

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

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A Thought for Spring and Summer

As I go about my daily chores
In the house or out of doors,
No matter what the weather be,
I know that God is there with me.

The raindrops prancing in the air —
Perhaps a rainbow there somewhere
As heavenward I glance to see,
I know that God is there with me.

With sunny skies or clouds above,
The passing of a plane or dove,
The beauty of it all I see,
I know that God is there with me.

As sunset falls in evening hours,
I walk among the garden flowers;
Each blessing I can plainly see,
I know that God is there with me.

Then, as the end of day draws
near,
The dark of night I shall not
fear;

I'm not alone, 'tis plain to see,
I know that God is there with me.

The end of day, and time for bed,
Prayers for friends and loved ones
said,
Thanks for His gifts, whate'er they
be:

I know that God is there with me.

Not just with me, but also you;
So won't you pause a moment or two
To thank Him for His blessings, too?

IDA EYSAMAN

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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

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Editorials

Counting Souls

One thinks of church attendance figures often only as figures and forgets that they stand for and represent souls. That makes a big difference. The Deaf are scattered among the thousands of hearing people; and the pastors that work among the Deaf give in their reports the number of those that attend the services, and these figures often are very low. Then sometimes people look at them and shrug their shoulders and say, "Oh, such a small number; it does not pay to bother with such few."

That is wrong; they forget that everyone has a soul, and the soul is the most precious thing a person has; and it will either be lost or saved, depending upon the faith of the person, and "faith cometh by hearing the Word of God."

The pastors that preach to small groups should remember that even if they have only a few before them in a service, they are performing an important work, and they should not with envy think of preaching to thousands and hundreds when they have only a few people to preach to and for the few must go through the whole work of a service and sermon. Jesus preached to single ones as well as to multitudes; at the well at Sychar He spoke to one woman, and yet, what success did He not have! It is said of the great English preacher Spurgeon that he stated at

one time, "The best sermons are those that are preached to one person."

I do not ask that crowds should fill the temple,

That standing room as precious may be prized;

I only ask that when I voice the message,

Men may see Christ.

So let us see in each person a soul, a soul that was redeemed and may be lost. And if our lot is to preach to a few only, let us be as conscientious and diligent as though we spoke to multitudes. And if we are one of only a few hearers, let us appreciate that the pastor is using as much energy to speak to us as he would when speaking to a hundred persons.

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, at Lutherland, near Tacoma, Wash.

Good News!

New Workers!

Four new workers will enter, God willing, the work of serving the Deaf in our Mission as permanent men. These four are the graduates of the St. Louis Seminary class of '56, **Candidate W. O. Neisch**, who has been assigned to the North Florida Field, with headquarters at Jacksonville, Fla., **Cand. H. Drachenberg**, who is to work at Columbus, Ohio, **Cand. Rob. Bauer**, who goes to his native Canada, and **Cand. Harry Hoemann**, who is to take over the Pittsburgh Field.

The vacant Memphis Field will be served by **Vicar Herman Graef**, and the Oklahoma Field by **Vicar Earl Thaler**, the latter a student of the Springfield Concordia. The two will serve one year, then to return for the final year of study to their seminaries.

Since seven men are needed, but only six could be obtained from the seminaries, one field remains vacant. However, Pastor N. P. Uhlig, who relinquishes the Central Illinois Field on June 24, has been called as missionary at large and defers retiring, thus enabling the Board to supply the field. At present Indianapolis is vacant, but a man from another field is being called for the Indiana Field, and the missionary at large will supply whatever vacancies may be created in the shifting of the workers.

Vicars Rob. R. Rasch of Jacksonville, Fla., and **Wayne C. Bottlinger** of Oklahoma City will now return to the St. Louis Seminary, and **Vicar John Nickerson**, Indianapolis, to Springfield. By June '57 these men will be graduated, and then more

men will be available as the toll of the years will remove the old workers in the course of time, and young, eager men will carry the torch that the old men throw to them.

A Visit to the Colorado Field

The day of our departure was February 28. On the way down we stopped off in Omaha to spend a day with our old friend and pal, Rev. E. Mappes and his wife. Matters pertaining to our work were discussed. In the evening we attended the ladies' aid meeting in Mrs. Nick Peterson's home. Twenty-two ladies were in attendance. For this meeting everyone was to bring her confirmation memory verse and recite it. Also the writer was asked to give his memory verse, or rather verses, for it is quite a long one recorded in Ephesians 6:10-17. Upon the basis of it we spoke of Christian warfare, of the soldiers of the Cross, urging one and all to continue in this battle against sin and death and devil with our Captain of Salvation unto the final victory. Do you know the memory verse given you on your confirmation day? Better look for it.

The following morning we were met in Denver by our worker, the Rev. Clark Bailey. The Denver Field used to be part of the Kansas City Field. In 1953 it got its own pastor and missionary. It was a pleasure to go through this field and to see how the Holy Spirit works mightily by His Word. The same evening we addressed a meeting of the members called for the purpose of discussing the organizing of a congregation. Initial steps were taken. From their pastor's report we spoke to them regarding church and Communion attendance and of the grace of giving for the Lord's

work. March 3 we went to Arapahoe, Nebr., a former station of P. Mappes, where we met quite a few Deaf in a service. After the service we went to a hotel, only to arise again at 3:30 A. M. in order to catch the train at 4 A. M. for Denver. What a blessing that Brother Bailey had secured reservations for us.

Sunday morning services were attended by 33 Deaf, and 21 came to the Lord's Table. That was a record. In this service another member was added by the rite of confirmation. In the afternoon we went to Colorado Springs, spoke to about sixty boys and girls at 6:30 P. M. and to the adults at 7:30. At midnight we arrived in Denver. The following Wednesday we again went to Colorado Springs for a Bible class at the school in the afternoon and an adult Bible class in the evening. This is a weekly affair. Passion slides were shown and discussed. Back to Denver again at midnight. March 9 we took the bus to Sidney, Nebr., a new station, for a service. Here we found three Deaf, confirmed by Brother Mappes years ago, who have had no opportunity to partake of the Holy Supper since 1951. A Communion service was arranged for them the same evening. How necessary that we have men who go from place to place ministering to these scattered Deaf. We boarded the train at 1 A. M. and had to spend the rest of the night sitting up, since the train carried no sleepers. Sunday morning we again boarded the bus for Pueblo for a service. There we found a very interested group. Service opened at 10:30 A. M., and we left the house of worship at 12:30 P. M. Returning to Denver, we were an hour late because of the snow which

had fallen Saturday and Sunday morning. Bible class had been scheduled for Denver in the evening. Because of the snow and ice but a small number ventured out. However, we had a profitable meeting. At every place we preached, exhorting everyone to continue in the faith and to live not unto themselves but unto Him who died for them and arose again (1 Cor. 5:15).

May our dear Lord continue to be with Pastor Bailey and all the Deaf in the Denver Field and pour His richest blessings upon them and their work!
J. L. S.

A ROOM of quiet,
A temple of peace;
The home of faith
Where doubtings cease;
A house of comfort
Where hope is given;
A source of strength
To make earth heaven;
A shrine for worship
A place to pray —
I found all this
In my church today.

C. E. ALBERTSON

SEVEN days without prayer makes one weak.

READ and study the Bible —
To see Jesus more clearly,
To love Him more dearly,
To follow Him more nearly,
To serve Him more sincerely.

"A WORD fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver" (Proverbs 25:11).

"PRAYER will make a man stop sinning, or sin will make a man stop praying."
JOHN BUNYAN

HALF-TRUTHS when stated as whole truths become untruths.



The April "Gleanings" reported the Baptism of Kathleen Carol and Ernest Junior Martin in New York but omitted to mention that these were baptized in St. Mark's Lutheran Church for the Deaf. The New York Field has been divided, Pastor Simon serving the familiar St. Matthew's Congregation and Pastor Hausmann St. Mark's of Harlem. This will be news to most readers of the DEAF LUTHERAN. The Rev. Wm. Hausmann conducts services for Deaf at St. Paul's Lutheran at Mount Vernon, N. Y., and at St. John's, Yonkers, N. Y., and at Bethany Lutheran, Hartford, Conn., and at Zion, New Haven, Conn. We are glad that the metropolitan area of New York gained the second worker last year. He now has his hands full serving that newly established parish; and both he and Rev. Simon have the opportunity to bring the Gospel to the large number of Deaf of New York and vicinity.

From St. Mark's bulletin we glean that Pastor Hausmann every third Sunday journeys to Connecticut. On that day **Mr. Wm. Daniel, Jr.**, conducts reading services at St. Mark's.

Twin Cities, Minn. Grace Church of Minneapolis and Calvary of St. Paul have been successful in procuring lots lying between the cities on the St. Paul side near the Lake St. bridge as the site of the new church home of these churches, which are contemplating to merge, forming one congregation. It will be a big task, but it should be of many

advantages to the work among the Deaf of the area. — **Rev. and Mrs. Clarence Bremer** have adopted a **little boy** seven weeks old. Fine! And Jesus said: "Whoso shall receive one such little child in My name receiveth Me." God bless that family!

St. Louis, Mo. Holy Cross Lutheran Church of the Deaf which lost its parsonage, for it was in the path of a superhighway, has found a new home for Pastor Reinking and family. It is situated very near Concordia Seminary on Alamo Ave., and this makes it very convenient for Pastor Reinking to meet the sign-language classes at the Seminary. The new home will be occupied by them about July 1. The state of Missouri paid \$16,500 for the old home on Nashville St., which makes way with several hundred others for the superhighway. — On Easter Sunday Dr. Richard Caemmerer of Concordia Seminary conducted a service over a St. Louis television station, and Pastor Reinking interpreted it for the Deaf. Rev. Reinking has now been given several opportunities to present the Gospel over TV stations in St. Louis, and in the April 22 Sunday *Post-Dispatch* magazine he and Holy Cross Deaf Congregation were given a very fine article with pictures, which was very good publicity. — On March 4 **Daniel Bruce**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren **Smith**, and **Keith Forrest**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward **Wilson**, were baptized, and on Easter Sunday two children of

Mr. and Mrs. George **Jones, Bernard** and **Donna**, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with three adults, **Ruby and Geraldine Burton** and **Mrs. Russell Healey**. May the Lord bless and keep these new members. — Two former members of the St. Louis congregation, **Mr. and Mrs. Rob. Ellis**, now of Ypsilanti, Mich., were saddened recently through the birth of a stillborn child. God be their Comfort.

Des Moines, Iowa. At Mason City on March 25 **Donna Lou**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David **Meyer** of Leland, and **Becky Sue**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chris **Oelberg** of Mason City, were baptized; and on March 15 at Boone **Patricia Ann**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. **Hagen** of Ames, was laid in the arms of Jesus in Holy Baptism. May God keep these lambs safely. — The services for the Deaf of the Boone-Ames area will hereafter not be held at Boone but at Ames, and they will be conducted at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 15th and Wilson. This arrangement was made at the suggestion of the Deaf at Boone.

Rochester, N. Y. Alpha Lutheran Deaf Church on Palm Sunday dedicated the renovated chapel. The work that was done consisted in redoing the walls and ceiling, installing new lights and pews, pulpit, lectern, and Communion rail. — Alpha Lutheran is host to the first retreat of the Eastern Circuit from June 8 to 10 at Camp Pioneer, near Angola, N. Y., on the shore of Lake Erie. The theme of the convention is "Underestimating God," and the essayist is Pastor N. P. Uhlig of Jacksonville, Ill.

MRS. IDA EYSAMAN, Reporter

Seattle, Wash. "Children of God, Partners with God" is the motto of the Northwest Laymen's Conference at Lutherland on beautiful Killarney Lake near Tacoma, July 20—22. Rev. N. P. Uhlig is the essayist. Calvary Lutheran Deaf Church is host, and Mr. J. M. Lowell will serve as general chairman.

Newark, N. J. Death came suddenly to **Mr. Fred Bouton**, husband of Jemima Bouton of Paterson on February 12. He was given Christian burial by Pastor Gerhold. — Seven new members swelled the Trenton group on March 18, when **Thomas Crowell** and **Jack Hunter** were baptized, **Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hunter** and **Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland Johnson** were confirmed, and **Jesse Still** made a profession of faith. May God keep them in grace.

Denver, Colo. On March 4 **Mrs. Beverly Blackman** was received into membership of the Deaf Lutheran Church of Denver by the rite of Confirmation. May God be her Guide through life.

Springfield, Ill. **Diana Lynn Burris** came to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Burris on March 29, and **Timothy Dale Burris** was born to Harold and Doris Burris at Chester, Ill., on February 15. Congratulations!

St. Louis, Mo. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew A. Zeller, 5734 Itaska St., St. Louis, announce the engagement of their daughter, **Miss Shirley Zeller**, to **Candidate Harry W. Hoemann**. The wedding is to take place June 23 at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in St. Louis. The bride-elect is a graduate of Washington University School of Fine Arts. Her fiancé, son of Mrs. Anna Hoemann of Washington, Mo., will

be graduated in June from Concordia Seminary and has been assigned a call to serve under the Board of Missions to Deaf in the Pittsburgh, Pa., Field.

Spokane, Wash. Pastor Hauptmann who has for many years now patiently spent days and days at a time in tiring railroad travel through mountains, now has an airline credit card, so that he can fly to and from his Montana stations. Expensive? Yes, very; but profitable and only fair to him and the stations. God keep him safe on these missions in the air over the mountains.

Sioux Falls, S. Dak. Mrs. Neil Shockman (Marg. Rogers) and Mrs. Harvey Werner were on January 15 received as new members by the rite of confirmation, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Servold joined by confirmation on February 19.

Detroit, Mich. Gilbert Di Falco and Marlene Schulz were married on March 3 in Gloria Dei Chapel.

The congregation of Coldwater was saddened by the death of David May of Three Rivers. David died at the age of thirty-one, on March 20. David and his wife faithfully attended the monthly services in Coldwater. May the Lord graciously comfort his wife and all who mourn his death. — Also on March 20 the Lord called Auguste Leyer home at the age of eighty-four. Miss Leyer had attended the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf in Detroit when the German language was still used as a medium of instruction. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."

The following were confirmed in our services on Easter Sunday: James Beechum, Mrs. Ruth Burnell, Mrs. Kenneth Carter, Arthur Englen, Mrs. Georgia Newman, Frances

Patton, Janice Logan, and Eu Dell Dalverson. Janice and Eu Dell are pupils of the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf. May the Lord grant these newly confirmed strength to remain faithful to their Savior.

Easter services this year were attended by 273 people; the largest attendance we ever had in Detroit.

N. E. B.

Portland, Oreg. Carol Todd joined Salem Church for the Deaf, and Harold Jordan joined Hope of Portland on Easter Day. — Growth everywhere! God be praised! — Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Britzius, who became proud parents March 18, when Denise came to them.

Mattoon, Ill. Mr. Clarence Horn died of a heart attack in November. God comfort the mourning widow. — Thomas Albert Jones came to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Jones (Maxine Kenton) on March 9. Congratulations!

Jacksonville, Ill. Mr. Earl Thaler of Concordia Seminary in Springfield conducted the services April 29, while Pastor Uhlig attended the Dixie Deaf Lutheran Conference in Jacksonville, Fla. — 105 children of the Illinois School for the Deaf are now on our Sunday school roll. — A class of fourteen children was confirmed May 13. — June 24 Pastor Uhlig delivers his farewell sermon and bids farewell to Jacksonville. Eighteen years ago he returned to the work of serving the Deaf people; eleven years ago he came to Jacksonville, the scene of many joys and sorrows. He leaves with some regret the fine chapel and parsonage the Christians of Illinois have built for the Deaf and will continue to serve a while as missionary at large.



Know Your Bible

The Book of Job

The Book of Job is the first of the poetical books of the Bible. Hebrew poetry is not in the form of our poetry, which uses rhyme and regular meter. It rather uses grand language and figures of speech. The verses or lines are usually divided into two parts and were often sung or recited by two choirs, one answering the other with the second part of the verse.

The Book of Job is a hard but beautiful book. It speaks about the question of suffering. Just men may have to suffer greatly. It is not true that suffering is always endured because great sins were committed. The suffering person should not judge God according to human reason when God permits us to endure great trial. In God's secret counsel chamber man cannot enter and ask: Why does this or that happen? God is supreme and keeps His counsel, but He is always just.

We know very little about Job except what is told us in the book about him and what other holy writers mention. It is not possible to say when the book was written, nor is the name of the writer mentioned.

Job, wealthy and very pious, loses everything through the wickedness of Satan under God's permission. But he remains firm until his three friends come to him to comfort him. He is made dissatisfied by their behavior and curses the day of his

birth. Thereby he attacks God's justice. His friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar defend God's righteousness and argue that Job must have been to blame. Two rounds of debate are recorded, and Job defends himself. Finally comes a fourth friend, Elihu, and defends God's righteousness under all circumstances, correcting both Job and the three friends. God then answers Job in a powerful way, calling attention to His almighty power, glory, and wisdom. Job confesses his error and is forgiven, and God shows His kindness by giving Job double blessings for all his losses.

The language of Job and its descriptive pictures are majestic and grand, and the book belongs to the world's famous examples of fine speech. Perhaps best known to most people is Job's cry in his sorrow when he confesses his faith in the coming Redeemer, who will restore also him to life: "I know that my Redeemer lives and that He shall stand at the Latter Day upon the earth. And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold and not another."

Let us not overlook this wonderful book of God's Word.

"WHY worry? If you can't help it, forget it; if you can help it, do something about it."

DR. HARVEY SPRINGER



Catechism

Studies in Luther's Catechism

Christian Questions with Their Answers

Questions 11—14

"He died for me, and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins." This we confess when we go to the Holy Supper and show the Lord's death.

We Know This from the Holy Gospel

Question 11 asks, "How do you know this?" And the answer is, "From the holy Gospel." The Gospel says, "Christ died for all. . . . He died for them and arose again" (2 Cor. 5:15). And these words are true. They are the *holy* Gospel. God Himself gave us these words from heaven. Therefore every Christian in a sure and firm faith can say with Paul, "Christ, the Son of God, loved *me* and gave Himself for *me*" (Gal. 2:20). Can you say that?

We Know It Also from the Words of the Sacrament

Which are the words of the Sacrament? Question 12 asks, "How do these words read?" Take your Catechism now, and prayerfully read these words! Do this also whenever you go to the Lord's Table. Jesus says: "My body, given *for you*," and, "My blood, shed *for you* for the remission of sins." It is sure, for Jesus

Himself says it. Trusting in these words, you are prepared and ready to go to the Holy Supper.

We Know It Also by His Body and Blood

The Christian says, "I know by His body and blood, given me as a pledge (seal) in the Sacrament." We eat and drink His body and blood. But is it the true body and blood of Christ? Some will tell us, "No! the bread is only a sign or symbol of the body of Christ, and the wine likewise of the blood of Christ." Jesus did not say this. It is the true body and blood of Christ, not only a sign or symbol. A Christian believes that in, with, and under the bread and wine he eats and drinks the true body and blood of his Lord and Savior. Question 14 therefore reads, "What induces (makes) you to believe this?" Quickly the Christian will answer with our precious Catechism, "The word of Christ, Take, eat, this is My body; drink ye all of it, this is My blood." These words are very plain. A child can understand them. The true body and blood are given us as a pledge, or seal, in the Sacrament. It is a seal of God's forgiveness of all sin.

Thank God for This Lord's Supper

Surely the Holy Supper has great blessings for us! Thank and praise God for these blessings! Often come to the Lord's Table and receive these blessings!

J. L. S.



Devotions

Meditations on Psalm 119 by Pastor N. P. Uhlig

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.

Friday, June 1

Psalm 119:1-4

This beautiful psalm is a **praise of God's Word**. It is a prayer. It is the longest chapter of the Bible. It shows how the believer feels about God's Word and what it means to him. Dr. Luther called it "the Christian's golden ABC," the first and most important thing a Christian learns and follows.

Prayer: Lord, You have commanded us to keep your Word always before us and to study it diligently. Make us to love Your Word, Amen.

Saturday, June 2

Psalm 119:5-8

God's Word is a reliable guide. Studying and following it, we will never go wrong and do things of which we shall be ashamed. But we need God's Spirit who works in us through this Word.

Prayer: O Holy Spirit, You gave us the Word; now through it make our hearts God's temple. Amen.

Sunday, June 3

First Sunday after Trinity

Psalm 119:9-12

In the Gospel of this Sunday we read that God told the rich man in hell that the rich man's brothers can escape from being in hell if they will study "Moses and the Prophets," meaning God's Word, written by inspiration by the holy men of God. This tells us how we can cleanse (keep clean) our life. We must hide the Word in the heart, memorize, and remember it.

Prayer: Jesus, You are speaking to me in the Bible; let me always study, memorize, and remember Your Word. Amen.

Monday, June 4

Psalm 119:13-16

Let us not only let God speak to us in His Word, but let us also speak to God and to other people about it. We must not be ashamed nor afraid to open our mouth and testify to others about God, telling them that there is salvation for all and that salvation comes to us through God's Word.

Prayer: Lord, open my mouth that I may be able and well prepared to tell others what You did for us all. Amen.

Tuesday, June 5

Psalm 119:17-20

When we remember always how much mercy God shows us by forgiving our sins for Jesus' sake and directs us in the right way, then we shall have "open eyes" to see how wonderful is His Word and we shall be "strangers on earth," that means, we are people here whose real home is in heaven. From there we got His Word, and to that place we go at last through Jesus.

Prayer: Lord, I thank You for having opened my eyes to see You as my Savior. Let me be Your child forever. Amen.

Wednesday, June 6

Psalm 119:21-24

The proud and mighty people of this world may despise us because we humbly listen to God's voice in the Bible; but they are not blessed. God counsels (gives good advice) to us in His Word and makes us wise and happy.

Prayer: Father in heaven, Your Word shows me Your will; I delight in that. Thank You for Your Word. Amen.

Thursday, June 7

Psalm 119:25-28

We often are "in heaviness," which is sorrow and grief because we sinned and suffer, but from God's Word we learn to "understand the way of God's precepts," that is, we learn how God makes us humble through sufferings so that we "come to" and wake up. Then He comforts us again in His Word.

Prayer: O Lord, what would I do without Your love and kindness! Lead me in the way of righteousness! Amen.

Friday, June 8

Psalm 119:29-32

God alone is truly reliable, and all men are liars. So it is surely proper to listen to Him in His Word, because His Word is truth. Let us "stick to His testimonies"; you are never wrong when you are guided by Him, and you never tell a lie when you speak His Word.

Prayer: God, I have chosen the way of truth; Your judgments are ever before me. Amen.

Saturday, June 9

Psalm 119:33-36

In this world people see the things of this world and want them; they become covetous. But we need "understanding," which means we must be able to see what really is worthwhile; and God must give us that understanding that we begin to realize that faith in Jesus and love of God is more valuable than all riches on earth.

Prayer: Lord, make me to see that Your Word is more precious than all the riches of this world; and You are so good and give it to us freely. Amen.

Sunday, June 10

Second Sunday after Trinity

Psalm 119:37-40

Sunday is a day when we go to church and let the light of the cross of Jesus shine brightly into our eyes in His Word. Then the things of this world become less attractive; our hearts are revived, and we get courage and hope for the week ahead.

Prayer: Lord, I have loved the habitation of Your house and the place where Your honor dwells. Amen.

Monday, June 11

Psalm 119:41-44

God gives us answers to say to anyone who wants a reason why we believe what we believe and why we do what we do. These answers are in His Word. There only can we find them. They are good weapons; God's answers are a sharp sword, that "sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."

Prayer: O Captain, teach us to use Your Word as the unanswerable argument in every battle with the devil and the wicked world and with our sinful heart. Amen.

Tuesday, June 12

Psalm 119:45-48

We are happy and free people through the wisdom that comes from God. We walk at liberty, like free men; we speak freely even before kings; we have delight in God's commandments, which we study and obey.

Prayer: Lord, we are more than conquerors through You who have loved us and have made us kings and priests before God through Christ. Amen.

Wednesday, June 13

Psalm 119:49-52

There are so many things in life that frighten us and often make us very fearful. Then we turn to God's Word. There we find the words that we need for that particular situation. That gives us comfort and hope. And there we read how God's people in the past always found help. If He did not forget them, He, the

Changeless One, will not forget us either.

Prayer: Lord, with you I can run through a troop of enemies, and with my God I can leap over a wall. You are good. Amen.

Thursday, June 14

Psalm 119:53-56

Happy children sing at play. They have no worries. They trust their parents. Christians are happy children of God. They trust their heavenly Father. His Word is the "song in the house of their pilgrimage," that is, on their way through life.

Prayer: O Lord, I sing the song of praise that You have given me a Savior, a home in heaven, and a crown of life. Amen.

Friday, June 15

Psalm 119:57-60

God is our Portion, that is, we have Him as our own. And what a wonderful thought to know that the powerful, kind, wise Father is our own Lord. When we have Him, we need not ask for anything in heaven and earth; and though our flesh and heart fails, He is the Strength of our heart and our Portion forever.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I have You in heaven, and on earth I desire no one but You. Stay with me always. Amen.

Saturday, June 16

Psalm 119:61-64

In the Holy Christian Church all believers find themselves brothers and sisters in Christ, a happy family that likes to be together, worships together, and finds pleasant companionship. Let us find our friends among the members of our church

and not among them that despise God and His Word.

Prayer: Jesus, in You we are all children of God. Let us live like members of one large happy family at peace with God and with one another. Amen.

Sunday, June 17

Third Sunday after Trinity

Psalms 119:65-72

God deals well with His servants by making them feel their sins through troubles that they bring upon themselves. Then they turn to His Word and see their mistake, get forgiveness, and live wiser and better. Then they appreciate that to follow God's will is better than getting riches on earth.

Prayer: Lord, it was good for me to become afflicted with trouble. Thank You for having made me realize my sin and for making me wiser and more careful in my life. Amen.

Monday, June 18

Psalms 119:73-80

Yesterday was Father's Day. God is our Father; He created us; He teaches us His will. Every good father will try to bring up his children so that they are respectful and respectable. If we study and follow God's Word, we will respect Him and be respectable before others.

Prayer: Father in heaven, let me be Your obedient child always, and remain my kind, forgiving Father for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Tuesday, June 19

Psalms 119:81-88

The psalm singer is in trouble; he is like a bottle in smoke (bottles were made of skins which in fire

became brittle and worthless), and he had many enemies; but he patiently waits for God's salvation and help. God's Word gives us hope, even if we sometimes must wait a long time until He helps.

Prayer: Lord, make me patient to wait for Your salvation; but bring it when in Your judgment the right time is here. Amen.

Wednesday, June 20

Psalms 119:89-96

The Psalmist saw an end of all things on earth that seemed to be perfect. All things vanish and stay not. But God and His Word stays forever. He is faithful. Who trusts in Him, will never be sorry.

Prayer: Lord, it is well that we have Your unchanging laws and commandments. Let us ever respect them. Amen.

Thursday, June 21

Psalms 119:97-104

God's Word makes wise. The wisdom of God is wiser than men; for He is all-knowing, and His Word is a safe guide. Wiser than the enemies, wiser than all other teachers, wiser than the old, experienced leaders are they who study and obey God's commandments.

Prayer: Lord, let Your Word be to me sweeter than honey so that I study it with great pleasure and profit. Amen.

Friday, June 22

Psalms 119:105-112

This world is dark; but the gracious God has given us light to walk safely by all dangerous places. Our enemies, the devil, the wicked world, and our own blind heart tempt us to sin and wrongdoing; but who

uses the searchlight of God's Word will recognize and avoid the traps they lay for us.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, be my Leader and Guide to keep me on the right path, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.

Saturday, June 23

Psalm 119:113-120

Vain thoughts are the thoughts of unreliable people who one day think this and the next day something else; such people as well as evildoers are troublesome. We need a reliable and safe Helper, and God's Word holds us safely and is our shield against the enemies of our soul.

Prayer: Hold me up, O Lord, and I will be safe, and let me respect Your statutes at all times. Amen.

Sunday, June 24

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Psalm 119:121-128

This day is the day of St. John the Baptist. He worked for the Lord until he was killed by King Herod. The Psalmist in this section prays that God would hinder those who would stop the work of missions and asks that God give His people understanding to work for the Lord; for it is our task to preach the Gospel.

Prayer: Lord, it is time for You to work, for man has made Your Law void by false teachings; so help us to fight bravely for the spread of the Gospel. Amen.

Monday, June 25

Psalm 119:129-136

Every one of these eight verses deserves to be memorized and prayed frequently; they are gems.

Where God's Word is used, light is given to the soul, the steps are ordered, the Savior's face shines upon us; but true believers become sad to see people disregard the will and wisdom of God's Law.

Prayer: Make Your face to shine upon me, O Lord, and teach me to study Your statutes. Amen.

Tuesday, June 26

Psalm 119:137-144

We may sometimes think that God's ways are not fair. But they are, because He is righteous and knows what is just and proper. So when we are troubled with doubts, let us remember that His Word is true, His promises sure, and His judgments always right.

Prayer: Help me, O God, to trust Your rulings at all times; deal mercifully with me, and teach me to put my finger on my mouth when sorrow and doubt cause me grief. Amen.

Wednesday, June 27

Psalm 119:145-152

If you ever have been lying awake at night and cried for grief, you see that the Psalmist also cried. But we see him turning to God and searching out His Word. There we also will find comfort in all misery, for there is balm (medicine) for all our woes.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, as You turned to the heavenly Father in prayer in Gethsemane in the hour of sorrow, so let us go to You in prayer when tears fill our eyes. Amen.

Thursday, June 28

Psalm 119:153-160

Job said that man's days are like those of a servant who is working

in the heat of the sun and wanting shadow and whose nights were wearisome; so we all find toil and sorrow in this world, but God's testimonies in His Word bring peace. All our ways are known to God, and He cares about us.

Prayer: O Helper in time of trouble, be with those that are bowed down in sorrow, and give them peace. Amen.

Friday, June 29

Saints Peter and Paul

Psalm 119:161-168

Peter and Paul, like the Psalmist in this section, were persecuted by princes but had great peace and joy and could even in prison sing of victory. They received their strength and comfort from God's promises in His Word. They trusted in Jesus, their Savior, and were more than

conquerors through Him. Oh, that we, too, would so love God's Word!

Prayer: Savior, let me love You with all my heart and gladly suffer even death rather than deny You. Amen.

Saturday, June 30

Psalm 119:169-176

The Psalmist concludes this wonderful prayer of praise with the promise that he will continue to serve God and seek His help in God's Word and confesses that he is a lost sheep but that the Good Shepherd seeks and finds and feeds His sheep through the precious Word. May that be our prayer and promise always.

Prayer: Lord, I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant; for I do not forget Your commandments. Amen.



Bible Quiz

To Abraham God gave the promise that he would have a son, Isaac, but Isaac was really a figure or type representing the real Son, the Seed of Abraham that would bless all people. Who was that Seed of Abraham? Galatians 3:16.

Who has eye trouble and does not see that he will be a poor man? Proverbs 28:22.

Did Timothy have stomach trouble? 1 Timothy 5:23.

Using the word "Jew" to mean a real child of God, who are the "Jews"? Romans 2:28, 29.

What kind of dress goods were the Jews not permitted to wear? Leviticus 19:19.

What power did Simon the sorcerer want to buy from Peter and John with money? Acts 8:18, 19.

How were children punished in the Old Testament that cursed their father or their mother? Leviticus 20:9.

What advice did John the Baptist give to the soldiers when they asked him how they should live? Luke 3:14.

What was done to Jeremiah because he prophesied that the nation would be defeated by the king of Babylon? Jeremiah 32:2.