

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States*

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No. 5

Ascension

A hymn of glory let us sing;
New songs throughout the world shall ring:
By a new way none ever trod,
Christ mounteth to the throne of God.

May our affections thither tend,
And thither constantly ascend,
Where, seated on the Father's throne,
Thee reigning in the heavens we own!

Be Thou our present Joy, O Lord,
Who wilt be ever our Reward;
And as the countless ages flee,
May all our glory be in Thee!

All glory to the Father be,
All glory, Jesus Christ, to Thee,
Who didst to heaven above ascend,—
And to the Spirit, without end!

Selected

The Savior's Farewell Words

All Christendom confesses in the second article of the Apostles' Creed: "I believe that Jesus Christ . . . ascended into heaven." We believe this on the basis of the Word of God, Acts 1:1-11; Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50, 51.

Jesus had completed His work of saving all people. He had finished that work in every detail so that He could say: "It is finished!" John 19:30. And now that He had completed His work here in the world, He returned to His Father.

With our salvation completed by God's own Son, with our heavenly home prepared by Jesus Himself, you and I can place our full trust and confidence in Him. Thus the holy writer says, Heb. 11:1: "Faith is the substance of things hoped for."

But Jesus also says: "I will come again and receive you unto Myself," John 14:3. When friends become separated from us, they often forget us. But Jesus is more than a friend.

He will never forget us. He will not let us go astray. Oh, no! He promises that He will come again and guide us safely home. We do not know the day and the hour when He will come, of Judgment Day. However, He who has never broken a single promise will also fulfil His word that He will come again. Yea, though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we shall fear no evil; for He is with us. We are but strangers here; "heaven is our home."

Jesus has clearly explained what He will do. But, behold! He makes also a final request to His followers. He gives an earnest command: "Go ye and teach all nations"; "preach the Gospel to every creature." He speaks this request to us. May He ever find us active (not idle) in working for the expansion of His kingdom!

A. E. F.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE CREED

"I believe that God has made ME"

God is the Maker of heaven and earth. By His mighty word He made the light and the firmament, the grass and the trees, the sun, the moon, and the stars, the birds under heaven, the fish in the sea, and the beasts on earth. And then He made man. For him He made all things. God made him to have dominion over all living things, and every herb and tree He gave unto him for meat. Read Gen. 1:28, 29. And "God made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth," Acts 17:26. He made also you and me, and we must say with Luther: "I believe that God has made me."

"He Has Given Me My Body"

The body of man, how wonderful! When God made the first man, He did it not by His mighty word, as He made the other creatures. No; "the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground." As the potter molds the clay, so God took the dust of the ground and formed man. Man's body is wonderful and beautiful above that of all other creatures.

And we furthermore say in our Catechism: "He has given me my body . . . , eyes, ears, and all my members." How wonderful the eye! Or consider the ear with its delicate mechanism! Again, look at your hand with its many little bones and joints! Indeed, when we think of our body and all its members, we must say: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made," Ps. 139:14. A great blessing indeed it is to have perfect and sound members. So often we do not appreciate these good things until we have lost one or the other or see others who have lost a member. Let us daily thank and praise God for our body and all its members.

"He Has Given Me My Soul"

And still more wonderful is the soul. God also made man's soul. In Gen. 2:7 we read: "And the Lord God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." And with the soul God has given me "my reason." What a great blessing our reason and mind is! You are reading these words, and they set you a-thinking and urge you to sing the praises of your Maker. Perhaps years ago you memorized the First Article, and you still know it today. A person asks you concerning the creation of man, and you give answer from your Bible and Catechism. Surely, man is above all beasts of the field and the birds under heaven and the fish in the sea. Give thanks to God for your reason or mind. Visit a State hospital or an institution for feeble-minded, and your heart must overflow with thanks that He, in His great mercy, has given you a sound mind.

Jesus Christ Saved My Body and Soul!

Man has fallen into sin. Man is born in sin. Both body and soul are sold under sin. And God ought to destroy both body and soul into hell. But, thanks to God, the blessed Lenten season and the happy Eastertide again have

made us sure that we are saved from sin and hell and that both body and soul are the Lord's and by faith in the crucified and risen Savior shall live with Him in glory forever and ever. May God grant it to you and me! J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible-Study for May

"The eyes of the blind shall be opened."

Is. 35:5

Bible-Lesson: Mark 10, 46-52

"And they came to Jericho. And as He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highwayside begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me! And many charged him that he should hold his peace; but he cried the more a great deal, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me! And Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. And they called the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort. Rise; He calleth thee. And he, casting away his garment, rose and came to Jesus. And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto Him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus in the way."

Jesus and His disciples were on the way to Jerusalem, where Jesus was to be given into the hands of His enemies and condemned to die. The road to Jerusalem led through a city called Jericho; and as He went out of this city to continue the journey to Jerusalem, a great number of people followed Him. At a place on this highway where all the people had to pass, a blind man sat begging. His name was Bartimaeus, which means, the son of Timaeus. When he heard the noise of many people passing by and learned that Jesus of Nazareth was leaving the city, he began to cry out, saying, "Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me!" Bartimaeus had heard of Jesus and His many miracles and believed that He must be the promised Messiah, the Savior whom God had sent into the world, and therefore he cried to Him for mercy and help. When some of the people told him to hold his peace, to keep quiet, he cried the more a great deal, "Thou Son of David, have mercy on me!"

This same Jesus of Nazareth is also your Savior. He is the One whom God has sent to redeem you and who by His suffering and death on the cross earned this redemption for you and all men. Cry to Him for mercy and forgiveness. And if the devil, the wicked world, and your own heart try to hinder you and tell you not to pray to Jesus, do not listen to their voice but continue to cry to Him for mercy and help.

Jesus wants us to pray to Him without ceasing, and He has promised to hear our prayers. Blind Bartimaeus did not cry to Him in vain. Jesus heard his prayer, stood still, and commanded him to be called. Oh, what joy must have been his when he heard that Jesus had called him! He threw his garment (cloak) aside and came to Jesus and asked Him to restore his sight. Jesus, seeing his faith, answered, "Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole." And no sooner had Jesus spoken these words than the blind man received his sight. Then he followed Jesus in the way.

Do *you* cry to Jesus, your Savior, for mercy and help as did blind Bartimaeus? In His Word Jesus also calls *you*, saying, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Come to Him just as you are, trusting only in Him for your salvation, and then follow and serve Him as did Bartimaeus. E. EN.

IN THE MORNING MAIL

Canadian Mission to the Deaf.—In Regina divine services are being held once every month. One elderly lady is receiving instructions preparatory to confirmation. The catechism which we use with her is one written especially for the deaf by Pastor J. L. Salvner, missionary to the deaf in Minnesota and the Dakotas since 1901. Separate services are being held in Regina for two men who are past seventy and eighty years of age and who are unable to come to our regular place of worship. These monthly trips to Regina are made during the week because we believe that the Sundays ought to be retained for the 35 children of the Saskatoon school. On other days they are too tired from other studies, and for that reason we cannot teach them God's truths as thoroughly as on Sunday. The attendance on the part of the younger deaf could be much better, but we hope that will be improved through pastoral visits and admonitions.

In Saskatoon there are now ten deaf adults. None of them are of Lutheran parentage and therefore not at all acquainted with our Church. Although opportunities for attending divine services have been given them ever since the missionary is residing in the city, still only three

of them show any interest and heed the many invitations extended to them. However, we want to keep the Savior's command "Compel them to come in, that My house may be filled," Luke 14:23. We try to do this by showing them the urgent need of hearing God's Word, especially the Gospel, which no one can know of himself. A persistent effort must be made to open their eyes to the disastrous course they are now following and to realize its terrible end. May God supply the necessary courage, wisdom, and understanding that in due time these souls may be won for His kingdom.

Calgary has more than thirty resident adult deaf. Four of these are confirmed, and one more is being instructed. A number of the others seem to be good prospects, while others show indifference towards the preaching of the Word. During the summer months the attendance at services was somewhat low, owing in part to the fact that a number of the men were out in the harvest-fields. Bible-study and instruction in the Catechism is again being resumed. There are prospects of organizing a congregation of deaf in this city; but since the missionary is not living there, this hope will not materialize as soon as it might if instruction could be given oftener than once a month. However, the oral monthly study of the chief parts of the Christian doctrine will be supplemented by correspondence instruction.

During the summer three lengthy trips of ten days to two weeks each were made, during which we looked up and visited deaf living east and west of and in Edmonton, between Calgary and Edmonton, and around Lethbridge. In Saskatchewan services were held at Aberdeen and in Lipton; one in Roblin, Man., also, which drew an attendance of seven deaf. The missionary's prayer is that Jesus Himself may ever more endow him with a passion for blood-bought souls.

R. F. CORDES in the *Canadian Lutheran*

Minneapolis Mission.—With our new missionary for South Dakota, the Rev. A. Jonas, we visited the deaf of Aberdeen, Big Stone City, Watertown, S. Dak., and Appleton, Minn., the writer administering Holy Communion to every group and Pastor Jonas preaching. For many years we have been serving these deaf, and naturally sorrow filled our hearts at the parting. But we rejoice in the fact that the same Gospel, the same crucified and risen Savior will be preached to them as has been preached in the past. Our prayer is that God may bless both the new pastor and each group and grant that he preach the word "in demonstration of the Spirit and of power" and that every one of the deaf "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" and ever "show forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light." Our Lord Jesus Christ be and abide with all forever and ever!

Edward I. Bauer, a member of Grace Church, was suddenly taken out of this vale of tears to our heavenly Father, as we may sincerely hope. In the morning of April 1 he was ready to go to work as usual but then suffered a stroke of apoplexy and died immediately. Mr. Bauer learned to know our Lord Jesus and His salvation in our Lutheran school at Detroit and was confirmed in 1897. In 1911 he came to Minneapolis and ever since had been a member of Grace Congregation.

The Sunday before his death he attended our Lenten service, and the Friday before he with us enjoyed pictures of Christ's life and death, resurrection and ascension. The first Sunday in Lent he also came to the Lord's Table to partake of the body and blood of Jesus Christ given and shed for him for the remission of sins. The funeral service was held at the Lee mortuary, the pastor basing his address on Matt. 24:42, 44. The body was placed into a vault and later will be buried in Lake-wood Cemetery, where it will sleep in the grave unto the great Resurrection Morn. He attained the age of 57 years, ten months, and four days. May the God of all comfort fill with everlasting comfort the sorrowing hearts of his wife and four children, of his aged parents and his eleven brothers and sisters! Every death, and especially every sudden death, tells us: "Prepare to meet thy God," Amos 4:12. "I am the Resurrection and the Life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?" John 11:25, 26.

J. L. S.

The Cleveland Field.—Sixteen colored deaf attended our first service for the Cleveland colored deaf, March 20, and they received our services with great appreciation.—Willard Drake of Cleveland has been restored to good health again, and we rejoice with him.—Miss Nellie Bedier, after her long illness, died, firmly believing in her Savior.—Miss Charlotte Schwagler of Buffalo and Miss Lenora Culpher of Westerville, O., have had serious operations, while Miss Sophie Rose of Rochester, N. Y., has suffered a fracture of her leg. We wish these three friends God's blessing for a speedy recovery. Let us pray for our sick and bereaved friends that they may under trials improve in faith on Jesus and in willingness to do God's will. THEO. FREDERKING

Mission for Blind and Deaf.—Many of our deaf are unemployed at this time; some are ill or crippled. They have been unable to come to church. For this reason we enlisted the help of mission-minded Lutherans in several cities to bring such deaf to the meetings in their automobiles. The results have been gratifying. Our attendance has been increased, and the deaf are delighted to have the opportunity to attend the meetings.

Not all the States have home teachers for the adult blind. Whenever we meet a blind man in our journeys on the street or a public place, we engage him in a conversation to learn whether or not he is able to read by an embossed system. In one city we recently interested a sightless man to learn the Moon system and to teach it to a number of his blind friends. Another blind man wrote to us as follows: "I learned to read by the Moon system in one evening and am now enjoying the *Lutheran Herald for the Blind* greatly." Many sighted Lutherans could render their afflicted fellow-men a genuine service if they would interest them in the raised types of reading and direct their attention to our Lutheran literature for the blind. O. C. S.

THE finished sacrifice of Christ on Calvary is the source of all power to defeat Satan and deliver souls from his bondage.

"Ephphatha"

And straightway his ears were opened.—Mark 7:35

How can we say, Thou hast not spoken, Lord?
"Ephphatha" has been uttered in our ears!
Yea, we have heard Thy voice speaking Thy Word,
And we have spoken to Thee through the years.

The earth alone may give to us no sound,
Yet all Thy songs are singing in our hearts;
Our cares have fled and left our souls unbound,
And every fear of darkness now departs.

Yea, Lord, Thou hast spoken; we have replied.
To Thee we shall listen all our days.
By every Word of Thine we shall abide,
And from our hearts will rise songs in Thy praise.

GUIE CELESTINE COOKE

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Rev. A. Boll, 192 Hewes St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Rev. N. E. Borchardt, 7635 Grixdale Ave., Detroit, Mich.
Rev. E. Scheibert, 1400 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago, Ill.
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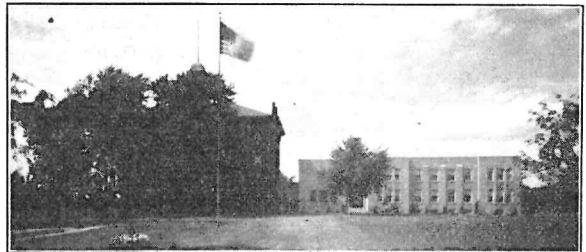
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Rev. O. Schroeder, B. D., 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago, Ill.
Rev. A. Kuntz, 805 Lindaraxa Park, Alhambra, Cal.

These ministers preach in more than 200 cities in our land; they conduct classes in religion at many 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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