December 3, 2017

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **-Today:** We hope to have a morning reading service and an evening catechism service(#36).
- **-Next Week:** We hope to have a morning catechism service and an evening reading service.
- -Advance Notice: December 24, Student de Leeuw 2:30 p.m. -All the Lord willing-

Offerings Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund 2nd School Fund 2nd Living Bread

Congregational Meeting:

Mr. David Hoogendoorn was chosen for deacon. He has asked for time to consider.

A call was sent out to Rev. Hakvoort to be our minister.

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We Remember in Prayer:

- -The call which went out to Rev. Hakvoort.
- -Those who have been unable to gather with us for some time, thinking especially of Mr. & Mrs. Roberts, and Mr. Hoogendoorn.
- -Our widow and widowers, our elderly, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, any others who are unable to gather with us today, are under doctor's care, and all those who have hidden crosses.

MEDITATION

"Say unto my soul, I am thy salvation." Psalms 35:3b

The author of this psalm is David. If it has any specific historic occasion, it may have been what we can read in 1 Sam. 24:9-15, the time when he is pursued by Saul, the King of Israel. He seeks security in God, Who but has to speak and it is there, and Who can quiet the storms. Blessed are those who, in all grief and sorrow, may know this taking refuge unto Him.

David asks that, in all his afflictions, God will speak to him. No, it is not sufficient to him that a servant of God or a child of Him will speak an encouraging word, only God's voice can give rest and even joy in the midst of troubles and afflictions. He asks that God will say unto him, "I am thy salvation". He does not ask for honor, power, riches, authority and even deliverance from his enemies. He only desires to hear that the Lord is his portion, that there is peace between God and him. Salvation is to be found in the only Name given under heaven among men whereby we must be saved. David knew that only in Him, the promised Savior, there would be salvation for a lost and undone sinner. He desired to hear God's voice speaking to him and showing unto him a token of His favor.

There is still a people who desire to hear this from God Himself. No, Moses cannot provide salvation. By the works of the law no flesh will be justified. The prophets cannot give it either, although they have proclaimed and testified of it. Neither can God's servants and His children give it to them.

Their own heart, their tears, reformed life, even their precious experiences of former days cannot give salvation. They must hear it from God Himself. As the Lord Jesus once spoke to His fearful disciples on the Sea of Galilee, "Fear not, it is I". They need His work, His blood, His righteousness and they do not want to steal. Only if He Himself says it, then they will have rest for their troubled heart. Then only one word would be enough, but then a word, not of men, but of Him Who knows their heart and will be glorified in His own work. They need to have this Savior, as God's unspeakable Gift, received from Him, and to embrace Him, as Simeon in the temple. Those that truly long for this speaking will not be disappointed. He gives the desire of those who He Himself has made to hunger and thirst, not for heaven, but for Himself.

Maybe there are those among us who learned to cry this petition with the poet of this psalm, "Say unto my soul, I am thy salvation." Young and old, outside of Him there is no life, no real rest, no true peace and gladness. Seek Him while He may be found and call upon Him while He is near. And waiting souls, He will answer, at His time, and you will hear the voice of Him Who came to seek and to save those who were lost. Then you will say: "This is the voice of my Beloved." He is fairer than the children of men, He is altogether lovely, for poor, vile wretched sinners. For those who cannot present anything to Him than guilt and shame, He will come and your heart will rejoice in Him. He is so worthy to be served and praised, also by you, my young friends.

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



"Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:" Isaiah 26:4

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