

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

Volume 49

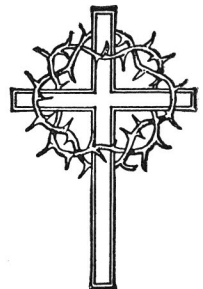
MARCH 1957

Number 3

LENT

“Is it nothing to you, all
ye that pass by? Behold,
and see if there be any sor-
row like unto My sorrow,
which is done unto Me,
wherewith the Lord hath
afflicted Me in the day of
His fierce anger.”

Lamentations 1:12



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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 annum anywhere in the world, payable strictly in advance. 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 cancellations to Rev. Wm. Reinking, 6301 Alamo, St. Louis 5, 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, 55 Kittredge, Boston 31, Mass.

Christian Growth

Christian growth is like the growth of a tree. A tree really never stops to grow until it dies. People continue to grow until they reach a certain height at a certain age, and then they stop growing. But the growth of a Christian, like the growth of a tree, never stops. The Holy Spirit continues to guide God's people in the truth so that their knowledge of God's will and of God's Word increases as the years pass.

When we talk about the growth of people, we say that they "grow up." This is a correct way of speaking because we measure people's growth in terms of height. We say that they are so many feet tall. Therefore, human growth is upward growth.

Christian growth, too, is upward growth. Higher and higher grow the Christian's hopes, reaching out to heaven and to God. But the Christian's growth is also downward growth. Deeper and deeper grow the roots of his knowledge and understanding until he is like a mighty oak that cannot be moved.

The roots of a tree sink deeper and deeper into the ground and draw the water that is there; for the tree needs the moisture for growth. Just as the growth of the tree depends on the water that the roots draw from the earth, so the growth of the Christian depends on the fact that he is rooted and grounded deeply in the Word of God, for there flows the water of life.

"He is like a tree planted by the streams of water, that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does he prospers." (Psalm 1:3, RSV.)

W. H. HOEMANN

The Lesson of the Gulf Stream

The Gulf Stream is a mighty ocean current moving northward along the East Coast of our country, then fanning out across the Atlantic towards Great Britain and the Scandinavian countries. It is a very helpful stream, warming the climate all along its course. Having absorbed the warmth of the sun's rays in the equatorial zone, it carries and gives off its warmth all along the way and far up into northern latitudes.

So also ought the Christian life be a mighty Gulf Stream spreading warmth and love in a world that is all too cold and selfish. Having absorbed the warmth of God's great love shown us in Christ, our Savior, the Christian through his life of love and service to God in turn spreads warmth and love wherever he may go. Realizing that each of us as an individual is a part of that beneficial stream, it ought to be the purpose of our life to absorb as much of God's love in order that we in turn might radiate the warmth of love and unselfishness in all our daily doings. This is the Christian life. "He died for all that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them and rose again." (2 Corinthians 5:15) *Selected.*

Thirty Years of Service in Foreign Missions

Deaconess Gertrude Simon has completed thirty years of mission service, first in China proper and now in Hong Kong. In commemoration of this event, and the fact that the Rev. E. Hodde has also com-

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He Loved Us Even unto Death

A little girl was dying, and a blood transfusion was needed to save her life. Her brother was asked if he would give his blood to his sister. He said he would. The nurse prepared him for the transfusion. When the doctor was ready to withdraw the blood, the boy turned deathly pale. "What's the matter, buddy?" asked the doctor. "When will I die?" — "Die?" said the doctor. "Do you think this will kill you?" — "Yes." — "And you are still willing to give your blood to your sister?" — "Sure." — If someone loves us enough to die for us, it really touches our heart. Well, *Jesus* has done exactly that for us. He loved us unto death.

During this Lenten season His great love-sacrifice on cross-crowned Calvary is impressed deeply upon our hearts and souls again. The Bible magnifies the great love of Jesus which caused Him to suffer and die for our salvation. "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us" (1 John 3:16). "Christ also hath loved us, and hath given HIMSELF for us" (Ephesians 5:2). This amazing love of Jesus really gripped St. Paul's heart. He considered himself the chief of sinners totally unworthy of God's love, and when he found that Christ loved him so, he could not

keep still about it any more. He testified: "The life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). This same love of Christ also grips the hearts of Christians today and impels them, against the will of their sinful heart, to live and labor and give for their dear Lord.

But how about *you*? Is this great love of Christ winning out over the desires of your selfish, sinful old heart? When asked to give for God's work, home church, missions, charity, etc., do you mutter to yourself and others: "The church is always asking for money"? When asked to serve as an officer or on committees at church do you refuse and make all kinds of excuses? Or if you do accept an office in the church, do you grumble and complain about all the work? Is the selfish, old heart winning the fight of faith?

We hope not. But if so — then during this Lenten season go in spirit to dark Gethsemane and see what selfishness and love of money did to Judas, and tremble as you are shocked by his terrible self-destruction. Above all, sit at the foot of the cross and look upon the bleeding, dying Son of God to see God's terrible punishment of sin, the sin He bore for you. There, at the place

(Please turn to page 48)

St. Louis, Mo. — Bertha Mae, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Manuel **Bland**, was received into the Kingdom of Grace by Baptism on November 18, and on November 25 the four children of **Mrs. Geneva Brown** were baptized; they are **Celia Ann**, **Shirley Joan**, **Cornelius Lee**, and **Wayne, Jr.** On December 2 **Arnold Kelso**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Landon Kelso, and **Michelle Ann Spencer**, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Spencer, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. May God in His mercy keep all these safely. — We are happy to announce that the property of Unity Lutheran Church on Hereford and Oleatha Streets on the South Side of St. Louis has been obtained by us as the site for our new church. Unity offered it for sale as that hearing church is relocating and the bid of Holy Cross for the Deaf was accepted. Details and future plans have not been decided at this writing. — The 1957 officers of the Ladies' Aid are **Elsie Viets**, president; **Jean Griffin**, vice-president; **Faye Rossell**, secretary; **Sue Reinking**, treasurer. The officers of the Men's Club are **Walter Viets**, president; **Hubert Elrod**, vice-president; **Raymond Trice**, secretary-treasurer. The officers of Holy Cross Congregation are **Archie Marshall**, president; **Raymond Trice**, vice-president; **Wm. Lambur**, treasurer; **W. Viets** and **H. Elrod**, trustees; **M. Rossell**, recording financial secretary; **O. Krumm**, **T. Wrausmann**, **Wm. Kadlec**, ushers.

During the week of evangelism in St. Louis, the PTR, our members visited fifty homes, encouraging people to attend and to give heed to God's call to repentance. An average of sixteen visitors attended the five services of the week, a total average of fifty-eight people attending the services. Rev. Delb. Thies of Jacksonville, Ill., was the guest missionary, and his topic was "God's Children." Such a series of meetings brings great blessings in bringing others to the knowledge of salvation and rekindling the love for the church and Christ in the members of the congregation.

Jacksonville, Ill. — Peter Weekly Huston and **Miss Audrey Lorraine Geiman** were married at Peoria, Ill., on October 13. May they have the Lord's blessing always. — **David Thies**, son of Rev. and Mrs. Delbert I. Thies, spent some weeks at a local hospital, a victim of rheumatic fever. May no serious aftermath plague the little fellow. The illness, says the doctor, has not affected his



I. S. D. Children Baptized at Jacksonville, Ill.
L. to r., front: **K. Cochran**, **R. Allison** with **R. Chaplin** in front of him, **N. Wurtz**, **J. Elmore**, **H. Nunn**; rear: **M. Burpo**, **Pastor Thies**, **S. Bohannon**, **L. Elmore**, **I. Summers**. **R. Adams**, also baptized in that class, December 9, 1956, is missing on picture

heart. — A considerable sum of money has been received in the treasury of Christ Deaf Church as memorial wreaths for several recently departed members and friends of the Deaf. With obligations totaling \$5,700 for the additional rooms which had to be constructed, and for several other things, such as an outside bulletin board, these gifts were very welcome. Surely by using memorial wreaths instead of quickly withering flowers a lasting good is achieved. — Twelve children of the Illinois School for the Deaf, pupils of our Bible classes, were on December 9 baptized at Christ Chapel. The names are: **Roger Adams, Richard Allison, Stephen Bohanon, Michael Burpo, Robert Chaplin, Kenneth Cochran, Eugene and James and Lawrence Elmore, Harold Nunn, Irvin Summers, Nathan Wurtz.** God keep these in His grace. — Christ Auxiliary served a dinner on December 16 for the members of the Sign Language Class from Concordia Seminary in Springfield, and for the members of our congregation.

D. I. T.

Spokane, Wash. — **Mrs. A. L. Hauptmann** for the second time within several months was forced to go to the hospital for a short while. May the Lord restore her health completely. Pastor Hauptmann has a task on his hands when his faithful helpmate is ill; for there is a fine row of children to be looked after. A pastor of the Deaf with such a vast territory to look after as he has will feel such illness very much. The winter season with its cold and weather has repeatedly disturbed his trips to Montana, for he uses the airlines, and the winter season with its storms often causes delays

and cancellations. Let us not forget him in our prayers for the Lord's protection; for at home a wife with six children pray for and hope for "daddy's" safe return. Psalm 91: 11, 12.

Kansas City, Mo. — From Pastor A. L. Ferber's bulletins the Editor gleans the interesting news that there are over 112 pupils in his Bible classes at Olathe from the Kansas School for the Deaf. He mentions another thing that gives church workers a thankful feeling, namely, a number of interested and active "assistants" as Bible-class leaders and teachers at various stations in his extensive field. Such circumstances indicate a growth in Christian understanding, faith, and love of the Savior.

Seattle, Wash. — On December 2 Pastor Fred T. Gabert of Bethlehem Lutheran Church (hearing) with Pastor John C. Beyer prepared with and for the Canadian Broadcasting Co. network a Christmas film which was shown at Christmas time over the entire network of Canada. There were hymns and carols in signs, and vocal solos and choirs, and Rev. Gabert spoke while Pastor Beyer signed the liturgy and message. Such television services afford the Deaf in faraway places some service; and one wishes that more of such services could be given. Even hearing people find the signing of a service intensely interesting and probably give closer attention to the message than if there is no signing but only a spoken message.

Columbus, Ohio. — **Mr. Darrel Eugene Cheney** was baptized after instruction by Pastor Drachenberg at Lima, Ohio, on September 9, and on December 3 **Jonathan Mark**

Clark, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Clark of Stryker, Ohio, was laid into the arms of Jesus in Holy Baptism. God bless these people.

Cleveland, Ohio.—Baptized during 1956 in the Northern Ohio Field were: In Christ Church, Cleveland, on June 3, **Wayne Neil**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter **Juhnke**; on July 22, **Barbara Ann**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul **Conner**; on November 18, **Patricia Susan Kleinhen** and **George Kirkham, Jr.**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. K. **Perry, Sr.**—In St. Philip Church, Cleveland, on April 1, **Bernard** and **Vance**, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard **Spragner, Sr.**; **Zenobia Jean**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Macio **Craft**.—In Mansfield, on April 29, **Cathy Lynn**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles **Picking**; on May 27, **Paul Elmer Douglas**; and on September 8, **Miss Edith Mulhall**.—May God keep all these baptized persons in the faith of the Lord Jesus, and may they pass through life as faithful Christians!

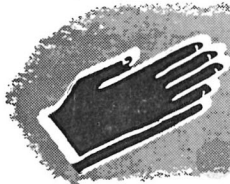
Because of the vacancy which had existed in southern Ohio, the undersigned for nine months served also southern Ohio, using lay readers where he could not appear. Special credit should be given to these lay readers who willingly rendered services: **John Riddlebaugh** of Columbus; **Paul Doudt** of Findlay; **Harry Dobson**, **Edmond Abbott**, **Kenneth Kress**, and **Robert Lankenau** who took turns at lay reading in Akron. With the devoted help of these members we got along without a vicar. T. F.

Pastor Theo. Frederking, whose wife is a patient arthritis sufferer, writes in a letter to the Editor:

"Last October I took my wife to Phoenix, Ariz., and stayed in that beautiful climate for two weeks. My wife stayed three months, and it greatly helped her health. We wanted to find this out for the future whether the climate helps her arthritis.—One of my daughters and family moved there. So she had a good place to stay.—I visited the Deaf school in Tucson, and attended a deaf Sunday school class of the United Lutheran Church there. They take out about 60 children each Sunday to their church. The older children have a service, and the younger, unconfirmed, have Sunday school. On Saturdays the pastor teaches confirmands, with the help of an interpreter.—If God lets me live so long, I hope to retire there, and then to see what can be done for the Deaf. I would continue to keep busy, if I can establish Deaf missions there."

Spokane, Wash.—The 1957 officers of Faith Church for the Deaf are Chas. Raymond, president; Clyde Catron, vice-president; Elmer Francisco, secretary-treasurer; Arthur Anderson and Walter Wageman, elders; John Skoglund and Luther Sandberg, trustees. Arthur Anderson has served as president for the last ten years; he was thanked for his faithful services, as were the other outgoing officers.—Pastor and Mrs. A. L. Hauptman on Christmas received as gifts from the church an electric coffeemaker and an electric fryer.

Des Moines, Iowa.—At the last meeting the dates for the Midwest Deaf Lutheran Conference were set: September 28—30, three days this time. Mark the dates on your calendar and come.



Devotions

The devotions, Hebrews 1:1—9:10, and the prayer are by Pastor N. P. Uhlig.

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 devotions as you come to them.
4. Close your devotion with the prayer for January, add what is on your heart, and repeat the Lord's prayer.

PRAYER

O Lord God, Your goodness and mercies I praise every morning, and Your patience with me makes me thankful to You every night. Forgive me the sins of today for Jesus' sake, and give me strength daily to improve in holiness. To this end give me zeal to study Your holy Word today again, and make me to see especially the love of Jesus in this holy season of Lent, so that I realize ever more and more how much You loved me and that I belong to You. In mercy hold Your hand over me and my loved ones near and far and guide and protect us wherever we are. Give Your blessing to our work. Bless and protect our home and country, our government, our church and Synod, our missions and colleges, our hospitals and institutions of charity. In temptations make me remember Your Word and help me resist the devil. In danger let Your angels be near. Should death come to me suddenly, receive me for the sake of my Savior. Amen.

Friday, March 1

Hebrews 1:1-6

Jesus, God's Personal Word. We use words to say what we mean. God showed us His thoughts of love by sending us His Son. So Jesus alone gives us the real insight into God's mind and heart. Jesus is here described as being God, who created and upholds all things and, after having purged away our sin, now rules over all as the King eternal. He is greater than the angels, and they worship Him as God. So let us always regard Jesus as truly God's Son and our Savior. This is what the writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews wishes to say especially to the Jewish people, not to

reject Jesus. May we also ever realize this.—Lord Jesus, let me always remember what You are to me. Amen.

Saturday, March 2

Hebrews 1:7-14

Jesus, the Eternal, Supreme King. The great King, Jesus, has His throne in heaven. His scepter, the rod of authority, is righteousness and holiness. He rules with power over all, for He created all, and all must serve His purpose. He always remains the same. How great is He! All the angels serve Him. And this great King loves you and me and saves us. Are we His loyal subjects and citizens of His king-

dom? We are so through faith alone. What comfort, to know that this great King has chosen us weak humans to be His brethren and cares so much for us that He even dies for us! Lord, I give You honor, love, and worship. Amen.

March 3

Quinquagesima Sunday

1 Corinthians 13

Love. This chapter of First Corinthians is the chapter of love. As we now approach the Lenten season and study the great love of the Savior in His hard work of paying for our sins, we are urged to learn love from Him. And this chapter beautifully shows us how true love behaves and what it does. Oh, that we and all the world would learn that lesson properly! That would take away fighting and quarrels. O Jesus, let us learn true love from You. Amen.

Monday, March 4

Hebrews 2:1-4

Jesus and His Word are Trustworthy. This Epistle, in which the writer wished to show to his fellow Jews that Jesus is the Messiah whom God had promised them long ago, now impresses the reader in these verses that the messages that angels gave were reliable; and therefore surely the message of God's Son, Jesus, is trustworthy, since the Father Himself called Jesus His Son whom all men should hear and whose Word God supported with miracles. Surely, nobody has any excuse, and nobody can escape judgment and punishment if he neglects this great salvation. These are serious words, which must ever remain in our

mind. Lord, let us think seriously about our salvation and the rescue of those who do not yet know that they are rejecting their salvation if they refuse You. Amen.

March 5

Shrove Tuesday

Hebrews 2:5-13

Jesus, our Brother in Humble Humiliation. Though Jesus is far above any and all angels, He was humbled, humiliated, that means He appeared in such a humble state here on earth that He surely did not seem to people to be what He really was. In order to save us He put aside the full use of His power and majesty and became a servant. So He was not ashamed to become our humble Brother, and this gives comfort and confidence to poor sinners to know that this great Son of God, the Captain of our salvation as He is called, suffered for us and with us as our Brother. O Jesus, there is no love such as Your love for us. Amen.

March 6

Ash Wednesday

Luke 18:31-43

On the Way to the Cross. This lesson, the Gospel for last Sunday, shows us Jesus on the way to Jerusalem and death. Today is Ash Wednesday, the day on which we begin the special study of Christ's suffering. Let us go with Him, daily thinking about His suffering and reading about it. Let us not go as blind persons who do not see and understand who Jesus is and what He did. As Jesus opened the eyes of the blind man, so may our eyes be opened in this season to see that we really caused His suffering and that

we are healed by His stripes. Lord, let us go with You to Calvary. Amen.

Thursday, March 7

Hebrews 2:14-18

Jesus was a True Human Being. Jesus, our Brother, has a true human nature. He received His body from and through the Virgin Mary. He had to have a human body to be able to be under the Law that was given to humans, and keep the Law for them and suffer and die, taking the punishment for our sins. He was our full Equal in all things, except that He was holy and we all are sinful. Having gone through all that we have to go through, He now can be our Comfort. Jesus, my Brother, I thank You for Your love. Amen.

Friday, March 8

Hebrews 3:1-6

More Glorious than Faithful Moses. Moses, the greatest man of the Old Testament, is honored by all, especially by the Jews, for whose special benefit this Epistle was first written. But Jesus is more glorious; Moses was a servant of God, Jesus is God Himself. We are called His house, that means we by faith belong to the family of God, being children of God by faith in Jesus. So let us give the highest honor to our Savior. Lord Jesus, all honor be to You forever by all. Amen.

Saturday, March 9

Hebrews 3:7-13

The Hardened Heart. Because Jesus is trustworthy and deserves all honor for His love and work of salvation, the writer of Hebrews warns all not to harden their hearts

against the simple, true story. So many people, not only Jewish people but many others also, do not like to hear that the blood of Jesus had to be shed for the forgiveness of the sins of the world, and they can see no good in the doctrine of the suffering of Jesus for the sins of all. Lord, let us not be offended by the story of Your death for our sins. Amen.

March 10

Invocavit, First Sunday in Lent

Matthew 4:1-11

The Devil Tempts Jesus. Satan soon met the Representative of all men, Jesus, as he had met Adam, the representative and father of all men. So he would test and try Jesus. And so he still meets all people; no one is safe. But the "second Man," or the last Adam, as Jesus is called in the Bible (1 Corinthians 15:45, 47), did not fall as did Adam. So Jesus made good for the fall of Adam and showed the devil that He was his master. He overcame Satan by following the instructions God gives in the Bible, and He shows us the way to stand against the devil. Use and follow God's Word. To use this weapon we must become acquainted with it by constant and earnest study, just as people learn how to use any gun or weapon and become fully acquainted with it by handling it. Lord, make us students of Your Word. Amen.

Monday, March 11

Hebrews 3:14-19

Lost Through Unbelief. Here we are again warned, not to disregard the Word, but rather to study the

history of the Jews in their wanderings through the desert, how they failed to reach the Promised Land because of unbelief. In Numbers 14:2-11 we read about the rebellion against Moses and Aaron; only Joshua and Caleb spoke up against the rebels, and these were the only two that finally entered Canaan. What a lesson! Lord, help us so that we reach the heavenly Canaan. Amen.

Tuesday, March 12

Hebrews 4:1-9

Heaven, the Place of True Rest. The word "rest" is explained here. It does not mean to stop work for a while, as God "rested" on the seventh day, stopping to create. And it does not mean that the Israelites were to get "rest" by getting into the Promised Land under Joshua, who in v. 8 is called Jesus, as the Greek name Jesus and the Hebrew name Joshua both mean the same, namely "Savior." They came into Canaan, but still did not get the "rest" which remains to the people of God. That is heaven. Lord, bring us to the place of perfect rest, heaven. Amen.

Wednesday, March 13

Hebrews 4:10-16

The Way to "Rest" is Jesus. Who enters heaven rests in real peace. For this we must work (v. 11), "labor," using diligently God's Word, which is powerful and sharp and separates truth from lie (v. 12). And this Word tells us that we get to heaven through the great High Priest, Jesus, who passed through much suffering into heaven and who has feeling for us. So let us without fear and doubt trust Him and

His Word and come to rest at last in heaven. Lord, give us that rest. Amen.

Thursday, March 14

Hebrews 5:1-10

Jesus, the Chosen High Priest. In the Old Testament Church the high priest was the go-between between God and the people. Jesus is that Go-between, or Mediator, between God and man. The Old Testament high priests were weak sinners, who had to make offerings for their own sins first, but still they were chosen, and no one takes such an honor unless he is called. Jesus, holy, needed not to make offering for Himself; He was the Chosen One of God; He made the necessary offering; He learned obedience through suffering and thus became the Author of salvation, preparing salvation for man. Lord, we worship You, our great High Priest. Amen.

Friday, March 15

Hebrews 5:11-15

Weak Children We Are Still. The writer of this book says that there are great and very deep and important things to be studied about this matter of salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus, and his hearers were weak of understanding. So we must confess that many of these things are very deep and we must think hard about them and must believe what God says in His Word about these things. That is God's way; and man must not put these things aside and lose interest in them, but study and believe them. Then we grow in understanding and faith. Lord, give us Your Spirit and understanding. Amen.

Saturday, March 16

Hebrews 6:1-8

Grow Up and Bring Fruit. Here we are told to hold firm to the doctrine of Christ and not to fall away. Backsliders are hard to gain again, just as it is hard to start a fire with coals that are half-burned. God sows His Word into man's heart that man bring fruit; if fruit is not forthcoming, man is cast away. So it must be our constant effort to grow and to become firmer in the doctrine by Bible study, and remain humble and obedient to God's Word. If people place themselves over the Bible and criticize it, they may become such as cannot get back as vv. 4—6 say. God, keep us from falling from Your Word. Amen.

March 17

Reminiscere, the Second Sunday
in Lent

Matthew 15:21-28

The Victory of Faith. Luther at one time said that Jesus at no other place seemed to be so hard as in His dealing with this poor woman. But He was not hard; He tried her faith, and she would not give up her confidence in Him and His power, and so she won the victory, and her daughter was healed. How many would have turned away from Christ and would have felt insulted! That is faith: it holds on to Christ and trusts. Lord, strengthen our faith! Amen.

Monday, March 18

Hebrews 6:9-15

Inherit the Promises! Here the writer asks his readers not to become discouraged and leave Christ.

The people to whom this is written, as we see from remarks in the last chapter of this book, lived in evil days and suffered much. There were persecutions and hardships to bear, and many had to flee. But he pleads with them to be faithful; God would not forget them; they should continue to believe and to prove their faith by good works for the unfortunate ones, for Jesus would reward such deeds. Eventually they would see that God takes care of them. We, too, sometimes become discouraged and tired to help and feel like quitting. But let us not become discouraged. Lord, make us strong. Amen.

Tuesday, March 19

Hebrews 6:16-20

Two Strong Supports. The two strong supports upon which our hope of heaven and God's faithfulness rest are His Word and His oath. God swore by Himself to Abraham because He is the Great One and could swear by no one greater than Himself. And so our hope is made sure by His promise and His Word, and He does not lie. We have this hope of salvation as an anchor for our soul and can hold fast to that at all times. So we will enter heaven where our Forerunner, Jesus, has gone. What a great and sure thing is this hope of eternal salvation! God, uphold us in all hours of trouble by Your Word and oath. Amen.

Wednesday, March 20

Hebrews 7:1-3

Melchisedec, King of Salem. This king, Melchisedec, is a type of Christ, that is, he reminds us of Christ. We know little of him. He

was king of Salem, which name means peace. When Abraham had defeated the four kings that had defeated five kings and had taken Lot prisoner, Abraham's nephew, then Melchisedec came and blessed Abraham, and Abraham gave tithes to him. We know no more about Melchisedec; who his father and mother were, where and when he was born, nor when he died; and so he appears as a priest always or "forever." So he is a type of Jesus, the Eternal One, who was the King of Peace and Righteousness. Jesus, You are my King of Peace. Amen.

Thursday, March 21

Hebrews 7:4-10

Melchisedec was Greater than Israel's Priests. Melchisedec received tithes from Abraham, one tenth of the things Abraham and his servants had won in the battle. The priests of Israel were all from the tribe of Levi, and they got the tithes from the other tribes; that was their income. But when Abraham gave Melchisedec tithes, Abraham was the representative of all the twelve tribes, also of Levi; so even really the Levites had given tithes to Melchisedec, who is described as being "eternal" because we know nothing more about him. Since the smaller give tithes to the better, Melchisedec is called greater than the priests of the tribe of Levi. So Christ is also greater than the priests of Israel. We shall learn more of this in the next section. To us, who are not Jewish, all these things seem a little strange; but the Hebrews had great interest in their priesthood, and we must know the stories in order to appreciate the work of Jesus, the great High Priest.

Lord, give us the understanding of these matters which are so important. Amen.

Friday, March 22

Hebrews 7:11-14

Jesus Was of Judah, Not of Levi. Jesus, of whom Melchisedec had been a type or reminder, did not come from the tribe of Levi, to which tribe Moses and Aaron belonged and which tribe furnished all the priests and priest helpers who were called Levites. So the priesthood of Israel, of the tribe of Levi, was not the perfect priesthood. But Jesus would come, and they of the Old Testament all were just types, or reminders, of the *Real One* who is Jesus. It meant that with His coming the old arrangement would be finished and done away with, and that is what the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews is telling them; they should understand that and accept Jesus. Lord, may we see in You the true High Priest. Amen.

Saturday, March 23

Hebrews 7:15-19

Jesus Not a Temporary but the Eternal High Priest. In this section we are told that there would come a priest, not of the tribe of Levi, not chosen by the law of natural birth in the tribe of Levi, but chosen by the power of an endless life, namely, one who is really eternal and divine. All this refers only to Jesus, who is called a Priest "after the order of Melchisedec" and not after the order of the old laws of the Hebrew people. Those old rules and orders were not perfect; but when God sent His Son to be the Priest who with His one sacrifice would take all sins away, then man

would have a better hope and could come to God and peace. God, thank You for having given us that better hope. Amen.

March 24

Oculi Sunday, the Third Sunday
in Lent

Luke 11:14-28

Jesus Casts Out Devils. In Lent we study Christ's victory over Satan. This lesson today shows what the outcome of that battle on Calvary will be; Satan will be defeated. But Christ's enemies said that Jesus did these wonderful things with the help of the devil. But Jesus shows how foolish it is to say that He did these things with the devil's help and that the disciples of the Pharisees themselves claimed to drive out evil spirits and surely would not say that the devil helped them do so. But He One who defeats the devil. He tells them that He is the Stronger invites them to accept Him and share the victory with Him. Lord, give us Your help in defeating the temptations of the devil. Amen.

Monday, March 25

The Annunciation

Luke 1:26-38

The Birth of Jesus Is Announced to Mary. On this day we remember the visit of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary telling her that she would become the mother of the Son of God. This miracle has always been a stumbling block to those that do not believe that God's wisdom and power can and does find ways and means to make His plans go through. With God nothing is impossible. Let us never doubt what Scripture tells us; it pleases God to

go His own ways, which often seem impossible and wrong. But in the end His glory and our welfare are achieved thereby. Thank You, Jesus, for having been born to become our High Priest and to save us. Amen.

Tuesday, March 26

Hebrews 7:20-25

Jesus Forever Pleads for Us. It was the duty of the priests to pray for the people for whom they made the offerings. So Jesus, the Eternal One, is surely the very best Advocate, or lawyer, that we could have. He lives forever, for He is a "priest forever after the order of Melchisedec." The human priests died, and new ones came constantly; but "He ever liveth" and pleads for us. What comfort that He who never sleeps will watch for you; and when a Christian suddenly dies in an accident, that High Priest is on the watch up there, and the soul is welcome; for "the Lord knoweth them that are His." Jesus, thank You for the comfort of Your prayers for us. Amen.

Wednesday, March 27

Hebrews 7:26-28

The Perfect Priest Made the One Perfect Sacrifice. Here we have the great verses of these chapters. We need this Priest and not the human sinful men who needed daily to ask first forgiveness for themselves and then could only render services which in themselves were worthless if this one great sacrifice of Jesus had not been offered and made them valid. It is neither true nor necessary that in the Mass of the Catholic Church the priest "offers Christ daily once more in an unbloody manner." This verse says that Jesus

with His one sacrifice did all that needed to be done, and nothing more can be added. By saying that He must be daily sacrificed again His one great sacrifice is denied. Lord, keep us in the truth. Amen.

Thursday, March 28

Hebrews 8:1-7

The Old Testament Priesthood and Laws Foreshadowed the Coming of Better Things in the New Testament. When Moses built the tabernacle in the wilderness, he was told to do so exactly after a pattern that God showed Him. Thereby God indicated that the tabernacle on earth was to be a shadow or example of a heavenly, spiritual temple. So the writer wishes to ask his Jewish people not to put too much weight upon the old things, as they were only patterns of better things. God wanted them to be thinking of the greater, perfect thing that would come in and through Jesus. It is too sad that so many of the Jews were clinging to the outward pattern and overlooked the main thing. That is the sad story of Israel. Lord, let us look to You, and Your Word will teach and guide us aright always. Amen.

Friday, March 29

Hebrews 8:9-13

The New Covenant or Testament is Based on the Gospel and not on the Law. The Prophet Jeremiah had told of the time of the New Testament that a new covenant, which means contract, or agreement, would be made between God and man, based upon the forgiveness which would come through the bringing of the sacrifice of the true High Priest and would make new the minds and hearts of the people. It

is clearly a reference to the Gospel message, which makes new the man and gives him life and hope. Then people know the Lord and shall serve Him in a God-pleasing manner. Lord, thank You for having given us this Gospel. Amen.

Saturday, March 30

Hebrews 9:1-10

The Old Testament Church Laws of Sacrifices Were Figures of Something Far Better. While the temple and the furnishings were beautiful and the order of services with the shedding of the blood carefully ordered by God, all this was temporary. The "Holy Ghost was signifying, v.8, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest." And it was to stand "until the time of the reformation" which is the time when Christ would on the cross bring that great sacrifice. In the devotions of April we shall continue with the remaining chapters of Hebrews and see how this wonderful book brings so clearly the meaning of the Old Testament church worship as showing the coming of our Savior and His work. Lord, make us to see the wonders of Your wisdom. Amen.

March 31

Sunday Laetare, the Fourth Sunday in Lent

John 6:1-15

Jesus Feeds the Multitudes of People. "Remember that the Lord is the Son of God and the eternal Helper," that is the message of this miracle. He is the Prophet who was to come into this world. Lord, give us Your grace to give attention to the message of the great Prophet, the great High Priest, the great King. Amen.

of skulls, your loving Lord and self-sacrificing Savior says to you: "This I did in *your* place that you might have a happy eternity," and then He asks: "What in loving faith are you going to do for Me to prove the sincerity of your love?"

Let us all always keep the image of the *cross* in our Christian living and giving. Let us fight our selfish old nature as we by faith gladly give ourselves, our time, talents, and treasure to *Him* who loved us — *loved us unto death!*

AUGUST L. HAUPTMAN

pleted thirty years of service, a special anniversary service was held in Hong Kong College, Kowloon, Hong Kong. The Rev. John W. Behnken, D.D., President of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, was the speaker for this service.

All who know Miss Simon testify of her missionary ardor in the cause of Christ. She devotes much effort and time to the women of Hong Kong. In doing this she enlists the assistance of many native women whom she trains and guides.

From the *Lutheran Deaconess*



Bible Quiz

What was the name of the teacher of Hebrew law who accompanied Apollos? Titus 3:13.

Who will have many friends? Proverbs 19:6.

What does God like better than sacrifice and burnt offerings? Hosea 6:6.

For what should a believer watch and be careful if people will claim that they can save him? Luke 21:8.

What may true believers expect from the wicked in the last days of the world? Mark 13:3.

What shall we say when sorrow and trouble has come to us? Hosea 6:1.

What has Jesus to say to preachers that want to be very popular? Luke 6:26.

What does Isaiah call the idols, or molten images, that the heathen worship? Isaiah 41:29

How should people do their duty? Philippians 2:14

As a Hebrew talent weighed more than 100 pounds, how heavy was each hailstone that John in a vision saw falling on the wicked? Revelation 16:21

What possession of God will God not permit to be given to anyone or to anything? Isaiah 42:8

What did the monument of 12 stones at Gilgal mean to the Israelites? Joshua 4:21-23

Would Jesus, who often preached to thousands, have used a megaphone in the streets? Isaiah 42:2

Joshua led the Israelites to the promised land of Canaan. What is his name in the Greek language? Hebrews 4:8