



Ephphatha, that is, Be opened.

MARK 7:

Volume 59

August 1967 .

Number 8



Jesus again left the country of Tyre and went through Sidon and the country of the Ten Towns to the Lake of Galilee.

Some people brought Him a man who was deaf and tongue-tied, and they urged Jesus to lay His hand on him. Taking him away from the crowd to be alone with him. He put His fingers into the man's ears. He spit and touched his tongue and looked up to heaven and sighed. Then He said to him, "Ephphatha!" which means, "Open!" His ears were opened, his tongue was set free to speak, and he talked naturally.

Jesus ordered the people not to tell anyone. But the more He forbade them, the more widely they spread the news. They were dumfounded. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak." Mark 7:31-37 (Beck)

Lutherans Rejoice and Praise God!

August 13, 1967

The more than 6,000 congregations of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod will remember to thank and praise God on Aug. 13 for His blessings upon our church's work among the deaf. The Gospel reading for that Sunday, the 12th after Trinity, is the account of Jesus healing the deaf man, Mark 7:31-37. This Sunday has for many years been designated throughout Synod as Deaf Missions Sunday.

On this day our deaf congregations will also praise God for the blessings of a growing mission and for the continued interest and support of hearing congregations.

THE DEAF LUTHERAN

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Several years ago the sainted Dr. J. L. Salvner wrote the following comparison as he promoted our deaf missions among the hearing churches.

Jesus had time for the deaf. He did not mind small congregations. In Mark 7 He ministered to only one deaf man.	We take time for the deaf. Our pas- tors don't mind small groups. We serve many small groups of deaf over large areas.		
Jesus took the deaf man aside from the large crowd.	We take them aside and provide trained pastors for them.		
Jesus dealt with the deaf man with a language of signs.	We use the language of signs and well-lighted chapels for lipreading.		
Jesus showed the man that He un- derstood his problem.	We call attention to their greatest problem, which is sin.		
He looked up to heaven to show that his help will come from God.	We look to heaven, because only God can help and save.		
Jesus spoke "Ephphatha." The man heard and spoke.	We speak the Word of salvation, and the Holy Spirit works faith.		
The people and the man praised God and followed Jesus.	The deaf praise God, not always with lips, but with hands and heart.		

Certainly the Lord has guided our church from that day in 1873 when the Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit was established. How His blessings have multiplied since March 4, 1894, when Rev. Augustus Reinke preached the first sermon in the language of signs to 16 deaf, telling them that God is love!

Today a staff of 52 workers, both pastors and lay workers, serve more than 5,000 deaf Lutherans in 50 organized congregations and almost 200 preaching stations throughout the United States and Canada. Countless hearing churches conduct Sunday school classes for oral deaf children. How wonderfully the Lord is blessing our mission work among the deaf of foreign lands!

Certainly we must say, "*Ebenezer*. The Lord has always helped us! And He will always be our guide! All praise to Him!"

Rev. William A. Duey Dallas, Tex.

Cover

We eagerly respond in worship with hands and heart to the Lord of the church, Jesus Christ, in whom we believe and trust for forgiveness and eternal life. The cover picture forms the center of the "Jesus' hands" cross, John of Beverley Chapel, Dallas, Tex.

🕈 Pastor O. C. Schroeder 🛧

Rev. O. C. Schroeder, B. D., was called to his eternal rest on Wednesday, May 10, 1967, at the age of 81. Funeral services were conducted in Chicago, Ill., on Saturday, May 13, by Rev. Milton Reinke.

Pastor Schroeder served the Lord Jesus for 54 years, dedicating his ministry in service to the deaf, the deaf-blind, and the blind. His special interest in writing was expressed in the four publications he edited: the DEAF LUTHERAN (1926-51), the Lutheran Herald for the Blind (quarterly, Moon type), the Lutherische Bote (Braille for German blind), and the Lutheran Messenger for the Blind (monthly, Braille). Articles, sermons, and devotions composed by him for the blind publications since 1927 reached the hearts and minds of the blind and the deafblind all over the world as evidenced by the countless letters he received from them and answered each week. While the Lutheran Library for the Blind was located in Chicago, he served as head librarian

The son of a Lutheran minister, Pastor Schroeder was born March 28, 1886, in Dashwood, Ontario, Can. He attended Concordia College at Fort Wayne, Ind., graduating in 1906. In 1909 he completed his studies at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. On Oct. 2, 1909, he married Helen M. Spiegel, who preceded him in death on July 27, 1963. Their marriage was blessed with a daughter Mildred and a son John.

Pastor Schroeder first served two hearing churches in Knox and Hamlet, Ind., where he also taught in a parochial school. After showing an interest in the spiritual needs of the deaf and learning the language of signs from Rev. Theodore Claus of Hammond, Ind., Pastor Schroeder was installed in the Detroit-Toledo-Fort Wayne field on May 11, 1911. Here he served the three congregations and several stations in the tristate area until 1918.

In January 1918 Pastor Schroeder accepted the call to Kansas City, Mo. In the Kansas City field he found a large and practically new area where he was able to open a number of new preaching stations and at one time had as many as 72 deaf in instruction classes for church membership.

In 1921 he again moved east to the Cleveland, Ohio, field and served many deaf in Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D. C. He organized Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Pittsburgh in 1922 and Trinity Lutheran Deaf Congregation (now known as Christ Lutheran Church) in Cleveland in 1924.

Pastor Schroeder's work with the deaf-blind and the blind began in 1927. In 1931 he moved to Chicago, where he continued to serve the deaf in institutions and preaching stations while maintaining the Library for the Blind and editing his four periodicals. He continued in this work with great dedication and sacrifice for the next 32 years, retiring in 1963.

In a letter dated Dec. 2, 1962, he wrote to the Board for Missions to the Deaf: "With deep humility and heartfelt gratitude to God for His unmerited blessings upon my work in His kingdom during the past fifty-three and one-half years, I hereby regretfully withdraw from our mission, effective as of January 15, 1963."

Pastor Schroeder served beyond the normal retirement years only because of his deep concern for the spiritual care of the deaf and the blind. His dedication to his Lord Jesus is revealed also in his statement on a travel-expense voucher that he sent to the board

Exploring in the Bible

David learns it is important to obey God.

In your Bible read Exodus 25:14; Deuteronomy 10:8, and 2 Samuel 6:1-5.

The Philistines, Israel's neighboring enemy, had captured the Ark of the Covenant. This was the symbol of God's presence in Israel's house of worship. After many years it was returned to Israel, where it remained for about seventy years in the house of Abinadab. Now King David wanted to bring the Ark to Jerusalem.

The Ark was so holy that God commanded that only certain - - - - - - - - could carry it by using - - - - - . But the Israelites disobeyed God and put the Ark on a new - - - -.

Read Numbers 4:15. God's command: "They must not — — — — the holy things, lest they die."

Read 2 Samuel 6:6-11. When Uzzah touched the Ark, God — — — — him (struck him dead).

Now read 1 Chronicles 15:1-2, 11-15; 2 Samuel 6:12-15; and 1 Chronicles 15:25-28.

Are the following sentences true or false?TrueFalseGod blessed the house of Obed-edom.TrueFalseThe Ark was carried with much fear and sadness.TrueFalseThe Ark was carried by the Levites.TrueFalseThe people shouted and blew trumpets.TrueFalse

Remember: David forgot God's Word and did not obey Him. God showed David with an unhappy lesson that it is important to remember His command. "Happy are those who listen to God's Word and keep it." (Luke 11:28 Beck)

Answers on page 124.

in 1924. He tells that he was forced to pay \$5 a month out of his pocket to meet his rental payments on an apartment, and then he concluded by saying: "Yet I would be willing to work just as diligently for the deaf if I received not a dime in salary or rental allowance."

We praise our heavenly Father for the blessings He brought us by His dedicated servant, Rev. O. C. Schroeder.

REV. HERBERT ROHE

The Question Box

Q. Some of our Christian friends have a habit of using "dirty signs" when they speak and "dirty language" when they write. How can we correct them and help them stop without offending them? - Mrs. M. L., Cleveland, Ohio

A. First, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you. Then talk with your Christian friend at home or in an unoccupied room. *Never* correct the sinning member publicly in the presence of other persons, no matter how few!

The Lord Jesus encourages us in Matthew 18:15 (Beck), If your brother sins against you, go, and when you're alone with him, show him how he is wrong. If he listens to you, you have won your brother.

While talking kindly to the person in the spirit of meekness and with the goal of winning him back to Christ, use some verses of the Bible. Look up the Second and the Sixth Commandment in your catechism for the good Biblical passages. You may find these passages helpful: Matthew 5:33-37; Ephesians 4:29 and 5:3-4; Philippians 4:8; Psalm 103:1 and others.

If your efforts to help your friends fail for one reason or another, take the problem to your pastor. He is well trained in the use of the Bible and knows how to handle a particular problem. He may have some God-pleasing suggestions to help your Christian friends stop using "dirty signs and language." Perhaps he can use a sermon to encourage his congregation to respect God's name. Do not be afraid to inform your pastor or to discuss the problem with him. God gives us pastors to lead the deaf Christians in the way of faith in Jesus Christ.

REV. WILLIAM A. LUDWIG

Next month a Columbus, Ohio, woman asks: Why do Christians suffer while unbelievers go unpunished?

Address your questions on any church-related subject to The Question Box, Rev. William A. Ludwig, 360 Morse Road, Columbus, Ohio 43214.

Welcome to Our New Workers

This year our Lord has blessed our Lutheran missions to the deaf with three candidates and one vicar. We praise the Lord that He has remembered His deaf people!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Omaha, Nebr., will have the services of Vicar Robert C. Henrikson of Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill. Vicar Henrikson will begin his work in September.

The three candidates called to the ministry of Lutheran deaf missions are introduced below. We welcome them and rejoice with the deaf who will be served by these new pastors. Let us encourage one another, however, to pray for more workers in our deaf missions, for some of our congregations are still without pastors and some of our present fields need to be divided.



Rev. Myron Prok Indianapolis, Ind.

Rev. Myron Prok, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Prok, Jr., of Lakewood, Ohio, has been called to Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Indianapolis, Ind., and the Indiana field of deaf missions.

Candidate Prok was ordained to the holy ministry on June 11 at

his home congregation, Pentecost Evangelical Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, which is in altar and pulpit fellowship with The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod. He was installed June 18 as pastor of Peace Congregation in Indianapolis.

Following his graduation from Lakewood High School in 1959, Pastor Prok attended Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wis., and Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Ind., from which he graduated in 1963 with a bachelor of arts degree. In 1967 he completed his work at Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill., and graduated with a bachelor of divinity degree.

As part of his practical training, Pastor Prok spent a year and a half as vicar at Bethlehem Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Omaha, Nebr., under the supervision of Pastors Herman Graef, Ernest Mappes, and William Lange. Pastor Prok is married to the former Miss Shirley Miller of Omaha, Nebr.

Rev. Charles E. Jones Chicago, Ill.

Candidate Charles E. Jones of Walled Lake, Mich., received the call to Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Chicago, Ill., and the Northern Chicago field.

One of a class of 141 graduates of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., Candidate Jones was ordained on June 11 at his home congregation, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Walled Lake, Mich. He was installed as pastor at Our Savior Church, Chicago, on June 18.

Pastor Jones attended Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wis., and Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Ind. Here he earned a bachelor of arts degree in 1963.



He then studied at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and received a bachelor of divinity degree on May 26.

Pastor Jones served his vicarage year at Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Montana under the guidance of Rev. Rodney R. Rynearson.

The son of Mrs. Maxwell Jones of Walled Lake, Mich., Pastor Jones is married to the the former Miss Carol Fry of Columbia City, Ind. Mrs. Jones was confirmed by Rev. Daniel Pokorny, who also married the couple and baptized their first child, Bradley.

While at the seminary, Rev. Jones spent one summer in a clinnical training program affiliated with the Institute of Pastoral Care. He was one of the group leaders at the seminary in a pilot project of small groups studying interpersonal relations. With a grant from the Board for Missions, Pastor and Mrs. Jones joined three other couples in a group using psychodrama with married couples.

Rev. Daniel A. Hodgson New York, N. Y.

Candidate Daniel Hodgson, son of Mrs. Clara Hodgson of Parma, Ohio, was called to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf, New York, N.Y. He was ordained and installed as the congregation's pastor on July 9.

Pastor Hodgson attended Lutheran High School in Cleveland, Ohio. His college years were spent at Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wis., and Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Ind., from which he received a bachelor of arts degree in 1963. In 1967 he



graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, with a bachelor of divinity degree.

Pastor Hodgson served his year

of internship as a vicar at Saint Matthew's Church in New York under the guidance of his predecessor, Rev. Louis Jasper. He is married to the former Miss Jane Hunter of Fort Wayne, Ind. The couple has one child.

Vicar Robert Henrikson

Mr. Robert Henrikson, a student of Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill., will be working this year as a vicar at Bethlehem Deaf Congregation in Omaha, Nebr., under the guidance of Rev. William Lange.

During his few years at the Springfield seminary, Mr. Henrikson helped Rev. Orlin Anderson at Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Jacksonville, Ill., in a fieldwork program.

Student Henrikson is married to the former Miss Shirley Combs of Reen City, Mich. They have two children.



FIELD

GLEANINGS

Great Lakes Region

45th Anniversary

Pittsburgh, Pa. Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Pittsburgh, set aside Sunday, May 7, as a special day of remembrance of God's blessings throughout the 45 years it has been an organized congregation.

Special guest speaker for the celebration was Rev. William

Reinking, who presented a slide lecture on work among the deaf in Hong Kong. He is now secretary for missions in Africa and the Middle East.

The inspiring service and slide lecture was attended by 103 people, and the congregation gathered \$100 for deaf mission work in Hong Kong.

The congregation was first organized on Palm Sunday, April 9, 1922, by Rev. O. C. Schroeder. The Pittsburgh field is now being served by Rev. Frank Wagenknecht.

> REV. ROBERT BREMER Regional Reporter



Rev. William Reinking presents a slide lecture on deaf mission work in Hong Kong at Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf, May 7, during

its 45th-anniversary celebration



Following the morning worship service, in which members of Trinity Congregation were reminded of God's continued blessings, 103 people gathered for a light lunch and Rev. Willam Reinking's slide lecture on Hong Kong deaf missions. Pastors Wagenknecht and Reinking

are seated in the foreground

Dixie Region News

Region Pastors Meet

Memphis, Tenn. The missionaries to the deaf of the Dixie Region, a few members of their deaf congregations, Southern District representatives, and Rev. Herbert W. Rohe, secretary for deaf missions, met in Memphis on April 19 and 20 to discuss the future administration of our church's deaf mission.

Discussion centered on the changing work of the church in the world today, not only in its outreach to bring people to Jesus but also inwardly as its structure changes. The structure of the Board for Missions, for example, has changed so much that it seems no longer able to handle the administration of our deaf missions.

Looking for a possible solution to the problem, the pastors of the region studied the suggestion that the 30-plus Districts involved take over administering the work among the deaf in their own areas. Another answer to the problem discussed was that the deaf congregations themselves band together to form their own District of Synod.

The problems that have developed in the last few years in this area of administration are very difficult to solve. A few more years will pass before an answer is found.

Meanwhile we must ask that God may continue to bless our deaf missions program and The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod as He has done these 120 years of Synod's existence. Surely the Lord will help us find the answer that will best serve the needs of our deaf.

In other regional business the pastors discussed the program and plans for the Dixie Region Deaf Lutheran Conference of pastors and lay members to be held in Memphis, Aug. 1—3. We look for-



Dixie Region pastors meet with some lay members in Memphis, Tenn. From the left: Rev. H. W. Rohe, St. Louis, Mo.; Rev. W. A. Westermann, Greensboro, N. C.; Rev. E. Oermann, Birmingham, Ala.; an unidentified member; Rev. and Mrs. Donald Leber, Memphis, Tenn.; and several unidentified members

Not shown are Rev. Donald Haug, Houston, Tex.; Rev. W. Duey, Dallas, Tex.; Mrs. D. Myhre and Rev. W. Busby, Miami, Fla. ward to a fine conference and hope to see many of our Lutheran deaf present.

Another session was spent looking into various problems of our Dixie fields. The need for at least three more workers to serve the widely scattered deaf is under considerable study.

Service of Thanksgiving

Guthrie, Okla. The Lutheran deaf who gather faithfully once each month for worship here held a special gathering May 29 in remembrance of 9 years of regular monthly worship services conducted in Guthrie by our Lutheran pastors.

Rev. Marlin Sampson started

the work here in 1958. In 1960 Rev. Herbert Rohe was called to the Texas-Oklahoma field and served Guthrie with the help of his vicars, David Houser (1961— 62), Larry Harris (1962—63), and James Bengelsdorf (1963—64). Since 1964 Pastor William Duey has served the area.

On this occasion the deaf enjoyed a potluck dinner followed

in the	Exploring Bible
Levites	True
poles	False
cart	True
touch	True
smote	



The occasion for rejoicing in 9 years of Lutheran worship services for the deaf in Guthrie was especially enjoyed by Russel Allmon, a deaf-blind member. His deaf wife Lucille interprets for him while a friend, Mrs. Rosey Bostwick, looks on. Russel has been a real inspiration for all whom he meets by a Bible study and a worship service of thanksgiving to God for His gift of faithful pastors.

> REV. WILLIAM A. DUEY Regional Reporter

New Counselor

Oakland, Calif. Rev. Clark R. Bailey was elected Pacific Coast Region counselor at the regional pastors' conference, April 7.

Pastor Bailey replaces Rev. Rodney Rynearson as regional counselor and will complete his unexpired term. Rev. Rynearson has accepted the call to Rochester, N. Y.

LIGHT FOR YOUR WAY

Daily Bible Readings

for August

You Are Called into the Fellowship of Saints

- Aug. 1-1 John 1. God, who is Light, has made you one of the saints for fellowship with Him. Pray that God may give you a true knowledge of His power and glory in Jesus Christ. Pray also for Rev. Martin Hewitt, Cleveland Ohio, and Rev. Roger Leonhardt, Devils Lake, N. Dak.
- Aug. 2-1 John 2. Sinners and saints on earth have Jesus Christ, the Righteous, to speak for them before the Father. Give glory, honor, and blessing to Christ, our ascended and ever present Lord.
- Aug. 3-1 John 3. You have been made God's child by Baptism and by grace. Pray that the Holy Spirit may work through us to show Jesus to others.
- Aug. 4-1 John 4. God first loved us. He wants to be our God and live with us. Pray that all people may come to know, love, and serve Him through Jesus Christ.
- Aug. 5-1 John 5. "Who conquers the world but he who believes Jesus is God's Son?" Pray that our faith in Jesus will be strong in our children.
- Aug. 6 Psalm 85. As children of God, we can speak to Jesus, who for us faced even death unafraid. Pray for new members of your congregation that their faith may be strengthened. Pray also for Mrs. Laura Brodie, lay worker's wife, Vancouver, B. C., Can.



- Aug. 7-2 John. Christians need one another to share and strengthen their joys. Pray that all the lonely may find a friend in the heavenly Friend. Pray also for Mrs. Carol Aiello, pastor's wife, Trenton, N. J.
- Aug. 8 3 John. Christians form a fellowship whose members can put self aside, see God, and rejoice in His truth. Pray that those who teach the pastors and teachers of tomorrow may have the childlike faith that saves.
- Aug. 9 John 10. Jesus says to all who are outside, "I am the Door"; to all who need His care, "I am the Good Shepherd." Pray that the eternal message of the Son of God may be welcomed as good news today.
- Aug. 10 John 13. "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." Pray that through Christ's followers God may strengthen and enlarge His holy church in every land.
- Aug. 11 John 16:7-15. As a faithful Christian you will continue to read, mark, learn, and grow in knowledge of God's Word. Pray that Bible readers may both find God in His Word and live according to it.
- Aug. 12 1 Corinthians 11:17-34. Do we begin our meetings in faith, hope, and love? Pray that to all Christians Holy Communion will show the Lord's death until He returns.
- Aug. 13 1 Corinthians 12. We are the body of Christ, but individual members can wander away or forsake the fellowship of the saints. Pray that the deaf of the world may know Jesus as their personal Savior and serve Him in faith and trust.
- Aug. 14 1 Corinthians 13. Through Jesus all people may learn to live with love. Pray that we, who cannot do anything good without God, may with His help live according to His loving will.
- Aug. 15 Romans 12. Are you a slave of your sinful wants or a slave of the things you own? Pray that God would deliver us from everything in our lives that stops us from knowing or doing His will.
- Aug. 16 Romans 14. An evil conscience needs the light of faith in Christ, the Redeemer. Pray for all of Christ's holy people who bring life to those in fear of death.
- Aug. 17 Romans 15. Have you found in the fellowship of the saints freedom from restlessness and worry, strength and peace for weakness and doubt? Pray that God may be the very God of peace for all in this fellowship.
- Aug. 18 1 Peter 3:13-22. In your darkest hour of trial and suffering you can know the strength of God's love for you and the hope that comes from your faith in Him. Pray that your faith may increase and be strong.
- Aug. 19 1 Thessalonians 1. Have you seen that your fellow Christians are your brothers and sisters chosen by your heavenly Father? Bless God, who has chosen us in Christ to be holy before Him in love.

- Aug. 20 1 Thessalonians 2. You have been called into a partnership of patience. Have you shared another person's troubles? Pray for all who suffer for the sake of Christ.
- Aug. 21 1 Thessalonians 3. Your faith in Christ Jesus is the work and gift of the Holy Spirit. It was not given to you to hide or cover up. Pray for forgiveness of littleness of faith, for courage to endure hardness for Christ.
- Aug. 22 1 Thessalonians 4. God has called us unto holiness. Pray that we may not now be satisfied with any standard of holiness lower than God's own.
- Aug. 23 2 Thessalonians 1. Can you say with the whole fellowship of the saints, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus"? Pray that we be kept mindful of the end of all things and the return of Christ in glory. Pray also for Rev. Donald Zuhn, Denver, Colo.
- Aug. 24 Philemon. The name Onesimus means useful. Through Jesus' death on the cross for your sins, you have been made useful for God, to serve someone in love. Pray that Christians may eagerly respond to every call for sacrifice and service. Pray also for Rev. Martin Kosche, Delavan, Wis.
- Aug. 25 Jeremiah 2:1-13. God has blessed us. Are we faithful to Him or only to our own sinful wants? God's mercies are sure; His answers are right. Ask the Lord to teach us to pray.
- Aug. 26 Nehemiah 3. God blesses the work of our hands with His glory no matter what work we do. Pray that God will specially bless our work in our congregation.
- Aug. 27 Isaiah 60. Saints in God's fellowship are citizens of heaven, builders of God's Zion. Pray that God will still call us and others to be builders in the city of God.
- Aug. 28 Ezekiel 33. Many new students will soon enter training for the ministry of preaching and teaching. Pray that God in His mercy will touch the heart and enlighten the understanding of all whom He calls to the service of His church.
- Aug. 29 Ezekiel 34. The Good Shepherd desires His voice to be heard wherever His sheep are scattered. Pray that all may be brought home to the fold, that there may be one flock and one Shepherd.
- Aug. 30 Psalms 26 and 133. The fellowship of the saints is a blessed fellowship. Pray that our God will grant us all one heart, one mind, and one voice of blessing in Jesus Christ.
- Aug. 31 Proverbs 2. Travel in life's pilgrimage is dangerous. Pray for all who travel, that they may finish their journey in peace.

Remember your Ebenezer Thankoffering and pray:

O Lord, Our God, we thank You today for the fellow Christians who know You as their Creator, their Redeemer, and their Comforter. We praise You that You have given them life, have kept them faithful to their church on earth, and are leading them to the triumphant church in heaven. Give them joy in living, pleasure in forgiving, and excitement in thanksgiving. In Jesus Christ. Amen.

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