

The Deaf Lutheran



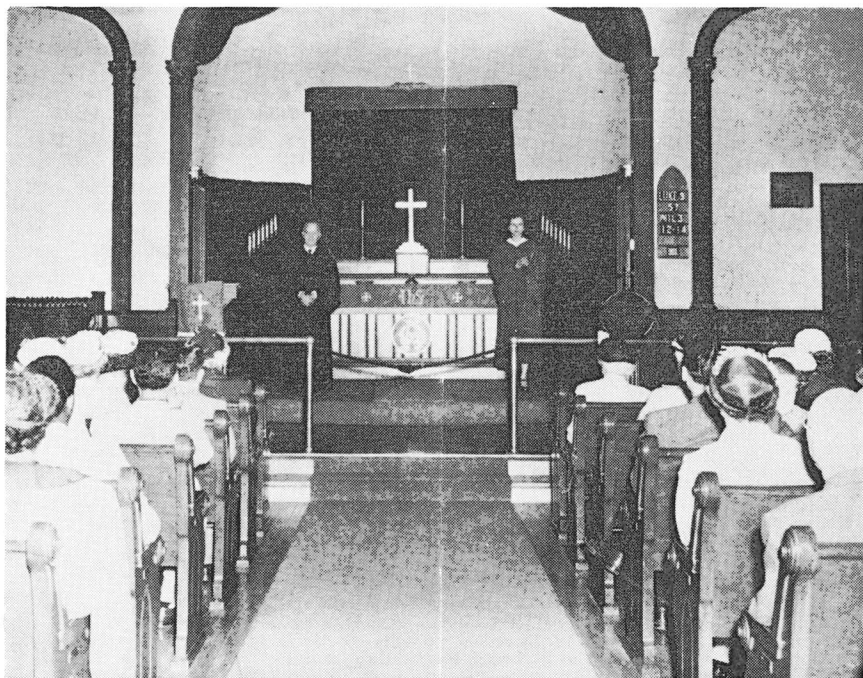
*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

Volume 48

DECEMBER 1956

Number 12



Memorial Lutheran Church of Deaf, Oakland, Calif. (At altar, Dr. G. W. Gaertner and Mrs. Margaret McAllister, congregational response leader)

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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.

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Official Paper of Lutheran Churches of the Deaf

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Deaf Celebrate Dr. Gaertner's 40th Anniversary

Lutheran and non-Lutheran Deaf from one end of California to the other gathered at Memorial Chapel for the Deaf in Oakland on September 16 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Dr. George W. Gaertner's ordination.

Ordained in Chicago by President F. Pfotenhauer, the youthful Pastor Gaertner worked under the supervision of Pastor N. P. Uhlig, then of Chicago, learning the sign language and assisting with Deaf Mission work in Chicago, Fort Wayne, Milwaukee, La Crosse (Wis.), St. Paul, and Minneapolis. January 1917 brought Pastor Gaertner to the Pacific Coast, where he has labored mightily ever since.

In 1912, just before leaving the work of the Deaf Mission, Pastor A. L. Reinke of Chicago made a survey trip to the West Coast. Nothing more was heard on the coast from our missionaries to the Deaf until 1914, when Pastor T. M. Wangerin of Milwaukee spent eight weeks surveying mission possibilities from Seattle to San Diego. Pastor Oscar Fedder, in addition to his hearing congregation in Seattle, conducted occasional services for the Deaf in Seattle, Tacoma, and Portland from 1912 to 1914.

November 1914 brought Pastor N. F. Jensen from Kansas City to Los Angeles to begin mission work among the Deaf on the Pacific Coast. His pleas for assistance were answered when Pastor Gaertner was installed in January 1917 at Spokane and Seattle. From this latter vantage point, Pastor Gaertner organized Deaf church work in Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane, Ellensburg, Cle Elum, Everett, Anacortes, Belling-

ham, and Aberdeen, Wash.; in Portland, Oreg.; in Victoria and Vancouver, B. C. He started working with the deaf children in the state schools for the Deaf at Salem, Oreg., and Vancouver, Wash. By 1919 the work had grown so much that our church put a full-time worker, Pastor John A. Beyer, in Portland. In 1923 Beyer left, and the work again fell on Gaertner's shoulders. 1923 to 1924 he instructed two men to take over parts of his field: Rev. Carl G. Frice for Spokane and Rev. Erich O. Eichmann for Portland.

In 1917 Pastor Jensen accepted a call to a hearing congregation in Orange, Calif., but continued serving Los Angeles and San Diego Deaf on a part-time basis. The Bay Area was without services. In April 1926 Pastor Jensen resigned from the ministry. Then Pastors Gaertner of Seattle and Eichmann of Portland served the California Deaf with occasional services. They resurveyed California for Deaf church work and prepared Rev. Gerhardt Ferber to take over the Los Angeles field in 1927. The Bay Area was still without a missionary to the Deaf. Dr. Gaertner in 1928 instructed Pastor Martin Engel in the sign language and installed him as pastor for the Deaf in the Bay Area. In 1931 he prepared Rev. Frank A. Hischke for Deaf work and installed him in Spokane, which had been vacant since 1929. Pastors Gaertner and Eichmann jointly served Spokane during the vacancy.

Pastor Engel accepted a call to Bethlehem of Berkeley but continued serving Bay Area Deaf part time until Dr. Gaertner arrived and was installed September 27, 1931,

placing the work in Oakland, San Francisco, and San Jose on an organized and permanent basis. He also began services in Sacramento but had to discontinue going there because of the great amount of work to be done in the Bay Area. In 1933 he began working at the California School for the Deaf and at the California School for the Blind (both in Berkeley). In order not to conflict with his real work as missionary to the Deaf, and yet to be able to help train men for the ministry, Dr. Gaertner taught at California Concordia College from 8 to 10 o'clock in the forenoon from 1936 to 1939. He also served the school as secretary of its Board of Control 1939 to 1947.

In 1939 he prepared Rev. Arnold T. Jonas for work in Deaf missions and taught sign language to Theo. DeLaney (at that time a student at the Oakland Concordia). When Los Angeles became vacant in July 1942, he served as vacancy pastor and installed the new missionary, Rev. Walter D. Uhlig, there in October. He became vacancy pastor for Los Angeles again in May 1948, until he installed Pastor Jonas in October. In 1942 he interested Francis Gyle of the California School for the Deaf in the doctrines of the Lutheran Church and was instrumental in gaining this man for the Lutheran ministry to the Deaf. 1947 found Dr. Gaertner training Pastor George Ring to take over the Deaf work at Portland.

Dr. Gaertner worked alone in the Bay Area until his field was divided and Pastor Theo. DeLaney arrived in July 1953 to take over work in the San Francisco field. Dr. Gaertner immediately opened another preaching station (Richmond) in or-

der more readily to serve the Deaf. The Oakland congregation has 134 communicants, San Jose 32, and Richmond 10. A young people's society and a ladies' aid society meet twice monthly at the Oakland church. Seventy-five pupils in the California School for the Deaf, Berkeley, were served jointly by Pastors Gaertner and DeLaney last school year.



Left to right, Pastors A. T. Jonas, Theo. DeLaney, G. W. Gaertner, M. T. Engel

In addition to his busy schedule of church work, Dr. Gaertner has served the Deaf in other capacities, both in the Northwest and in California. Since 1934 he has served as official interpreter to the courts in Alameda and San Francisco counties and as a member of the Juvenile Advisory Board for the Deaf. He has been in constant demand by Bay Area Deaf for interpreting assistance in their problems: social, welfare, motor vehicle, legal, and medical. The Cerebral Palsy School for Northern California has made use of his teaching abilities by asking him to help train workers in sign language for use in this school.

God has certainly found plenty for His servant to do in these 40 years and has provided him with boundless energy to meet the challenge of serving the Deaf.

(Continued on page 192)

"It Never Loves Me Back"

A little girl sat on the rug in the living room, playing with her favorite doll. After a long time she left the doll on the floor and climbed into her mother's lap. The mother said, "I'm surprised that you are leaving your doll to come and love me." The little girl answered, "I get tired of loving the doll, because it never loves me back."

So often we are like dolls. God loves us very much, yet we fail to love Him back. God loves us and *gives* to us. Throughout our whole life God gave and continues to give. God gave us our body, soul, eyes, and all the other wonderful parts of our body, our reason, and all our senses. He still gives us food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, fields, cattle, and all our goods. God gives wisdom, knowledge, understanding. God gives health, strength. God gives and gives and gives and gives — and never stops giving. God does this because "GOD IS LOVE."

Christmas Shows the Greatness of God's Love

The greatest show of His love appeared more than nineteen hundred years ago when God gave His GIFT, His only beloved Son, the Babe in the manger, whose name is Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace — CHRIST THE LORD!

And with this Gift of gifts God gave forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation — the Kingdom — spiritual riches — everlasting comforts — power to become the sons of God — peace — hope — confidence — joy

— glory — eternal life. And so —

The angels sang when Jesus was born at Bethlehem in Judea. The shepherds knelt in adoration at the lowly manger. The Wise Men came from afar to worship Him. The faithful people of old rejoiced and thanked God for keeping His promise. Believers of all generations have had hearts throbbing with joy and gratitude when hearing the never-old story of Christmas and God's great Gift.

Do We Love Him Back?

So you see how deeply and eternally God loves us. What do we do with His love? If we really believe that God has loved us so much, then we can do only one thing: *love Him in return*. If we love Him not, we are as lifeless dolls and a big disappointment to Him.

As God showed His great love to us by giving, so we show our love to Him by our giving. So the great Gift of God from heaven looks to us again, as we prepare to observe the blessed Christmas Festival, and asks:

WHAT WILL YOU GIVE TO GOD?

A. L. H.

MY GIFT

Poets have written their verses,
And singers have sung their lays;
Artists have painted fine pictures
Depicting the Savior's days.

Sculptors have chiseled in marble
Impressions majestically laid;
And actors in sacred drama
His suffering Passion portrayed.

I muse on these gifts — meet tributes;
Oh, what can I bring with the rest?
Naught can I lay at His manger
Unless it's my very best.

My treasures — my time, my talents —
That still is too small a part;
Dear Jesus, now do I give Thee
Possession complete of my heart.

INEZ FORD



St. Louis. — Sunday, September 25, at 11:45 A. M., while the members of Holy Cross at services were saying a prayer for **Mrs. Irene Kurtzeborn**, who has been very ill for a long time, the soul of the sufferer was taken in death, and she went to her Savior. Her body was laid to rest September 26, Pastor Reinking conducting the service. May God comfort the mourning relatives.

Portland, Oreg. — On June 10, in a special service at Zion Lutheran Church, the Lutherans of Portland and vicinity remembered an event that happened 75 years ago, namely, holding of the first Lutheran service in the Pacific Northwest. Under Gods' blessing the Lutheran Church has grown strong in the Northwest and on the West Coast, and the Deaf also are sharing the blessings. Hope Deaf Church participated in the service, and Pastor Ring interpreted the entire service.

Billings, Mont. — Miss **Nelly Nerhrus**, a member of our Billings group, on September 19 left for Washington, D. C., where she attends Gallaudet College. We wish her God's blessing and hope that she will with other young Lutherans from all parts of the nation find strength for successful study by faithfully attending Pastor Westermann's services for the Deaf. B. McF.

Denver, Colo. — On August 4 Pastor Bailey conducted a service at Arapahoe, Nebr. In this service **Duane Gilbert Mayes**, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Mayes, was

laid into the arms of Jesus in Holy Baptism. God bless and keep the child. — On August 19 at Redeemer Church in Denver **Miss Arline Feyerherm** and **Mr. Harry Schott** were united in holy wedlock, the Rev. R. Beins of Redeemer reading the service and Pastor Bailey interpreting it in signs. — September 9 to 13 the Lutheran churches in and around Denver conducted an area mission, or Evangelism Week, which is an effort to bring the Gospel to the unchurched. For such a week of intensive work much prayer and preparation is required. Lists of unchurched are prepared, and all members are asked to assist by making visits and bringing others to the nightly services in which a guest preacher speaks and helps the local pastor. **Rev. Wm. F. Reinking** of St. Louis was the guest missionary helping Pastor Bailey, since the Deaf participated in this PTR (preaching, teaching, reaching) effort, thereby bringing the Gospel invitation to those that are unchurched.

Worthington, Minn. — The Midwest Deaf Laymen's and Pastors' Conference was held here Septem-

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JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

ber 22 and 23. The attendance, in consideration of the great distances many had to travel, was good, folks from the Dakotas, Colorado, Missouri, Iowa, and Nebraska coming here. Rev. Robt. Cordes of Sioux Falls had gone to considerable work in preparing the groups for a good meeting, having sent them the good program and explaining the methods of a successful meeting. Four subjects were considered: "The Christian's Prayer Life," "Woman's Work in Christ's Kingdom," "Why Should Our Deaf Accept a Large Share of the Financial Responsibilities at Home and in Our Synod?" and "Why Is the Church Attendance of So Many Members So Poor?" Rev. A. E. Ferber was the preacher in the Mission Festival service on Sunday morning, Pastor Mappes interpreting and Pastor Cordes serving as liturgist and hymn signer. The preparatory work that had been put in paid off. The delegates were indeed stimulated to continued energetic work in the service of the Savior. While a good time was had at the banquet and in between sessions, the emphasis was decidedly upon work. Such meetings serve a fine purpose, and one only regrets that not everyone in the area can be present. The delegates must make up for this by giving good reports at home.

Madison, Wis. — The meetings of the North Central Regional Conference at Madison August 25 and 26 were indeed a great success. The theme was "The Lord's Supper." All that were present were impressed with the great spiritual banquet that God has prepared for His children. Mr. Yachtman Sue of Milwaukee spoke on "Preparing Oneself for the Lord's Supper," Pastor Kosche spoke

on "The Custom of Communion Announcements," Mr. Roy Klein, Minneapolis, on "What the Lord's Supper Means to Me." Rev. Bremer led a Bible study on "The Scriptural Background of the Lord's Supper," Pastor Geo. Kraus preached on the "Blessings of the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper." A resolution was passed encouraging the Board of Foreign Missions to send a full-time experienced missionary to Japan rather than have a Christian layman interpret the services for the hearing. A resolution was passed to ask the pastors to encourage each congregation and preaching station to send at least one delegate to future meetings. A fine banquet was served by the ladies of St. Paul's (hearing) Church, after which a good social time was enjoyed, slides and movies and a filmstrip of a new British sign language were shown, and stories and experiences told. The 1957 meeting is tentatively set for Duluth in the late summer.

Newark, N. J. — The pastors of the Eastern Circuit, comprising Rochester, Boston, Newark, Washington, New York City, and Pittsburgh, held a conference on September 13 to discuss problems affecting their region in particular. Among these was a discussion of the 1957 laymen's retreat, which is to be held in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania.

Columbus, Ind. — **Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Terrell** were welcomed at our service on October 12; Mrs. Terrell was **Miss Viola Richie** before September 1, when they were married at Washington, D. C. — Our services are held the second Friday of the month. On the morning of October 12 Pastor Uhlig went to nearby Butlerville to the Muscatatuck School for Mentally Retarded. At

this school there are a number of Deaf, and these are served in special classes. Rev. H. C. Besel is the chaplain of this institution.

Jacksonville, Fla. — On August 18 **Arnold Lee Holliman** and **Ruth Perkins** were united in marriage by Pastor Neisch in an evening ceremony. The bride wore navy blue adorned with rhinestones and a corsage of white carnations. The bridal couple was attended by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Holliman, brother and sister-in-law of the groom. A reception

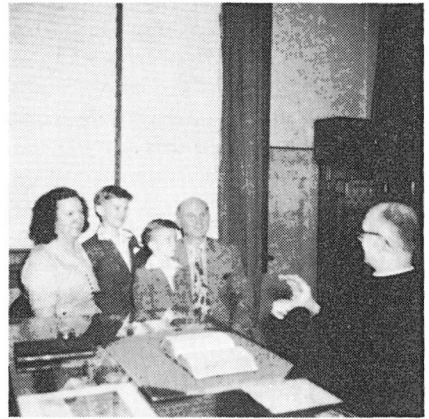


Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Lee Holliman with Pastor W. O. Neisch

followed in the home of the groom. The couple lives in Jacksonville, where Mr. Holliman is employed by a boat company. May God bless their union. — A vacation Bible school was conducted at Jacksonville at the end of July, Pastor Gyle of Miami assisting the local pastor, and at St. Augustine the first part of August. There the Misses Josephine and Christine Olson helped Pastor Neisch.

Fremont, Nebr. — **Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Haurigan** were greatly surprised on September 20, when the Fremont Deaf after the service celebrated the 35th wedding anniversary of the couple. Rev. Mappes conducted a short service of thanksgiving with them.

Chicago, Ill. — In recent months the following were received into



Rev. Scheibert instructing the Kujawa family

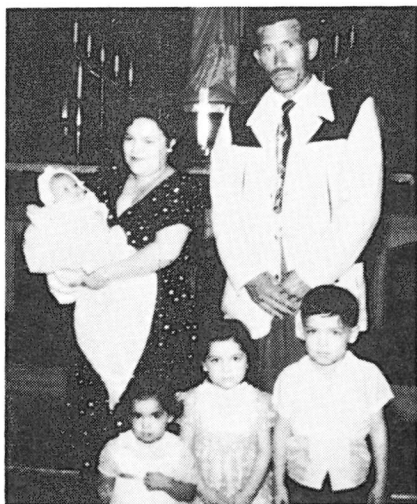
God's kingdom through Holy Baptism: **Sheila Lynn Donaghue**, **Richard Alan Kujawa**, and his brother **Thomas Bruce**; **Julia Catherine**, **Eva** and **Lydia Talamantes**. The Kujawa boys attend our Sunday school, which is being conducted with the help of **Mrs. N. F. Ehrke, M.Ed.**, who makes the trip from Forest Park to our church every Sunday. We greatly appreciate her deep in-



Sunday School Class of Mrs. N. F. Ehrke

terest. Also baptized were **Karen Ann Monson**, and in Aurora **Ralph Lynn Johnson**. May God keep them all in His grace.

The Talamantes family has been attending the services very regularly, bringing all four small children along from a distance of over thirty miles; and it is heart-warming



The Talamantes Family

to see the parents in church with their children. The Talamantes family came to us through the efforts of **Mrs. Harry Windelborn** of Glenview, sister of two of our pastors, Waldemar and Alvin Ferber.

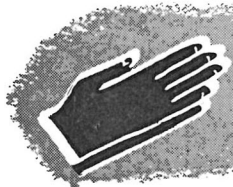
The following departed this life and entered their eternal home in heaven: **Wm. Sauerborn** at the age of 88 years; **Mrs. Anna Frank** at the age of 70; and also at the age of 88 years, **Elizabeth Heinrich**, who had spent her last years in the Illinois Home for the Aged and Infirm Deaf in Evanston. Then we must also record the sudden passing of **Raymond Drews** after a heart attack at the age of 55 years, and of **Albert Rensmann** of the same age. O Lord,

"so teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

Our chapel-parsonage building had a thorough job of tuck pointing, insulating, and reroofing done; and now both outside and inside are being painted, together with some necessary repairs and improvements. **Mr. Gustave Anderson**, president of the congregation, has devoted many days to these projects and to the painting of the newly erected garage, which surely beautifies our property and keeps it in good repair. Messrs. J. H. Anderson, Greenheck, Heyer, Murdock, and Talamantes also helped with the actual work. Their spirit of helpfulness is appreciated by the congregation. E. S.

Columbus, Ohio. — Miss **Phyllis Garrison** and **Mr. Richard Crossen** were united in marriage at University Lutheran Church on August 11, and on October 13 **Mrs. Erie Burris** and **Mr. Israel Crossen** were united in marriage at Holy Cross for Deaf by Pastor Drachenberg. — Our services and social functions are rather well attended, 37 coming on October 14 to our Reformation service and dinner. H. D.

Des Moines, Iowa. — Calvary members worked very hard to get enough money together for the down payment on two new furnaces. Having succeeded, they looked around for a loan of \$800, and then their hearing sister congregation, Trinity, came forward with a donation for that amount. That surely was fine and greatly appreciated. — **Mr. V. Jones** furnished time and talents and converted the materials we bought into a fine new sign for Calvary Church. L. M. S.



Devotions

Prophecies About Jesus and Their Fulfillment, by Pastor M. Kosche

In the Old Testament are many verses that speak of Jesus. Although all these verses were written hundreds of years before Jesus was born, yet they exactly tell about Jesus, His work, the things He will do, and the things that will be done to Him. As we are preparing for Christmas, Jesus' birthday, it should be interesting to make a study of these prophecies and also look up the verses in the New Testament that show how they exactly happened in Jesus' life on earth. Such a study will impress on us, too, that the Bible is truly God's Word.

SUGGESTED USE

1. As you open your Bible, say: "Speak, Lord, Thy servant heareth."
2. Find the place in your Bible, and read the verse or verses. Read slowly, and think what each verse says.
3. Read the explanation under the date. Look up the Bible verses in the New Testament as you come to them.
4. Close your devotion with the prayer for December, add what is on your heart, and repeat the Lord's prayer.

The Prayer for December

Lord God, heavenly Father, send Thy Holy Spirit into my heart as I study and think on Thy Word. Through all the Old Testament time Thou didst again and again promise to send the Messiah, One who would save the world from sin. Impress on me that Jesus Christ is this Messiah, Thy true Son, my only Savior. Lead me to know Him better and to love and serve Him better. Give to me and all my dear ones a joyous Christ-centered Christmas season. Show me how I can bring the real meaning of Christmas to others. Amen.

Saturday, December 1

Genesis 3:15

The first promise of the Savior was to Adam and Eve. God made the promise right after Adam and

Eve fell into sin. God was really talking to the devil, who had tempted them to sin. God said, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed." The Seed of the woman is Jesus, who was born a true man from Mary. Galatians 4:4; Luke 1:31 and 34,35. The seed of the devil is all the power of sin and evil. Jesus came as the great enemy of Satan and all evil. 1 John 3:8.

Sunday, December 2

First Sunday in Advent

Genesis 3:15

"It shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." Jesus, the great enemy of Satan, shall make battle with him. God compares this battle to a man fighting a poisonous snake. Jesus is the Man; Satan is the snake. Jesus shall crush Satan's

head, that is, his power. 1 John 3:8b. Satan shall injure Jesus' foot, that means, Jesus will suffer injury and die in the battle. Matthew 27:50.

Monday, December 3

Genesis 12:3b

More than 2,000 years later, but still 2,000 years before Jesus' birth, God spoke to Abraham and told him to leave home and go to a new strange land. God loved Abraham and promised to bless him. God also said, "In you shall all the nations of the world be blessed." This meant Abraham shall be a forefather of Jesus. Matthew 1:1. And Jesus, this one Descendant of Abraham, shall bring blessings — salvation from sin—to all people of every nation. Matthew 18:11.

Tuesday, December 4

Genesis 49:10

Here Abraham's grandson, Jacob, now old and ready to die, gives his blessing to his twelve sons. He says that Shiloh, that is, the Prince of Peace, or the Savior, shall be born when the scepter has departed from Judah. The scepter is the king's rod. The kings who ruled over the Jews came from the descendants of Judah. When a man from another nation of people will become king of the Jews, then will be the time for the Savior to be born. That happened when Herod became king. Matthew 2:1.

Wednesday, December 5

Deuteronomy 18:15

Moses, the greatest prophet, or teacher, of the Old Testament time, foretells that God will send a greater Prophet and Teacher of God's Word. He means Jesus. Jesus shall come

"from the midst" of the Jewish people. He shall be born a Jew. He shall be like Moses, a true man. To this Jesus all should listen. Matthew 17:5; John 1:18. You and I can hear Jesus in the Bible and in church.

Thursday, December 6

Psalms 2:1-3

David the king wrote many words about Jesus, his coming Son, in the Psalms. Here he foresees how the people will hate Jesus. These words became true when King Herod, Pontius Pilate, the unbelievers, and the Jews hated Jesus and planned to kill Him. Acts 4:25-27. Yet today many hate Jesus and want to be rid of Him. How foolish to hate Him who loved us unto death.

Friday, December 7

Psalms 16:10

David tells of Jesus' death. By inspiration of the Holy Spirit David foretells prophetically the words of the Messiah "Thou [God] wilt not leave My soul in hell, neither wilt Thou let Thy Holy One see corruption." God will not leave Jesus in the grave. Jesus' body shall not decay as other dead bodies. Acts 2:31, 32. If we believe in Jesus, our dead bodies shall live again in glory on the Last Day.

Saturday, December 8

Psalms 22:1

Here David by divine inspiration foretells some words of Jesus on the cross. He says, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me." One thousand years later Jesus on the cross cried out the same words. Matthew 27:46. Yes, God the Father left Jesus to suffer alone the ter-

rible punishment of hell for all sin. Thanks to Jesus we shall never have to say these words.

Sunday, December 9

Second Sunday in Advent

Psalm 22:6-8

The crowd of people who gathered around the cross of Jesus had no mercy on the suffering and dying Savior. They despised and mocked Him. Matthew 27:39-44. All this Jesus patiently suffered to make us God's children. David uses almost the same words that the mocking crowd used.

Monday, December 10

Psalm 22:14-17

These verses fortell the terrible agony of Jesus' crucifixion. Read them slowly, and try to imagine the suffering He had — His lifeblood pouring out from His pierced hands and feet, His body pulled and bent until every bone was out of joint and showing through the skin, the hot fever that made Him feel dry as a broken dish and made His tongue stick to the roof of His mouth, His heart as broken and running out in His body. Matthew 27:35 a. All this He suffered for you and for me.

Tuesday, December 11

Psalm 22:18

During Jesus' life on earth it seems that the only thing He owned was the clothing He wore. He did have a good coat, or vesture, which was woven of one piece of cloth, without seams. The soldiers who crucified Him divided His clothing and drew lots to see who would get His good coat. John 19:23, 24. Even this detail is foretold in the Old Testament. Yet, through His death,

Jesus bought for each of us a white robe of holiness to cover all our sins.

Wednesday, December 12

Psalm 34:20

Jesus was crucified with two thieves on Friday morning. Friday evening at 6:00 P.M. the Jewish sabbath or holy day began. The Jews did not want any dead bodies hanging on crosses on their holy day; therefore they urged Pilate, the governor to break the legs of these three men to make them die faster, that their bodies could be taken away. But when the soldiers came to Jesus, they found Him dead already and did not break His legs. John 19:33-36.

Thursday, December 13

Psalm 41:9

The betrayer, that is, the one who will give Jesus into the hands of His enemies, is here foretold. It will be one of Jesus' close friends, one whom Jesus trusted, one who lived with Jesus and ate at the same table. He shall "lift up his heel" as if to kick Jesus out of the way. That one was Judas, one of the twelve disciples, who lived with Jesus for three years. John 13:18. John 18:3 and 12.

Friday, December 14

Psalm 69:21

Crucifixion was a most painful and cruel death. The Roman soldiers did show a little mercy to the victims by giving them a drink of sour wine mixed with gall, a kind of dope, to deaden the pain. They also offered this to Jesus. But He would not drink it because He wanted to be fully awake and suffer all the pain and punishment for our sins. Matthew 27:34.

Saturday, December 15

Psalm 110:4

Jesus is our priest. In the Old Testament times the Jewish priests daily killed animals and made sacrifice gifts to God of these animals. When Jesus came, He did not offer an animal sacrifice to God, but Jesus gave His own body and blood into death. This one death of Jesus is *the true sacrifice* and takes away the sins of the world. Hebrews 5:5, 6; Hebrews 7:26, 27.

Sunday, December 16

Third Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 50:5, 6

The prophet Isaiah is often called the Gospel or good-news writer of the Old Testament. He wrote 700 years before Jesus' birth. Here he tells how Jesus will give Himself to the enemies and let them scourge Him, shame Him, and spit on Him. Jesus did not have to die that way. If He had rebelled or refused, no power on earth could have captured and killed Him. He gave Himself to death because He loved us. John 18:1-13; Matthew 27:26; Matthew 26:67.

Monday, December 17

Isaiah 53:2, 3

Isaiah 53 is a most beautiful chapter. As we read it, we feel Isaiah must have stood right near Jesus' cross as he wrote it. In these verses Isaiah foretells how Jesus will come into the world and how the people will receive Him. He will come humbly and without worldly beauty or power. His own people, the Jews, will despise and reject Him. John 1:10, 11.

If we look to Jesus for worldly riches, fame, and power, we shall

be disappointed. If we look to Him for spiritual riches, we shall be more than satisfied.

Tuesday, December 18

Isaiah 53:4-6

Why did Jesus suffer and die? It was not for His sins, for He had no sin. He died for our sins. He is our Substitute. He carried our griefs and sorrows, the pains and sufferings we should have gotten for our sins. We were like lost sheep going on wrong ways of sin. The Lord took all these sins of ours and put them on Jesus. He got the punishment. We get healing, that is, forgiveness and salvation. 1 Peter 2:24.

Wednesday, December 19

Isaiah 53:7

Have you ever visited a stockyard and seen how the animals are killed? The cows and pigs struggle and make a great noise, but the sheep and the lambs walk quietly to their death and struggle not. Jesus was as a lamb in His death. He did not fight back or cry out or curse His enemies. Matthew 26:63; Matthew 27:13, 14. Jesus' followers, too, are not rebellious.

Thursday, December 20

Isaiah 53:9

Even the details of Jesus' burial are foretold by God. Through Isaiah God tells that Jesus will die with wicked people. He did die between two criminals. As a rule the bodies of crucified criminals were thrown into some pit. But when Jesus died, a rich man, Joseph of Arimathea, a secret follower and friend of Jesus, became brave and asked for permission to take Jesus' body to his own new stone tomb. Thus Jesus was

"with the rich in His death." Matthew 27:57-60.

Friday, December 21

St. Thomas' Day

Isaiah 53:10

This verse and the following verses tell that Jesus shall get the victory over Satan, sin, and hell. He shall die, but only when He has finished His great work of salvation. John 19:30; Colossians 2:15. He shall rise again. Matthew 28:8. Then He shall "prolong His days," that is, He shall live forever. And "He shall see His seed." He shall see many come to faith in Him and thus become His spiritual children.

Saturday, December 22

Isaiah 53:12b

"He made intercession (prayer) for the transgressors (law-breakers)." While the Jews were rejoicing because they thought they were getting rid of Jesus, and while the soldiers and others were mocking Him, Jesus had no evil thought against them. Instead He prayed for them, asking the Father to forgive them. Luke 23:34. Here we can learn how to forgive and do good to those who sin against us.

Sunday, December 23

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 7:14

It never happened before that a virgin, a clean unmarried woman, gave birth to a baby. But Isaiah says that a virgin shall conceive and give birth to a son. It happened when Mary, a true virgin, conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost and gave birth to Jesus on the first Christmas. Luke 1:30, 31 and 34, 35; Luke 2:4-7.

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That's important. If Jesus had been born as all other babies, in sin, from sinful parents, He also would need a Savior and could not save us. But He was born in a wonderful way and without sin. Therefore He can save us.

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:6, 7

This Child Jesus, who shall be born of the Virgin Mary, shall be a *wonderful* Child. He is wonderful, for although He is a true man with flesh and blood just as we are (1 Timothy 2:5), yet at the same time He is true God. 1 John 5:20. This is a great mystery. We cannot understand it. But we believe it, for God's Word teaches it. And we thank God for giving us this wonderful Son to be our Redeemer.

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day

Micah 5:2

The prophet Micah lived at the same time as Isaiah. He foretells the birthplace of Jesus. It shall be in Bethlehem, a little town of Judah. Luke 2:4 and 6, 7. God's way of doing things — how different from ours! If we had to arrange the birth of Jesus, we would pick a castle in the greatest city. God picked a barn in a very lowly town. Yet God made no mistake. No one is to feel too lowly or poor to come to Jesus. He came as God's Gift to all. John 3:16. He is everybody's Savior.

Wednesday, December 26

St. Stephen's Day

Jeremiah 23:5, 6

Jeremiah lived 600 years before Jesus was born. He prophesied that

Jesus should come from the family of David. The family tree of David did give many kings of the Jews. But finally it died out. There were no more kings from David's family on the throne. Then, as if from the dead trunk of that family tree, came Jesus, the greatest King of all. Matthew 1:1. His rule is a spiritual rule. In His kingdom is right judgment and justice and safety from every enemy.

Thursday, December 27

St. John's Day

Malachi 3:1

Malachi is the last of the Old Testament prophets. He lived 400 years before Jesus' birth. Here he foretells that, just before Jesus comes, God will send His messenger to prepare the way for Jesus. This messenger was John the Baptist. He was born just six months before Jesus. Luke 1:13, 63, 76.

Friday, December 28

The Holy Innocents' Day

Isaiah 40:3-5

Isaiah also prophesies about John the Baptist. He tells about the preaching of John. He calls John "the voice of one crying in the wilderness," because John shall preach in a powerful way in the wilderness lands. Just as people would clear the road and make it smooth if a great king were coming to town, so John shall urge the people to take everything out of the way so Jesus can come into their hearts. Luke 3:2-6. Is the way open for Jesus to come into our hearts?

Saturday, December 29

Zechariah 11:12, 13

Zechariah foretells that Jesus shall be sold into the hands of His

enemies for money. This happened when Judas went to the Jews and agreed to give Jesus to them for 30 pieces of silver, the price of a slave. Matthew 26:14-16. Later Judas was sorry and brought the money back and threw it into the temple. Rather than put it in the church treasury, the Jews bought a burial ground. Matthew 27:3-10.

Jesus wanted to forgive Judas, but Judas did not believe it. Never doubt that Jesus forgives your sin, no matter how black your sin is.

Sunday, December 30

Sunday after Christmas

Zechariah 12:10

When the soldiers came to Jesus and wanted to break His legs to make Him die faster, they saw that He was already dead. Perhaps to be doubly sure, one soldier pierced Jesus' side with a spear. John 19:34-37. Here is proof that Jesus actually died on the cross. The Jews made sure of that. After His resurrection they could not say, "He never was really dead."

Monday, December 31

New Year's Eve

Zechariah 9:9

Jesus is our great King. That is a comforting thought as we close the old year and look forward to the new. Jesus yet rules the world. He has power over all. Matthew 28:18. We need not worry about the future. Especially Jesus protects His church on earth. Ephesians 1:22 b. Therefore "rejoice, O daughter of Jerusalem (all believers)." If the new year will be our last year on earth, He will lead us to His Kingdom of Glory in heaven. 2 Timothy 4:18.



Bible Quiz

Why did the tax collector strike his breast and look down to the ground? Luke 18:13.

How does St. John sum up all that Jesus taught us in one statement of two short commands? 1 John 3:23.

With what are the unclean spirits compared that come out of the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet, the enemies of Christ? Revelation 16:13.

What did the young man see when he and Elisha were surrounded by enemies and Elisha had prayed to God? 2 Kings 6:17.

What should not be withheld from them that have it coming to them? Proverbs 3:27.

What did the Egyptian Pharaoh threaten to do to Moses after nine plagues had come, if Moses would show his face again to Pharaoh? Exodus 10:28.

40th Anniversary
(Continued from page 180)

At the jubilee celebration, letters and messages from the Deaf all along the Pacific Coast gave eloquent testimony to the esteem in which these people hold this indefatigable missionary.

After a special service in which Pastor Jonas of Los Angeles preached, the Deaf honored their pastor and friend at a dinner. They gave him tangible tokens of their appreciation in the form of a plaque and a substantial cash purse.

REV. THEO. DELANEY, in the
California and Nevada Witness

How is God dishonored? Romans 2:23.

What was the name of Abraham's second wife that he married after Sarah had died? Genesis 25:1.

How old was Abraham when he died? Genesis 25:7.

Who shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven? Matthew 5:19.

How can we become truly glad? John 20:20.

Who is a child of Abraham even if he is not Jewish? Galatians 3:7.

Where did St. Paul go right after he became a believer before he returned to Damascus? Galatians 2:17.

Was Paul personally acquainted with all the apostles? Galatians 2:18, 19, 22.

Against what did God warn the people of Israel when they would enter the Promised Land? Deuteronomy 18:9.

What happened to King Jeroboam as he raised his hand against the prophet who had warned and scolded him because he had built an altar and sacrificed to idols on it? 1 Kings 13:4.

What are the names of the man and his son spoken of in Proverbs 30:4? (See also Matthew 3:17.)

Who hates his own soul? Proverbs 29:24.

What should one do if one has been proud or thought evil? Proverbs 30:32.