

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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No. 5

Pentecostal Prayer

O enter, Lord, Thy temple,
Be Thou my spirit's Guest,
Who gavest me, the earth-born,
A second birth more blest.
Thou in the Godhead, Lord,
Though here to dwell Thou deignest,
Forever equal reignest,
Art equally adored.

O enter, let me know Thee,
And feel Thy power within,
The power that breaks our fetters,
And rescues us from sin.
So wash and cleanse Thou me
That I may serve Thee truly
And render honor duly,
With perfect heart to Thee.

'Tis Thou, O Spirit, teachest
The soul to pray aright;
Thy songs have sweetest music,
Thy prayers have wondrous might;
Unheard they cannot fall,
They pierce the highest heaven
Till He His help hath given
Who surely helpeth all.

PAUL GERHARDT

How the Holy Spirit Helps

I have seen in the autumn, when the trees had shed their leaves, that two or three leaves stuck fast on the branches and clung to them all the winter through. Storms beat them, frosts bit them, snow and rain blackened them, yet they held fast to the tree. But when the spring came and the sap began to ascend and push its way through every branch and every twig, the leaves disappeared. They were pushed off by the rising tide of new life, for death can never stand before life.

So it is with us. Those old, inveterate habits that belong to our fallen nature are very hard to get rid of. We battle with them and

try to beat them off, but again and again we are defeated. But when the Spirit of the Lord fills and possesses us, then these habits disappear almost unconsciously, because death cannot stand before life. *Selected*

Our Ascended Lord

Christians worship a glorified and living Savior, not a dead Christ. After His death and resurrection, shortly before His ascension, our Lord announced this promise to His followers: "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world," Matt. 28, 20. Sitting at the right hand of God the Father in power and glory, He is also constantly present with His followers. Through the means of grace, the Word and the Sacraments, the risen, ascended, and glorified Redeemer keeps the children of God in the true faith. He leads them safely over mountains of fear and through valleys of sorrow. He is always at their side in the wilderness of suffering and loneliness. His great love and presence are blessings that last forever; they are not like the monuments of steel and stone, which pass away. His love never dies; His presence never fails, His peace never ends, His promises never disappoint, His treasures never fade away, and His glories are never dimmed.

During our brief earthly life we should be active in His cause. With thankful hearts we ought to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. Let us, then, continue to serve Him in meekness and holiness of life. Let us spread His Gospel of life and salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth, so that sinners everywhere may be led to the foot of His cross,

confessing their sins and looking to Him alone for forgiveness and peace with God. Thus we shall serve Him faithfully and at last enter into eternal life and happiness in His heavenly mansions.

O. C. S.

Our Lord has Ascended on High

Our Lord ascended on high
When the way of the cross He had trod;
Having returned to God,
Henceforth He will not die.

He will not suffer or die,
But pleads at His Father's throne;
Yet we are not left alone,
For He that prayeth is nigh.

Lovingly He is nigh,
Leading us on through the years,
Banishing foolish fears,
Silencing every sigh.

He stills our fondest sigh
Until we shall see His face;
Thank God, we are saved by grace,
For our Lord has ascended on high.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE CLOSE OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

*"What does God say
of all these commandments?"*

In our last study we learned that the just and holy God must punish sin. He cannot overlook sin. Break one commandment, and He must visit you with His wrath and punishment. And now behold God's terrible wrath over sin expressed in these words: —

"Visiting the Iniquity of the Fathers upon the Children"

They that sin hate God. And God hates sin. And He hates it so much that He punishes the sin of the fathers upon the children. Because of Canaan's sin — read Gen. 9 — all his children are under the curse. Because the Jews despised the Lord, their God, and crucified Him, His blood is upon them and their children, Matt. 27, 21. And He says: "Upon the children unto the third and fourth generation." Grandchildren and great-grandchildren often must suffer for the sins of their fathers. But remember God says: "of them that hate Me." For them that hate Him as did their fathers it is a great punishment; but for them that turn to God and walk not in the way of

their fathers it is a blessed cross, which, following their Master, they should patiently bear, Matt. 16, 21.

Will any one still say: "Sin does not harm; it is only a little mistake"? Oh, read the words of the Lord, your God, once more. These words ought to cause us to "fear His wrath and not to act [do] contrary to His commandments." Let us not think lightly of sin, but fear to sin against this jealous God.

"Showing Mercy unto Thousands of Them that Love Me"

God will show mercy, or as Luther says: "He promises grace and every blessing." To whom will He show mercy? Surely not to those who break His commandments. No, He says: "unto thousands of them that love Me and keep My commandments." The love of God should move us to do His commandments. Jesus says: "If ye love Me, keep My commandments," John 14, 15. Indeed, if we love Him, we want to please Him and do His commandments. And He loves to show mercy; for He says He will show mercy "unto thousands of them that love Me and keep My commandments." He would rather show mercy than punish. Therefore, as Luther says, "we should also love and trust in Him and willingly do according to His commandments." His promises should urge us to run the way of His commandments, Ps. 119, 32.

Punishment or Mercy for You, Which?

Oh, we have not kept His commandments, and therefore He must visit us in His wrath and punish us. But thank Him for His great mercy, He sent His only-begotten Son into the world to keep the commandments for us, to pay for our sins by dying on the cross, and to be raised again for our justification, or forgiveness. Come, let us trust in Him who died for our sins and then thankfully and willingly do His commandments. May God grant it!

Meeting of Ephphatha Conference

Ephphatha Conference will meet, *D. v.*, at Omaha, Nebr. (Rev. E. Mappes, pastor), October 1—5. Please notify Pastor Mappes at an early date of your intended presence or absence.

E. EICHMANN

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible-Study for May

"Those things which God before had showed by the mouth of all His prophets, that Christ should suffer, He hath so fulfilled," Acts 3, 18

Bible-Lesson: Mark 9, 9-13

"And as they came down from the mountain, He charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen till the Son of Man were risen from the dead. And they kept that saying with themselves, questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean. And they asked Him, saying, Why say the scribes that Elias must first come? And He answered and told them, Elias verily cometh first and restoreth all things; and how it is written of the Son of Man that He must suffer many things and be set at naught. But I say unto you, That Elias is indeed come, and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed [pleased], as it is written of him."

After His transfiguration, Jesus came down from the mountain with three of His disciples, Peter, James, and John, and charged (commanded) them that they should tell no man of the wonderful things they had seen until He, the Son of Man, were risen from the dead. The people would not understand these things at this time. Even the three disciples did not understand what Jesus meant when He spoke about His rising from the dead.

The disciples had seen Elias with Jesus on the mountain of transfiguration, and now they asked Jesus, "Why say the scribes [Jewish teachers] that Elias must first come?" Jesus told them that Elias should come and restore (change and make better) all things; for he would lead the people back to God and to Him whom the Father sent, Jesus, the promised Savior. Then He spoke to them again of His suffering and told them that they should remember the things written about Him by the prophets, namely, that He must suffer many things and be set at naught (despised and rejected).

The time of Christ's suffering was near at hand, for Elias had already come. This Elias of whom the prophets wrote that he should come first was John the Baptist. When Herod put him to death, he did just what the Jews wanted. As John the Baptist had been taken prisoner and put to death, so also Jesus, the Son of Man, would be taken captive and put to death.

As the disciples were to remember the

things written about the Son of Man, how He must suffer and die, so we should also remember, and with all our hearts believe, that He suffered and died for our sins and that through Him alone we can obtain eternal salvation.

E. EN.

IN THE MORNING MAIL

St. Louis, Mo. — On December 9, 1936, one of our faithful members, Mrs. Johanna Hamby, fell asleep in Jesus, her Savior. Although she had been in poor health for more than a year and at times was scarcely able to go about, she would not miss one church service unless she was confined to her bed. May she rest in peace until that glorious Day when Jesus shall take all His faithful people to Himself in His glorious home in heaven!

Our Christmas parties and programs in the different stations were well attended. After the programs in which the beautiful Christmas-songs were sung and the glad story of our Savior's birth was told and retold, those present exchanged gifts. A well-planned lunch was served, and all went home with this glad news ringing in their hearts: "For you is born this day, in the city of David [Bethlehem], a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

"For as the rain cometh down and the snow from heaven and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth and maketh it to bring forth and bud that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please and shall prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it." So God speaks to us Is. 55, 10, 11. How true this is we see now with joy and gladness. After two years of sowing the seed, preaching the Word, we see the fruit growing and beginning to ripen in many of our stations. In all the stations the interest is growing, and we hope very soon to welcome many of our visitors into the Church.

On March 14 two of our deaf boys, Thomas Petrovic and William Kadlec, were received into communicant membership through confirmation in St. Luke's Lutheran (Slovak) Church. The service was conducted in three languages, English, Slovak, and the sign-language.

On March 21, Palm Sunday, Bertrand Keim, Chester Colton, and Eleanor Klinger were confirmed and became communicant members of Holy Cross Congregation for the Deaf here in St. Louis. The services were held in our own place of worship, the beautiful chapel of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. Almost every seat in the chapel was occupied in this service; ninety-three were in attendance, most of them deaf persons. A few hearing friends of those who took their confirmation vows were present. We think it was a very beautiful and impressive service and hope that many of our visitors now better understand the true value of learning the Word of God and the doctrines of the Church before taking the confirmation vow. May God in His loving grace and mercy hold His protecting hand over these five

young people and keep them ever true to the promises which they made to their Savior at His altar!

We are happy to report that our class in Fulton, Mo. (State School for the Deaf), has grown during the course of this year to 13 young people, who in a short time, with the help of God, will be ready to renew their baptismal vow. Seven of the large class in Jacksonville, Ill. (State School), will be confirmed this year at the close of the school-year. May God give to these young people faith and zeal to study eagerly and to prepare themselves rightly for membership in His Church!

On March 24 Rev. C. Schubkegel, former pastor of Holy Cross Congregation for the Deaf (St. Louis), celebrated his seventy-seventh birthday. We pray that God in His mercy may grant to His faithful servant peace and joy and contentment in his remaining years. Mrs. Schubkegel, the former pastor's faithful wife, is still confined to the hospital, where she was taken last September, when she suffered a stroke, which left her entire left side paralyzed.

The men's club of Holy Cross Deaf Congregation is going to organize a soft-ball team this year. In some of our meetings this winter exciting and close games of dart-ball were played. We hope in time to enter the regular leagues with the hearing congregations of our city.

The financial report for the year 1936 shows that our ladies' aid took in over 150 dollars. About half of this was clear profit. The proceeds are to go for the furnishing of our new chapel when we get it. May they continue their good work!

During the course of the next month we hope to begin a young people's society. Because we realize that the youth of today is the Church of tomorrow, we shall make all possible efforts to get and hold these young people in our midst.

On April 7 we hope to open a new preaching-station in De Soto, Mo. [This letter was written end of March.—Ed.] We do not know what the prospects are in this station, but all reports which have reached us justify us in believing that we shall be able to instruct many who live in that city and vicinity and gain them as members.

Imploring God's blessings on all, we of the St. Louis field conclude these news items with the prayer: *Lord, let Thy kingdom come also to all the deaf! Amen.*

F. A. H.

Minneapolis Mission. — August Neumann of Wheaton, Minn., departed this life on March 9, nearly eighty years of age. He regularly attended our services in Mitchell, S. Dak., years ago when he lived in South Dakota and often in Big Stone City, S. Dak., when he lived in Wheaton. What a comfort to know that he had learned to know the crucified and risen Savior and could close his eyes trusting in this Savior! The burial took place at Wheaton, Pastor Theo. Heine officiating. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them," Rev. 14, 13. May God grant you and me such a blessed death in Jesus Christ!

J. L. S.

Mission for Blind and Deaf.—During the past weeks we conducted many services for the deaf in disagreeable, rainy weather. We are glad to report, however, that many of the meetings were well attended in spite of a driving rain. This is as it should be. Only sickness should prevent us from being present at public worship.

A blind friend in the East recently wrote to us as follows: "I am still interested in the Gospel of Jesus and am learning more and more every day. I am telling the Gospel to others and have shown many a man that he was born in sin and needs to be saved. I even go to the lowest type of sinner. Some people think that I am a 'low-life' because I stop and talk with them; but God knows the difference. In doing this, I am well blessed." We know of some Christians who make it their business to talk to some man every day about Jesus, the Savior. Personal mission-work has the promise of God's blessing and heavenly rewards. May we never grow weary in confessing Christ before men!

Our *Herald for the Blind* is now in its tenth year. Many of the first readers have passed into the glories of heaven, but new readers have taken their places on our mailing-list.

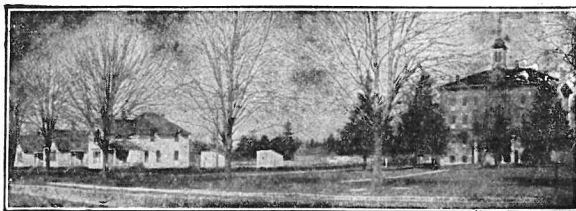
A young girl writing for her blind uncle sent us this message: "My uncle enjoys reading the *Lutheran Herald for the Blind* in Moon type because it brings him the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless you!"

O. C. S.

"WE never know how precious the Church is until we have been among its enemies for a spell."

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