Not only will they come to realization that the Lord has kept and cared for them, but they will also come to realize time after time that of themselves, they have ruined everything. Then they will only end in the Lord and say, "Kept by the power of Almighty God."

The Apostle Peter ended upon that way, and I believe that when he may have stepped from time into eternity and the kingdom may have opened for him, then he honestly said that for him, it was only a wonder of God's grace. Then that body of sin, of weakness, and of frailty was left behind, and whatever was found of God in his heart may have entered into glory. Still today, for Peter in heaven, it remains so great a wonder of God's grace that God has sought him, has kept him, and through it all, has brought him home into the kingdom that is above.

~Rev. J. den Hoed

Concerning the 6th Lord's Day and the necessity of the mediator being a real righteous man..... The man Christ was perfectly righteous, or has fulfilled the law in four respects, 1. By his own righteousness. Christ alone performed perfect obedience, such as the law requires. 2. By enduring punishment sufficient for our sins. There was a necessity that this double fulfillment of the law should be in Christ: for unless his righteousness had been full, and perfect, he could not have satisfied for the sins of others; and unless he had endured such punishment as has been described, he could not thereby have delivered us from everlasting punishment. The former is called the fulfilling of the law by obedience, by which he himself was conformable thereto; the latter is the fulfilling of the law by punishment, which he suffered for us, that we might not remain subject to eternal condemnation. 3. Christ fulfills the law in us by his Spirit, when he by the same Spirit regenerates us, and by the law leads us to that obedience which is required from us, which is both external and internal, which we commence in this life, and which we shall perfectly and fully perform in the life to come. 4. Christ fulfills the law by teaching it, and freeing it from errors and interpolations, and by restoring its true sense, as he himself said, "I am not come to destroy the law, but to fulfil it." (Matt. 5:17.)

And also very God.... It was necessary that the Mediator should be God, that he might reveal the secret will of God concerning the redemption of mankind, which he could not have done, had he been merely a man. No creature could ever have known, or discovered, the will of God concerning our redemption, had not the Son of God revealed it. "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." (John 1:18.)

It behooved the Mediator to be God, that he might be able to give the Holy Ghost, gather a church, be present with it, and bestow and preserve the benefits purchased by his death.

~Zacharias Ursinus

Consistory

Elders: Mr. Rick Rozeboom, Mr. Craig Timmer Deacon: Mr. Norm DeWit Contacts

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Netherlands Reformed

Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the name of the LORD; praise him, O ye servants of the LORD.

Psalm 135:1

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