August 11, 2024

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

2:30 p.m. Rev. Sonnevelt

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD49)

2:30 p.m. Rev. Sonnevelt

Singalong in the Sioux Center church after their evening service for all ages with a time for questions with Rev. Sonnevelt.

Thursday: Sioux Center midweek with Rev. Sonnevelt at 7:00

Advance Notices:

-September 11, 6:30 p.m. Church Picnic

-September 25, Installation of Rev. Maljaars in Courtland -All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund 2nd Special Coll. 2nd Special Coll.

We Remember in Prayer:

-The mourning family of Mr. Versteeg.

- -Al those traveling this week for the youth conference and camp, for safety and a blessing for our youth.
- -Our widows and lonely ones, prodigal sons and daughters, and those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

"Where is thy God?" Psalm 42:3b

Where is thy God? Behold, this Psalm sets God's children in the middle of the practice of life. They are tormented with the whisperings, Where is thy God? They get out of bed during the night and crawl over the floor, for Satan points to their guilt, coldness, and prayerlessness. Ah, what shall he not point to? He knows so much of your past, of your unreconciled sins. If the entire book of your life is opened before you, do you still dare to have hope? Where is thy God? David was not a stranger to that, and Peter knew something of it as well when he went out and wept bitterly! You see him standing by the gate. "Now it is lost, Peter. For you it has become a lost case."

We live in a dark time; it seems that there has never been as much faith as in our days. They can take hold of it whenever they want. You never hear about strife and difficulty, and if one complains of his need, then they think he is unwell. But know for sure, that there will never be deliverance unless the need has been felt. One shall never learn to know Christ, unless they have first learned the uncovering way that leads to Sinai. It is not finished with a tear and a sigh, do not deceive yourself. It is good if one lives according to the laws of Moses, you cannot take them seriously enough. But you will perish if you do not have more than that.

There was once a friend who had much trouble with attacks from the devil. He complained of his need to a God-fearing minister. He answered, "Friend, I have never heard that robbers would attack an empty ship. It could be that there is gold to be found in it. Satan will never attack his own work, but only God's work. The battle may be heavy, but there is no victory without strife." Is God still a Stranger for you, or have you already learned to know Him in your life? Then you have had times that you missed Him. Is that strife not strange to you? Now then, ask yourself personally! Are you still a stranger to grace and to God, not knowing your danger or feeling your load? (M'Cheyne)

~Rev. E. Venema

Jehovah Rophi – I am the Lord that Healeth Thee

Heal us, Immanuel, here we are, Waiting to feel Thy touch; Deep wounded souls to Thee repair, And, Saviour, we are such.

Our faith is feeble, we confess; We faintly trust Thy Word, But wilt Thou pity us the less? Be that far from the Lord.

Remember him who once apply'd
With trembling for relief;
"Lord, I believe," with tears he cried,
"O help my unbelief."

She, too, who touch'd Thee in the press, And healing virtue stole, Was answer'd, "Daughter, go in peace, Thy faith hath made thee whole."

Conceal'd amid the gathering throng, She would have shunn'd Thy view; And if her faith was firm and strong, Had strong misgivings, too.

Like her, with hopes and fears, we come,
To touch Thee if we may;
Oh, send us not despairing home,
Send none unheal'd away. ~ John Newton

For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 1 John 3:20

God sees that you pray in secret; that is, He observes your conduct, the posture and frame of your spirit, and the fervor and uprightness of heart which you manifest in prayer, is all known to Him. Mark that which is the hypocrite's fear, and binds condemnation upon the heart of a wicked man, is here made to be the saints' support and ground of comfort—that they pray to an allseeing God. Your heavenly Father sees in secret; He can interpret your groans, and read the language of your sighs. Though they fail as to the outside of a duty, and there be much brokenness of speech, yet God sees brokenness of heart there, and it is that He looks after. God sees. What is that? He sees whether you pray or no, and how you pray. Mark that passage where the Lord said to Ananias, "Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus; for behold, he prayeth" (Acts 9:11). Go into such a city, such a street, such a house, such a part, in such a chamber, behold he prays. The Lord knew all these circumstances. It is known unto Him whether we toil or loiter away our time, or whether we pray in secret; He knows what house, in what corner of the house, what we are doing there. Second, He sees how you pray (Rom. 8:27). It is propounded as the comfort of the saints, "And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit." God knows you thoroughly and knows how you pray, whether is customary and formal or serious acts of love to God and communion with Him.

~Thomas Manton

Learn that urgency in prayer does not so much consist in vehement pleading as in vehement believing. He that believes most the love and power of Jesus will obtain most in prayer.

When God gives a promise, he always tries our faith. Just as the roots of trees take firmer hold when they are contending with the wind; so faith takes firmer hold when it struggles with adverse appearances. ~Robert Murray McCheyne

NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

Sioux Falls, SD



O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.

Psalm 104:24