

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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No. 12

The Birthday Gift

Lord, is there aught that I
May bring to Thee today,
To give Thee Christmas joy?
Incarnate Savior, say!

My silver and my gold
Before Thy crib I pour,
Dear Lord, and only wish
That it were tenfold more.

With all I have I would
Thy stable shelter fill;
And yet Thy little hands,
Dear Lord, are held out still.

And I have nothing left
Save my unworthy love;
That can be naught to Thee
Who cam'st from heaven above!

That very love to win,
I came this Christmastide;
Make that thy Birthday gift,
And I am satisfied.

Merry Christmas or Merely Christmas?

The other day I saw the words "Merry Christmas or merely Christmas?" That is what I want to ask you — will this Christmas mean, for you, a "Merry Christmas," or will it be "merely Christmas"? These two little sets of words represent two widely different views of Christmas. The "merely Christmas" view is that which says: "Oh, here it's Christmas again; what a lot of work and worry it brings me every year! So many presents to buy," etc. The person having this view goes on to busy himself with buying presents, worrying whether this is all right for so-and-so, and wondering if that other person should be given anything or not. And another of the chief features about Christmas seems to be the dinner, the plum pudding, the cake, and the

candy and the nuts. Surely that is not the real Christmas; that is "merely Christmas."

To observe a "merry Christmas" means to know and to appreciate the reason for this day; to get back to the fact that it is the observance of the birthday of the King of kings;



to feel that "my Savior has come into the world." If that thought is uppermost in your mind, yours will be a "merry Christmas"; the giving of presents will not be a worry to you; whatever gifts you give will be given in memory of the great joy brought to the world through the heavenly Father's gift of His dear Son Jesus Christ.

In such a way, in such a spirit, you are approaching the real Christmas spirit; but that is not all. If yours is to be a really "merry Christmas," you will "worship the King." In your home you will worship with your family; you will meet together with your fellow-Christians and join them in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving in the house of the Lord. If you think anything at all of your Savior, you will surely do Him the honor to come to His temple on His birthday.

So we wish you all, friends, such a "merry Christmas," and, as a result of such a Christmas, a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

E. M.

Abundant Pardon

Out in a certain town in Pennsylvania there was a young man who got tired of the home and farm and went to the city. There he "ran wild" and plunged into the very depth of sin. His parents did not even know where he was, for he never wrote to them. But by and by sin began to tell on him, as it always does. He began to think of home and wondered, like the prodigal son in the Bible-story, whether he would find a welcome if he went back. So he went to work, earned enough for his fare and took the train back home. When he arrived at the old home station, he was so ashamed of his rags and so overcome by doubt that his people would welcome him that he boarded the train again and went on a few stations farther. As the train passed by the old homestead everything looked most home-like and attractive.

So he sat down and wrote a letter home. It was the first one in many years. He confessed how sinful he had been and asked his parents' forgiveness. He told them that he would be on the train passing by their home a few days later and, if they would forgive him and welcome him home again, to have a sheet on the clothes-line as a sign. What did that mother do? She did not hang up one sheet. She got all the sheets in the house and hung them on the line. — That was the sign of abundant pardon. And that is just how God pardons, abundantly and without reservation to all who come to Him truly repenting of their former sins and asking Him for His forgiveness.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE SECOND ARTICLE

"Jesus Christ—the Third Day Rose Again from the Dead"

Jesus Christ went into death and the grave, and on Easter Day arose and went down into hell and showed Himself as the Victor over death and devil. Then He came and showed Himself to His friends and disciples as their risen and victorious Lord and Savior in order that also you and I might rejoice in Him.

Christ is Risen; He Is the Son of God

During this month our thoughts love to dwell in Bethlehem with the Christ-child. What think you of this Child? Whose Son is He? In his Letter to the Romans Paul answers: "He is declared to be the Son of God with power . . . by the resurrection from the dead," Rom. 1:4. Often Jesus spoke of His resurrection, which would show that He is the Son of God. The Jews asked a sign of Him, and He said: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up," John 2:19. And the same chapter tells us that He spoke of the temple of His body and His resurrection, vv. 21, 22. Mark the words "I will raise it up." By His own power He will arise. Therefore He also said, "I have power to lay down My life, and I have power to take it again," John 10:18. Indeed, if Jesus had not come out of the grave, we could not rejoice in that Christ-child. But now He is risen; He truly is the Son of God. Therefore the angel also said of this Babe in the manger: "Unto you is born this day a Savior, which is *Christ the Lord*," Luke 2:11.

Christ is Risen; His Word Is True

When our Lord spoke to His disciples of His suffering and death for the sins of the whole world, He always added these words: "And the third day He shall rise again," for instance, Matt. 20:19. And to His enemies who asked a sign of Him He said: "As Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly, so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth," Matt. 12:40. Oh, if Jesus is not risen from the dead, then we cannot believe one word of His. Why rejoice on Christmas Day if the word of the Christ-child is not true. But now, praise

to God, He is risen, and His word is true. When the women came to His grave on Easter morn, they saw the stone rolled away and the angel of the Lord sitting upon it, and he said unto them: "Fear not ye. He is not here; for *He is risen, as He said,*" Matt. 28:5, 6. Indeed, by His coming out of the grave He made us sure that His word is true.

Christ is Risen! Let Us Rejoice in the Christ-Child!

On Christmas Day we sing: "Rejoice, ye sons of men alway! God comes to you from heaven today." And much more we ought to rejoice on the birthday of our King, when we remember that this Christ-child, born for us, also truly rose again. Indeed, this Child is the Lord, His word is true! Blessed are all those that trust in this Christ-child, who "is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true." J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible-Study for December

"The Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me," Gal. 2:20

Bible-Lesson: Mark 15:29-37

"And they that passed by railed on Him, wagging their heads and saying, Ah, Thou that destroyest the Temple and buildest it in three days, save Thyself, and come down from the cross! Likewise also the chief priests, mocking, said among themselves with the scribes, He saved others; Himself He cannot save. Let Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with Him reviled Him. And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me? And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said, Behold, He calleth Elias. And one ran and filled a sponge full of vinegar and put it on a reed and gave Him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take Him down. And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost."

In order to save you and me from God's wrath and punishment, the Son of God, the Righteous One, had to suffer not only the pain and torture of the cross to which He was nailed; He also had to endure the mockery and scorn which was poured out upon Him from every side. The people that passed by the cross mocked Him, shook their heads, and said: "Ah, Thou that destroyest the Temple

and buildest it in three days, save Thyself, and come down from the cross!" The chief priests and the scribes also joined in the mocking, saying: "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. Let Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Even the malefactors who were crucified with Him reviled and denounced Him.

The countless miracles which Jesus had performed were ample proof of His Messiahship, but the priests and the elders and the scribes had rejected Him as the promised Messiah. They had hardened their hearts against Him. Even if Jesus should have come down from the cross, they would not have believed in Him. He could indeed easily have done this had He been minded to do so. With one word He also could have destroyed all those who were heaping mockery upon Him. But He endured the torture of the cross and the mockery of His enemies that the world might be saved. He had come to do the Father's will, and He was "obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

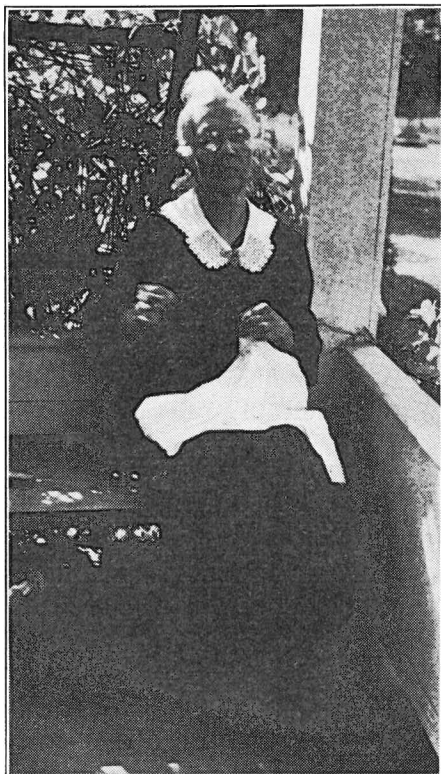
Yes, on the cross Jesus had to suffer also the torments of hell for our sins. When the sixth hour was come, at noon, the sun was darkened, and there was a darkness over all the land until the ninth hour, until three o'clock in the afternoon. During this time He was forsaken by God, for He cried out: "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" No man can know and understand all that Jesus had to suffer during those terrifying hours of darkness. By this suffering, however, He redeemed us from the power of the devil and from eternal damnation. And we who accept Him in faith as our Savior shall therefore never experience what it means to be forsaken by God. For Jesus' sake God now receives us as His dear children. Oh, let us love Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. E. EN.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Chicago, Ill. — On Saturday, October 26, our congregation was saddened by the death of Mr. Walter E. Michaelson, who passed away in firm trust in his Savior in Belmont Hospital after having been confined to his bed for only a little over a week. Although he was given several blood transfusions, he did not recover from what an autopsy revealed to have been a burst

blood vessel in the stomach, which caused repeated hemorrhages. He reached the age of 49 years. He had been a faithful member of Our Savior Church since 1911. May the comfort of the divine Word support the family in their bereavement, and may they learn to say with the psalmist, Ps. 94:19: "In the multitude of my thoughts Thy comforts delight my soul," which words formed the basis of the pastor's remarks at the funeral service. At the time of his death Mr. Michaelson was president of the Silent Lutheran Club, and the year previous he had been vice-president of the congregation.

Here you see a picture of Mrs. E. Webb of Bradley, Ill. Mrs. Webb was deaf since childhood and



passed through life with the sight of but one eye. Recently she also lost the sight of her other eye, but even now, at the age of almost 80 years, she keeps herself active in spite of her double handicap. Formerly she faithfully attended our services in Kankakee, Ill., and today she is an ardent "reader" of her beloved Bible in the Moon type. In her blindness she has made artistic paper letters for a number of sets of Lord's Prayers and assorted Scripture-passages. She was a wonderful painter of Biblical subjects before total blindness came upon her, having also provided the pastor's study with a large painting of Jesus in Gethsemane. We wish her much contentment and heavenly comfort during the remaining years of her life.

E. J. S.

Omaha, Nebr.—New officers elected in October to serve in our ladies' aid for the coming year are the following: Mrs. Nick Petersen, chairman; Mrs. Nellie Holter, vice-chairman; Miss Dora Uman, secretary;

Mrs. E. Mappes, treasurer; Mrs. Mary Moellering and Mrs. Nellie Holter, altar committee; Mrs. Chas. Macek, Mrs. Hilda Anthony, and Miss Mina Andrews, social committee; Mrs. Chas. Macek and Mrs. Hilda Anthony, sick-calling committee.

A surprise silver-wedding anniversary celebration was given to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Macek of Omaha by their daughter Dorothy on November 3. A crowd of about 75 deaf and about 20 relatives and hearing friends had gathered at 3 P. M. in a spacious hall awaiting the arrival of the Maceks. About half an hour later, when they came and saw the large group of friends, they had the surprise of their lives. After a lot of hand-shaking and receiving congratulations from every one, a short program of entertainment followed, and then the happy couple were led to a table laden with many gifts, most of which consisted of silver in accord with the occasion. A delightful luncheon was served, and most of the crowd remained after the luncheon to partake of various games. The celebration will be long remembered by Mr. and Mrs. Macek as well as by all those present. May God be with this happy couple and grant them His divine blessing in the future!

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Norton, who formerly lived in Sioux City but who have resided in Rapid City, S. Dak., for a number of years, were welcomed back by their Sioux City deaf friends in October. The Nortons attended our services there on October 27. Mr. Norton has placed his application for work at several places and hopes to find permanent employment in Sioux City. We wish them success.

E. M.

Lutheran Ministers to the Deaf

Rev. A. Boll, 192 Hewes St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Rev. N. E. Borchardt, 11719 Evanston Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Rev. E. Scheibert, 1400 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Rev. A. E. Ferber, 2538 Quincy Ave., Kansas City, Mo.
 Rev. E. Mappes, 5070 Lake St., Omaha, Nebr.
 Rev. J. Beyer, 1162 Marshall Ave., St. Paul, Minn.
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Rev. O. Schroeder, B. D., 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago, Ill.

These ministers preach in more than 200 cities in our land; they conduct classes in religion at many State schools for the deaf. You will find them ready to serve you; call upon them or write to them. The deaf need God's Word.

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