

Ephphatha, that is, Be opened.

MARK 7:34

Volume 48

MAY 1956

This group of Deaf of Oklahoma City stands before the impressive church building of Zion Lutheran Church in downtown Oklahoma City, in which building the chapel for the Deaf is located. See story on page 69

Number 5

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These ministers preach in more than 275 cities in our land; they conduct classes in religion at over 50 city and 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.

THE DEAF LUTHERAN

Official Paper of Lutheran Churches of the Deaf

Published monthly by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis 18, Mo. Subscription price, 50 cents per annual y by construct a rubining noise, st. Johns 10, Mc. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at St. Louis, Mo., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 14, 1935. Send all subscriptions, changes of address, and cancella-tions to Rev. Wm. Reinking, 7209 Nashville Ave., St. Louis 17, Mo.

The DEAF LUTHERAN goes to press on the 3d Friday, two weeks before issue. Send all news, pictures, stories, articles to Rev. N. P. Uhlig, Editor, 104 Finley St., Jacksonville, Ill.



Gardening Thoughts

It was wonderful to see the sun shine for a few days. I am sure you enjoyed getting outside if you were able. Yesterday I spent the morning hours in my study, but after dinner I went out to scratch in the dirt around the flowers. I raked the old leaves and dead flowers together and put them in a box to be burned. It made the flower beds look much better. Now the new plants will get much more sunshine and grow a bit faster. It is a real pleasure to work outside among the flowers and to look forward to the time when they will be in full bloom.

Come to think of it, church work is like tending flowers. The members of a church are like plants in a garden. God calls pastors to tend them. Some of the plants (or church members) are hardy plants, but some are delicate and easily hurt. Some plants (or church members) grow faster than others; some grow so slowly that it seems that they are not growing at all. In the spring of the year it sometimes happens that the wind blows a piece of paper or a dead leaf on a plant that is just coming through the ground. Then we cannot see that plant. The plant itself does not have the power to push it off. (Oh, yes, some plants do push their way through to get to the sunshine again.) Church members that stay away from divine

services are like plants that are covered up. They do not get the sunshine of God's Word to make them grow spiritually. They remain weak and sickly plants. (See 1 Corinthians 11:30.)

Everyone likes to see healthy, growing plants. A bed of sick flowers is not a beautiful sight. As flowers have enemies which destroy their beauty and hinder their growth, so church members have the devil, the world, and their own sinful flesh to bother them. But remember that Jesus died for you and overcame all enemies, and His blood makes you free from all sin. Now you can grow in grace and become a beautiful flower in His garden.

G. C. Ring

Conference Notices

Ephphatha Conference, July 1 to 4, 1956, Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn.

The Eastern Circuit will have a retreat at Camp Pioneer, near Angola, N. Y., June 8 to 10, with Alpha Congregation of Rochester serving as host.

The Northwest Deaf Conference will meet July 20 to 22 near Tacoma, Wash.



Congratulations and Best Wishes!

At Memphis, on March 17, the birthday of **Rev. Delbert Thies**, Mrs. Thies presented him with a ninepound **boy**, **Paul Delbert**, their eighth child.

At Houston, Tex., March 17, Mr. and Mrs. Travis Sessions were blessed with the gift of a healthy boy.



Josephine Jackson, married to Thomas Clunan, attended by Miss E. Tatam and J. Billingsley, at Rives, Tenn., December 3, 1955, live in Nashville, Tenn.

At Salem, Oreg., on February 20, Mr. and Mrs. James Jackson became the proud parents of a son.

At Washington, D. C., on February 10, Robert Donald came to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Peterson.

At Spokane, January 6, a daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Anderson.

At Rives, Tenn., on December 3, '55, Miss Josephine Jackson and Mr.

Thomas Clunan were united in holy matrimony by Pastor Thies of Memphis. They were attended by Miss E. Tatam and Mr. J. Billingsley. They made their home in Nashville, Tenn.

Des Moines, Iowa. May God in His grace keep **Timothy L. Jones**, the son of Mr. and Mrs. V. Jones, who was received into the kingdom of grace by Holy Baptism on February 5.

At an "open house" at the parsonage Rev. and Mrs. Stacy received many fine presents from the friends that had come, 47 adults and 17 children filling the place. They thank their friends. L. M. S.

Madison, Wis. On January 25 the Lord called home the soul of Robert Goldapske of Sheboygan, Wis. On account of icy roads on January 28 the bus in which Pastor Kosche attempted to reach Sheboygan had to stop at Waupun, and Pastor Louis Huber of St. Mark's church conducted the funeral. A memorial service for Mr. Goldapske was held by Pastor Kosche after the regular service on February 25.

On December 18 the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Kelly, Edward Lee, was baptized. M. K.

Rochester, N.Y. On February 8 a pastoral conference was held at Alpha Lutheran Church of Deaf, followed by a home-cooked dinner served by members of the Ladies' Guild with Mrs. Chester Leary in charge, assisted by Mesdames H. Altmoose, R. Maxson, and H. Rohe. Despite a heavy snowstorm on February 11 a fairly good crowd attended the Valentine party of the Ladies' Guild. (Mrs. Vernon Eysaman, our faithful reporter, reports that nobody was lost in the drifts and that nobody's heart was broken. Thanks, Mrs. E., for your fine report; sorry we had to shorten it for lack of space. EDITOR.)

Oakland, Calif. The Sowing of the Word in past years brings forth, "first the blade, then the ear." At Oakland we received into membership Mr. W. Christian, Mr. H. Metcalfe, Mr. D. Browning, Mr. A. Simon, Mr. J. Newman, and Miss G. Hardin. - The Oakland church was pleased to be able to make a pavment of one thousand dollars on its church debt. Heretofore we had been able to raise only five hundred. - Our work at San Jose has also experienced a rich blessing in the past months. Eleven joined our mission in that fair city: Mr. R. White, Mr. and Mrs. C. Springer, Mr. and Mrs. A. Jatta, Mr. and Mrs. R. King, Mr. and Mrs. J. Woods, and Mr. and Mrs. A. Brasel. - We also had the pleasant occasion to unite in wedlock Dr. Steven Getz, the psychologist of the California State School for the Deaf, and Miss Virginia Lee Boyd. Dr. S. Getz has rendered valuable assistance in problems which confront us, and the Deaf appreciate his friendliness and help. — At the California State School for the Deaf we have 74 children from non-churched homes.-Mr. and Mrs. Norman Davis, our lay assistants, have made it possible for us to develop three Sunday school classes. The president of our church, together with his wife, Mr. and Mrs. E. Broderick, celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding

anniversary on Sunday, March 4, a group of 120 attending, surprising them with a purse to which they were duly entitled. G. W. G.

Oklahoma City, Okla. The members of Christ Chapel for the Deaf, Oklahoma City, have had the privilege of worshiping regularly in their own "chapel" since October 23



of last year. On that date the members of Christ Chapel for the Deaf joined Vicar Bottlinger in joyous dedication of their remodeled place of worship.

The "chapel" is located in the undercroft of Zion Lutheran Church of Oklahoma City. It seats approximately 25 people. The complete remodeling of the chapel was made possible through the co-operation of members of Zion Church and members of Christ Chapel for the Deaf. (The cross in the picture was made by Mr. Fred Young, a member of Zion Church.)

The chapel has become a great aid in the worship life of the Oklahoma City Deaf. The Deaf have shown their appreciation through active interest in church services and Bible classes. A midweek instruction class has become most popular. At the present time Christ Chapel for the Deaf has nine communicant members. The "chapel" counts about 30 participating souls. A good spirit among the Deaf of Oklahoma City indicates a vital growth of the body of Christ.

The Deaf people of Tulsa have also shown an increasing interest in the Lutheran Church for the Deaf. They hold their monthly meetings in the beautiful chapel of the Tulsa YMCA. At the present time only one communicant member is on the roll at Tulsa, but 20 individuals have joined this group in its church life.

A monthly adult instruction class is conducted in Sapulpa (a suburb of Tulsa). Vicar Bottlinger teaches this class in the homes of people who have indicated interest in such a class. Approximately ten people join in this monthly study of Christian doctrine. W. C. B.

Omaha, Nebr. Miss Dorothy Jean Crouch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Crouch of Omaha, was baptized March 4 at Bethlehem Church of Deaf. She is one of the Lutheran children at the Nebraska School for the Deaf. God's grace remain with her! At the February 12 service at Sioux City Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Ogier of Wakefield, Nebr., were confirmed and became members of Peace Lutheran Deaf Congregation of Sioux City. God bless these new members. E. M.

Denver, Colo. Rolane Daryl Greb and **Gary Lee Greb**, children of Mr. and Mrs. Roland A. Greb, were laid into the arms of Jesus on February 19 in Holy Baptism. God keep them in His grace throughout their lives.

At Colorado Springs on January 29 Mrs. M. Keliher, Mrs. Dorothy Puzick, and Mr. Guy Lamm were received into membership of our Colorado Springs church by Holy Baptism, and Mr. M. Keliher by confirmation. May Jesus keep these new members in faith until death.

Sorrow came to **Mr. and Mrs. Clifford de Liere** of Colorado Springs when they lost a child by death soon after its birth on February 10. May God be their comfort in their bereavement.

Dr. Salvner of Minneapolis was a welcome visitor during the first part of March, visiting several of our stations. C. R. B.

Tell your friends about the DEAF LUTHERAN, and urge them to get on the mailing list by sending fifty cents for one year's subscription to the Circulation Manager, Rev. Wm. F. Reinking, 7209 Nashville, St. Louis 17, Mo.

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Miami, Fla. February 19 to 23 Zion Lutheran Church of Deaf participated in the Evangelism Week conducted by the Lutheran churches Nightly services were of Miami. conducted. Members of the congregation assisted and Vicar Rob. Rasch of Jacksonville, Fla., assisted Pastor Gyle in inviting and bringing Deaf to these services. These were conducted in Bayshore Lutheran Church, of which the Rev. Eugene O. Krug is pastor. He will be remembered as having served the Deaf in the vicinity of Wabash, Ind., where he formerly was stationed, and he has helped Pastor Gyle, preaching for him when occasionally Rev. Gyle must preach at some of his stations, and thus the Miami Deaf do not miss their service. The guest missioner for the Deaf in the Evangelism Week was Pastor N. P. Uhlig of Jacksonville, Ill., the regional representative of the Board of Missions to Deaf for the Dixie area. In connection with his trip to Miami he visited all the Georgia and Florida stations of Pastor Gyle and Vicar Rasch of Jacksonville.

Fargo, N. Dak. Mrs. Roy Ward (Evelyn Weisenhaus) was confirmed in Fargo on Wednesday January 25. Her husband, Roy, also is a communicant member of our mission. Their deaf son, Parris, is a member of the Lutheran class in the State School for the Deaf at Devils Lake, while a hearing son and a hearing daughter, now old enough to come to Sunday school, regularly attend Grace Lutheran Church. We now have the pleasure of seeing the entire family come to worship together in one church.

The Alberta Province in western Canada is erecting a new school for the Deaf, still under construction.



Pastor F. G. Gyle preaches to this group at Gainesville, Florida, in the First Lutheram Church, Rev. A. Gerbhardt, pastor

Pastor W. Ferber visited this school in Edmonton on Tuesday, February 14, and was given a good reception by Principal Broughton and was glad again to meet the head teacher, Mr. Ratai, formerly of the Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, school. While in Edmonton, Pastor Ferber spoke about our work among the Deaf also to the entire student body and faculty of Concordia College in that city. Lois Long, now Mrs. Steve Sawchuk, was glad to see her pastor again after 22 years. Pastor Ferber met also Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Young, who during the depression years of the thirties used to attend Lutheran services south of Edmonton. New friends visited were Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery. Let us hope and pray that God will give our church an opening in this town. W. F.

A FAMILY altar alters the family. RUNNING people down is bad business, whether you're a motorist or a gossip.

"It's NOT the ship in the water but the water in the ship that sinks it. It is not the Christian in the world but the world in the Christian that destroys his faith."

Florida Vacation Bible Schools, 1955

Pastor Gyle, Assisted by Mrs. Gyle, Vicar Bauer, and Miss Joanna Bredlau



Hialeah



Miss Bredlau and Her Tots, Hialeah



Mrs. Gyle's Class, Hialeah



Refreshments, Jacksonville



St. Augustine's Boys' Class



Rev. Gyle Deals Out Diplomas at Jacksonville

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Catechism and the set of the set of the set of the

Studies in Luther's Catechism

Christian Questions with Their Answers

Questions 7-10

In order to be rightly and well prepared for the Holy Supper, a man first must know his sin, but then also the Savior from sin, the Lord Jesus Christ, his only Hope for salvation.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, True God and Man

Question 7 asks: "Who is Christ?" and the Biblical answer is: "The Son of God, true God and man." This in a few words tells us the truth about the person of Jesus. He is the Son of God, as He Himself confessed before the high priest that dark Thursday night before Good Friday. Therefore He is "true God," as the Bible says of Him, "This is the true God and eternal Life" (1 John 5:20). Since Jesus is true God, the next question is, "How many God's are there?" and the answer is, "Only one; but there are three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost." Furthermore, this Son of God also is true man, for He is "made of a woman" (Gal. 4:4). He has flesh and blood, also after He was risen, for He says, "Handle Me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones, as ye see Me have" (Luke 24:39). Jesus Christ, true man, with a body and blood like ours, "yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). To know this Christ is necessary for a blessed Communion!

Jesus Christ Died for Me

Our Catechism furthermore asks, "What, then, has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?" With this precious little book every believer will say, "He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins." Blessed are you if you come to the Holy Supper with such a faith! Then the Lord Jesus seals to you His forgiveness with His body and blood, "given and shed for you for the remission of sins." And when you eat and drink the body and blood of your Lord and Savior, say in true faith, "For me, yes, for me."

And now our wonderful Small Catechism asks, "Did the Father also die for you?" And it answers, "He did not; for the Father is God only, the Holy Ghost likewise." The Father and the Holy Ghost are only God. God is a spirit. Therefore the Father and the Holy Ghost did not die for us. "But the Son is true God and true man." Therefore a Christian can in true faith say of this Jesus, "He died for me and shed His blood for me."

With Such a Faith You Are Well Prepared

God grant that you will read these questions with their answers every time you go to the Lord's Table. It will bring great blessings to you!

J. L. S.



Selections and Devotions are by the Rev. George R. Kraus, St. Paul, Minn.

SUGGESTED USE

- 1. As you open your Bible, say: "Speak, Lord, Thy servant hears."
- 2. After finding the place in the Bible, read the short explanation under the date.
- 3. Now read the words of the Bible. Read slowly, and think what each verse says.
- 4. Read again the short explanation and the prayer, adding what is on your heart and perhaps the Lord's Prayer.

Tuesday, May 1

1 Corinthians 1:1-17

God explains here the oneness of the church. Here there is no division or parties. All believers in Jesus are as one person. God tells us we were not baptized into Paul or Peter or Apollos; but we were baptized into Christ Jesus. And He, Jesus, will keep us in that faith to the end and give us the crown of life in heaven.

Prayer: O Christ, give us Your Spirit so we may worship, work, and live with the brothers in the faith in all love and peace. Help us as one person to do Your work while it is day before the night comes when no man can work. Amen.

Wednesday, May 2

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

In this section the Holy Spirit explains that the Cross of Christ is the very center and core of our faith. This is no worldly wisdom or man's idea about God. Here God shows Himself and His forgiveness in the death of His Son.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, our only Sav-

ior from sin, help us through Your Word and Sacraments to grow in faith and trust in Your blood, because through Your blood and death we have forgiveness of all sin. Amen.

Thursday, May 3

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

This chapter explains more fully the power of the Cross. We did not become God's children through any fine speeches of men or clever ideas; but we became His children through the power of the Holy Spirit, who entered our hearts through the Word of Christ and Baptism.

Prayer: O Holy Spirit, God Himself, give light to our hearts so we can grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior. Let us continue to preach Your power, the power of the Cross, to all men so many can be saved. In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.

Friday, May 4

1 Corinthians 3:1-15

How terrible! The saints of Christ in His church in bitter argument and quarreling! The children of God, who should be working in peace and love, waste time in useless arguments. May this never happen in our own congregations! Let us hold to Jesus and grow in His Word.

Prayer: O heavenly Father, may there not be useless and bitter quarrels in our church. Let us all in humbleness and love serve You and one another. Let us learn to forgive one another. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Saturday, May 5

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Our bodies and souls are the temples of the Holy Spirit. Let us live with that joy and knowledge. We are Christ's, and we shall inherit through Christ the glories of heaven. Let our life on earth reflect that heavenly glory now.

Prayer: O Holy Spirit, take us and use us in the work of Your church. Make us living temples of Christ, so we may hold the light of the Cross high for all men to see. May our love never stop or grow cold; but may we continue to serve until You call us home. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 6, Rogate Sunday

Fifth Sunday after Easter

1 Corinthians 4:1-7

Behold our high honor in this world! We are God's men, His servants. We are to carry the Gospel of Christ and give it to a world of darkness. You and I are His workers. Together we shall give ourselves in the work of the Son of God.

Prayer: O Christ, we thank You that You have called us to be workers in Your church. Give us the strength and courage to speak to others about Your love and forgive-

ness. Let us use our lives well in Your service. Amen.

Monday, May 7

1 Corinthians 4:8-21

Christians are ready to stand up and "take it" for Christ. Life is no bed of roses for a Christian. The world and Satan see to that. Becoming a child of God does not mean a permanent vacation from trouble; it means taking on a real war with sin and the devil. People get hurt in any war. In this war people can lose their souls. Therefore, be a good soldier of the Cross; be ready to suffer for and with Christ when you confess Him before children of this world. Amen.

Prayer: O Lord, let us be ready to suffer the scorn and mockery and trouble of this world for Your name. Let us not be tired of serving You; but make us willing to sacrifice ourselves to see Your church grow. In Christ's name we ask it. Amen.

Tuesday, May 8

1 Corinthians 5:1-13

God forbid that the Christians should let the sins of the flesh run wild in the church. In Corinth sexual sins, greed, quarreling, and other sins were committed by some in the congregation. How strongly Paul condemns these people! Let our lives be given to Christ, not to the world. If each of us lives unto Christ, there will not be such coarse outbreaks of sin.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help us as good soldiers of the Cross to resist the devil and his temptations. Let not the sins of the flesh overcome us; but let us overcome these temptations with the help of Your Holy Spirit. Amen. Se.

Wednesday, May 9

1 Corinthians 6:1-9

God here shows in detail how some of His people forgot their new lives in Christ. God's people were fighting among themselves for money and gain. It saddens us just to read this. We, who are to lay down our lives for the brothers, cannot engage in worldly fights for gain. We are not deceived. Those who live for the world will die with the world.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, may we offer ourselves in love and service to our brothers, not in bitter quarrels and fights with our brothers. Let our fighting be against Satan, not against You. Amen.

Thursday, May 10

Ascension Day

1 Corinthians 6:10-20

Our bodies and all their gifts are good. Everything God made is good. Our sex life is a blessing from Christ; but it must be used as God directs. Our bodies belong to God. Life will be satisfying and happy if we let God direct our life. A Christlike life makes marriage one of God's most wonderful earthly blessings.

Prayer: O Christ, who blessed the wedding of Cana with Your presence and almighty divine power, enter our lives and homes and make our married life a blessed life. We ask You to be the Center of our home and our lives. Then we know all will be well and joyful. Amen.

Friday, May 11

1 Corinthians 7:1-10

The Holy Spirit explains the marriage duties of husband and wife. God shows how each should love and help the other. Here is no selfishness or "bossiness." Here husband and wife together establish a home with Christ's help. How wonderful is the family where the Son of God is King!

Prayer: O Holy Spirit, remain in our homes and bless them. Help us as a family to love, honor, and serve one another. May the Savior's love in our hearts help us to grow in the Christian life, and may we finally enter the heavenly home above together. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Saturday, May 12

1 Corinthians 7:12-16

We all know problems occur in married life. In the text today is a real problem; either husband or wife may be an unbeliever. As God's people we pray and work to lead the unbelieving party to Christ. Who knows, perhaps the unbelieving husband or wife will come to Christ!

Prayer: O heavenly Father, give us strength to hold out under life's problems. Let us never give up; but support us with Your Holy Spirit. Let us through a godly life hold Christ before our family to the glory of Your name and for the salvation of every soul in our family. In Christ's name. Amen.

May 13, Exaudi Sunday

Sunday after Ascension 1 Corinthians 7:17-24

How many people are dissatisfied with their lives! They want more money, better jobs, and many other things. We are where we are, because God put us there. Let us use our place in life to serve Him, not complain to Him.

Prayer: Almighty God, in Your wisdom we are here in this city, this

home, this job, because we can serve You here. Use everything we are and have in Your service and kingdom. Amen.

Monday, May 14

1 Corinthians 7:25-40

God always gives the best advice. Here He tells the unmarried and the married how they should live. Let us listen to His words. They lead to the full and happy life in Christ.

Prayer: Heavenly Savior, help us to lead pure lives for You. Help us to marry the mate best suited for us. Bless our marriage and our home, and make it a home also for You. Then shall we see Your blessing come upon us. In Your name we ask it. Amen.

Tuesday, May 15

1 Corinthians 8:1-6

Christians do not make up new laws, for example, about food and drink. We are to use God's good gifts in moderation. All foods are for our use, yes, even alcoholic drinks, but they are to be used in moderation. God will judge the drunkard and the glutton. A glutton stuffs himself with food. A drunkard fills himself with liquor. Both are sins.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, who made the wheat to grow for bread and changed water into wine, help us to use these gifts in the right way, not in the wrong way. Let us use them to build our bodies, not to ruin them. In Your name we ask it. Amen.

Wednesday, May 16

1 Corinthians 8:7-13

Here God shows us how careful we must be not to lead a weak brother astray. God permits us to use all of His gifts of food, drink, and so on; but He also tells us not to use them if perhaps a weak Christian might consider their use a sin. In Christian love we stay away from anything that might lead a brother to sin.

Prayer: O Father in heaven, may we always think of the other person first. Let us not through carelessness give occasion to a weak brother to sin. This we ask for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Thursday, May 18

1 Corinthians 9:1-12

God tells us that it is our duty and honor to support the work of the church. Giving money to Christ is our Christian obligation. We give that gift to Jesus, not to the minister or to a church building; it is well to remember that.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help us to do our share in contributing money to Your work. Let us not be selfish or greedy; but do this work with joy. Amen.

Friday, May 18

1 Corinthians 9:13-23

These words show how many ministers of the Gospel have given themselves to Christ and His work without thought of personal gain. How wonderful that Christ has called these men to preach the Gospel of forgiveness to all men, also to the Deaf. Let us thank God for these men.

Prayer: O Savior, we thank You for calling men to work in Your kingdom as ministers of the Gospel. Bless them in their work. Support them in their problems. Help us to do all we can to make their work a success in the world. Amen.

Saturday, May 19

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Discipline is good for everyone. This is true for the Christian also. As the athlete controls his life, so the Christian keeps his body and life under control through Christ, his Savior.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, may Your power fill our hearts so we can keep our bodies under Your rule and live in a God-pleasing way. In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.

Whitsunday, May 20

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Every Christian suffers temptation. The devil tries to lead all of us into sin. It is our job as God's children to resist these temptations with the help of Christ.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help us to overcome every temptation to sin. Let us stand strong against the devil, the world, and our flesh. You have promised that with every temptation You will give us a way of escape. Amen.

Monday, May 21

1 Corinthians 10:14-22

In the Lord's Supper we receive the true body and blood of Christ. In taking this heavenly food we are at one with all our brothers in the faith. As brothers in the faith let us stay away from every appearance of sin.

Prayer: O Savior of all the world, as we eat and drink Your body and Your blood, may we grow in the grace and knowledge of Your forgiveness and receive new strength to resist sin and temptation, and may we improve in serving You every day of our life. Amen.

Tuesday, May 22

1 Corinthians 10:23-33

Once again the Apostle reminds us to think always of our brother in the faith. Whatever we do, we do it to the glory of God; but we must be careful we do not do something through which a weak Christian would stumble into sin.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, let me always think of my brother in the faith and what is best for him. Let my life shine with the love of Christ. In His name I pray. Amen.

Wednesday, May 23

1 Corinthians 11:1-16

Here the Apostle gives us some good advice regarding the conduct of men and women in worship. Proper manners, dress, and a modest Christian attitude are becoming to every Christian.

Prayer: O great Triune God, help us in our daily life to conduct ourselves in a Christian way. Let our dress, speech, and conduct reflect the purity of Christ. Amen.

Thursday, May 24

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

The Sacrament of the Altar is a most precious gift from Christ. With deep reverence and thanksgiving we should receive that wonderful Supper often. Here we receive forgiveness of sins, strength for our faith, and strength for a new life of service to Christ. Let us approach the altar for this food joyfully.

Prayer: Savior, create in us the desire to receive this heavenly meal often, and help us to receive it with joy and thanksgiving. May this heavenly food make our faith strong, our love zealous, and our lives ready to serve You. Amen.

Friday, May 25

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

Spiritual gifts are different in each Christian. Some ministers can preach better than others. Some Christians are better Bible students than others. But all are to serve Christ in the church. No one should say he has better gifts than others; or that he is more important to Christ than another. We are all members in Christ's body; we all do His soul-saving work together.

Prayer: Almighty God, give us a spirit of humility so we may serve You with a pure heart. Let us work in peace and love with all the brothers in the faith. Then many souls will confess Christ the only Savior from sin. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Saturday, May 26

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Here is the great chapter on Christian love. Here is the picture of a man of God under Christ's redeeming love. His love enters us and shines through us and invites all men to come to the Savior of all.

Prayer: Heavenly Savior, may Your deep and unselfish love for us enter our hearts and make us bright lights in a world of selfishness and hatred. Through this love let us lead men to You and Your eternal love. Amen.

Trinity Sunday, May 27

1 Corinthians 14:1-40

Speaking in different languages and prophesying were gifts in the early church. But even then God warned the church to spend its time clearly leading souls to Christ. God wants the church to use its gifts in the right way. For example: the church should not spend all its time stressing matters of minor importance. So also what the Bible means by "speaking in tongues" should not be the center and core of all our teaching, but rather our salvation in Christ and leading souls to Christ.

Prayer: Heavenly King, help us in our congregation to teach and preach the full Word of life, not just a few things which are less important. May we use all our spiritual, mental, and physical gifts in the right way. Then we shall serve You well in this life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Monday, May 28

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

With great clearness and joy the Apostle preaches the wonderful news of Christ's resurrection from the dead. Some in the church at Corinth had doubted this. But God in His Word shows us clearly that Christ did rise from the dead. Christ has overcome our last enemy, death. He has conquered sin, death, and the devil. His resurrection proves that.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we give thanks to You that You have raised Jesus from the dead and set Him on Your right hand to rule over heaven and earth. May we rejoice always in the resurrection of Your onlybegotten Son. In His name we ask it. Amen.

Tuesday, May 29

1 Corinthians 15:12-34

After showing Christ's resurrection, Paul explains that we too shall rise. Christ was the first. All of us who love Jesus will rise to the new life in heaven on Judgment Day. There is no doubt; we, too, shall receive a new body on that glorious day. *Prayer*: Lord Jesus, keep us strong in faith in You until You call us home to You in heaven. Keep the promise of our resurrection to eternal life before us throughout our earthly life. This will keep our hearts joyful with a longing for our heavenly home. Amen.

Wednesday, May 30

1 Corinthians 15:35-58

God answers our questions on the resurrection. We always try and figure out how God will do this or that. It is a weakness of our faith; it means we doubt Him. Here He tells us some of the things that will happen on the Day of Judgment; it is like a quick look at that wonderful event, the resurrection of our bodies. It does not explain everything. God has no desire to do that.

Prayer: O Holy Spirit, may our lives always show that we are peo-

ple waiting for the glorious day of the resurrection. Give us zeal, strength, and faith so we can offer this gift of the resurrection to all men. May many believe and accept Jesus their Savior. In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.

Thursday, May 31

1 Corinthians 16:1-24

In the closing chapter of the epistle the Apostle shows us some of the problems and the joys of service to Christ. Remember the names of these men. You will meet them in heaven face to face.

Prayer: O great and loving God, may we, Your people, carry on the good work of saving souls for heaven. Let us never be tired of doing this work, but let us continue to give ourselves to the work of the kingdom of heaven. In the precious name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

What were the four colors of the veil that divided the "holy" from the "most holy" part in the temple of Solomon? 2 Chronicles 3:14.

Is it true that Abraham married his stepsister? Genesis 20:12.

Which is the saddest verse in the first chapter of St. John's Gospel? John 1:11.

What did King Solomon build on the threshing floor of Ornan on Mount Moriah? 2 Chronicles 3:1.

What should rich people do? 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

Why did God let lions kill some people in Samaria? 2 Kings 17:25. Why did God permit Jerusalem to be totally destroyed in the year 70? Luke 19:43,44.

How did it come that Samaria, the middle "county" of the Jewish land, got its religion which was a mixture of the Jewish religion and all kinds of false worship? 2 Kings 17:33, 34.

Isaiah told his people who were in trouble that their leaders were to blame. What kind of leaders did they have? Isaiah 3:12.

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