

March 12, 2023

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Passion Reading Service
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service
Classes after the morning service

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Passion Reading Service
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service
Classes after the morning service

Tuesday: 7:30 p.m. Asaph Choir meets at the NRC School.

Saturday: 7:00 p.m. The post high school and young married adult youth group meets in Sioux Center at the All Seasons Center for ice skating and supper afterwards. For information, please contact Case Vogelaar(712-360-2725) or Beth Kelderman(605-987-7881).

Advance Notices:

-The next set of catechism sermons that will be read are the books by Rev. den Boer. We hope to have additional copies available.

-The Youth Activity Committee will have its next activity on Friday, **March 24**, for 10th grade and up, meeting 6:30 p.m. at the Canton Pizza Ranch followed by jumping. Please contact Mrs. Jolene van Beek for details (712-473-4273).

-Classis Midwest is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, **March 28**, in Kalamazoo, MI. The Prayer Service with Rev. Hofman will be held on Monday at 7:30 p.m.

-Our Good Friday service will be held on Thursday, **April 6**, with Rev. Slingerland.

-The care home committee invites the members of our area congregations to an assisted living presentation at NRCS in Rock Valley on **April 11** at 7:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served.

House Visitations: (1st 6:30 p.m., 2nd 8:00 p.m.)
March 13 1st Mr. & Mrs. Cole Thompson, 2nd Mrs. Rebecca Girton

-All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd Living Bread 2nd Disaster Relief

MEDITATION

“From that time forth...began Jesus to show unto His disciples, how that He must...suffer many things...Then Peter took Him, and began to rebuke Him...” Matthew 16:21, 22

After Jesus made known to His disciples His upcoming suffering and death, Peter thought he knew better and rebuked his Master. Peter tried to block what Jesus knew was necessary to accomplish His mediatorial work. Jesus saying: “Get thee behind Me, Satan: thou art an offense to Me” was as if Peter was a devil, a deceiver. This was not only sinful of Peter, one of His most beloved disciples who just earlier confessed that Jesus is the eternal Son of God, but it was also a temptation for Jesus to forsake His suffering and death.

Christ strongly rejected the temptation recognizing it came from Satan by way of the fiery Peter. Peter wanted to follow a living Jesus, but how could he follow Him if He died? In His human nature, Jesus felt the power of the temptation, but love to His Father and His elect compelled Him to strongly resist Peter, who was wrong, yet not like Judas.

What can be seen here is that even in a true child of God there can be much spiritual ignorance. In one moment, such a soul can speak by the Spirit and in another, be left over to himself and speak in a completely wrong way. In spiritual life there is ebb and flow, light and darkness, faith, and unbelief. A true soul is no stranger to fear of suffering, cross, and death and yet, no one will be exempt from them. Jesus clearly said: “If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.” This is still the same today. Reader...do we know something of this? Cross-bearing will surely come.

God’s people acknowledge that they have often spoken foolishly. The most important question is whether we have received saving faith through regenerating grace. If this is so, none of our foolishness will separate us from Jesus’ love which far exceeds all others. However, if we lack this faith, we lack what is spiritually needful. May the Lord truly show us our dangerous situation. Without faith it is impossible to please God and we need a Surety and Savior, Who suffered so exceedingly, was crucified and died, and that Savior is Jesus Christ. It will be a wonder of free grace if we may personally learn to know and embrace Him as our Savior because we cannot be truly happy and at peace with anything less. This is the only true comfort both in life and in death. Sadly, many confess Jesus but do not have Him in their hearts because the knowledge of sin and misery is lacking. What do they then do with Jesus? He came “to seek and to save that which was lost.” How necessary it is to beg for discovering light because without self-knowledge there is no room for knowledge of Christ.

Even after having received grace, God's people need to be continually enlightened because they live more by theory than by practical experience. It is a blessing to be clothed with humility and carefully discern whether their inner state is of God or of themselves. Peter was too fiery of spirit; he should first have begged for an explanation of Jesus' upcoming suffering. How often it happens in the life of God's children that instead of listening to the Word of God, they start to speak. Then it is evident that they deceive themselves like Peter. They mean well, but speak amiss, and then receive a rebuke. There can be so much blind passion in the love for God's Son, but blind zeal is very dangerous and therefore it is so necessary that the Holy Ghost cleanses it with humiliating rebukes. Christ must not be spoken to out of man's knowledge. He will not allow anyone to try to stop Him from fulfilling God's justice and righteousness. "Zion shall be redeemed with judgment." In Jesus' suffering and death, God's justice is glorified so that His people can be saved. There is room for those who tremble before that justice because of their guilt and sin, who only hope on Him and His eternal sacrifice, and who need Him in truth. It will be eternally well when they come to the end of their journey through this wilderness because the Lord "is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him ."

~Rev. Chr. van Dam

Let us value this Redeemer and redemption by His death. Since God was resolved to see His Son plunged into an estate of disgraceful emptiness, clothed with the form of a servant, and exposed to the sufferings of a painful cross, rather than leave sin unpunished, we should never think of it without thankful returns, both to the Judge and the Sacrifice. What was He afflicted for, but to procure our peace? bruised for, but to heal our wounds? brought before an earthly judge to be condemned, but that we might be brought before a heavenly Judge to be absolved? fell under the pains of death, but to knock off from us the shackles of hell? and became accursed in death, but that we might be blessed with eternal life? Without this our misery had been irreparable, our distance from God perpetual.

~From Christ our Passover by Stephen Charnock

Consistory

Elders: Mr. Rick Rozeboom, Mr. Craig Timmer

Deacon: Mr. Norm DeWit

Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Hofman

Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer nrcsf@gmail.com

Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom

Website: nrcsf.com

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the
man that feareth the
LORD, that delighteth greatly in his
commandments.*

Psalms 112:1

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