

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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Prayer

Gracious Spirit, Dove Divine,
Let Thy light within me shine;
All my guilty fears remove,
Fill me with Thy heavenly love.

Speak Thy pardoning grace to me,
Set the burdened sinner free;
Lead me to the Lamb of God,
Wash me in His precious blood.

Life and peace to me impart,
Seal salvation on my heart;
Dwell Thyself within my breast,
Earnest of eternal rest.

Let me never from Thee stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Fill my soul with joy divine,
Keep me, Lord, forever Thine.

Selected

Spiritual Hunger for the Gospel

Hunger is a craving for nourishment of the body that our Lord and Creator has given all living creatures. This craving must be satisfied if physical life is to be preserved. However, there is a hunger of the soul as well as of the body and mind.

On the first great Pentecost Day, when the formerly timid disciples were endowed with the Holy Spirit in an extraordinary measure, when He also gave them courage to stand before that great audience and preach the Gospel of salvation through Him whom so many had hitherto rejected, Christ Crucified, then several thousand people *showed* the hunger of their souls and said: "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Acts 2:37. Through the preaching of the Gospel the Holy Spirit satisfied this spiritual hunger.

Many of those people had seen the falsity

of the teachings of the proud, self-righteous Pharisees. Fear caused by the mighty miracles at the death of Jesus on the cross had driven out pride and self-confidence from many hearts. And from the mouth of Peter they now had heard that Jesus was the Savior of sinners, of sinners such as they were.

Since that first Pentecost many things have changed somewhat, not, however, the human heart. It is still true what St. Paul writes to the Romans: "There is no difference: all have sinned and come short of the glory of God," and they can be justified only "by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus," "by faith, without the deeds of the Law."

As in days of old, so in our days there are many restless, unhappy people, whose cry comes to us: "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" This challenge faces us as a Church. We have the Gospel, whereby these men and women can be led out of the spiritual darkness "into the spiritual sunshine of life-giving faith." By the Gospel we can show them the sure hope of a life of eternal bliss through Him who earned heaven for them by His suffering and death.

We need to be reminded again and again that it is our Christian duty to bring the light of the Gospel "to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death."

As the apostles "continued with one accord in prayer and supplication," preparing to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit promised them by the ascending Lord, so may the Lord find also *us* preparing for the work of bringing the Gospel to the many, many hungry souls about us!

A. E. FERBER

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE FIRST ARTICLE

"I believe that God has made ME"

God has given us a wonderful body, with eyes, ears, and all our members, and a wonderful soul, with reason and all senses. When we speak of senses, we chiefly think of what we call the five senses: hearing, sight, smell, taste, and touch. Let us with thankful hearts consider these precious gifts of God.

The Sense of Hearing

How blessed to be able to hear the voice of father and mother, of husband and wife, of son and daughter, of friends and neighbors! How blessed to be able to hear the singing of the birds and to enjoy music! Above all, what a great blessing to be able to hear the preaching of forgiveness and salvation in church and to sing hymns of praise with our mouths! Surely we who can hear often do not appreciate this gift of God as we should. In order to learn what a glorious blessing it is to be able to hear, visit a school for the deaf where children are taught by means of speech and lip-reading or of signs; or in order to learn what a glorious blessing it is to be able to hear the preaching of God's mercy in Christ Jesus with our ears and to sing the praises of our Savior with our lips and tongues, let us attend a service for the deaf where the Word of God is preached and hymns are "sung" in the sign-language. Let us ask God to forgive us for Jesus' sake for not thanking Him for this blessing and for so often giving our ears to hear evil things. Lord, help us to use our ears unto the glory of Thy name.

The Sense of Sight

How thankful we ought to be that we can see the faces of our friends, the beauties of nature, the various works of art, etc.! Again, what a blessing to be able to read, and, above all, to read the Book of God! Thanks ought to fill especially the hearts of the deaf for the blessing of being able to see the Word of God preached to them in the beautiful sign-language and to sing the praises of their Lord and Savior with their hands and fingers. Also this precious gift of sight we do not appreciate as we should. Shame must fill our hearts

because we are so unthankful and because we often use our eyes to see evil things and to read filthy magazines and books. Lord Jesus, forgive us and wash us clean in Thy blood and help us to use our eyes unto the glory of Thy precious name!

The Sense of Touch

What would we do without the sense of touch! A great blessing it is indeed. This we readily see when we observe the blind. They are so very much dependent upon this sense in their daily life. And still more this is true of the deaf-blind. Especially the blind should be thankful for it, for it enables them to read the raised type. And by this sense of touch the word of salvation can be preached also to the deaf-blind. Friends take their hand and with it copy all the signs that are made by the missionary while he is preaching, praying, or rendering a hymn in signs. We all have abundant reason to thank God: the hearing, the deaf, the blind, and also the deaf-blind. Likewise we all ought to render thanks to God for the wonderful sense of smell and of taste.

Still Greater Praise in Heaven to Our Ascended Lord

Our Lord Jesus ascended into heaven and there is preparing a place for His believers; and He will come again to receive them unto Himself, John 14:3. Then our bodies will be fashioned like unto His glorious body, the eyes of the blind will be opened, and they will see Him as He is, and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped, and they will hear the voice of the blessed Savior and of His holy angels; and then all believers will sing praises "unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood," Rev. 1:6. Glory be to God for it! J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible-Study for June

"Behold, thy King cometh unto thee."

Zech. 9:9

Bible-Lesson: Mark 11:1-11

"And when they came nigh unto Jerusalem, unto Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, He sendeth forth two of His disciples and saith unto them, Go your way into the village over against you; and as soon as ye be entered into it, ye shall find a colt tied

whereon never man sat; loose him and bring him. And if any man say unto you, Why do ye this? say ye that the Lord hath need of him; and straightway He will send him hither. And they went their way and found the colt tied by the door without in a place where two ways met; and they loose him. And certain of them that stood here said unto them, What do ye, loosing the colt? And they said unto them even as Jesus had commanded; and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus and cast their garments on him; and He sat upon him. And many spread their garments in the way; and others cut down branches off the trees and strewed them in the way. And they that went before and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Blessed be the kingdom of our father David that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! And Jesus entered into Jerusalem and into the Temple; and when He had looked round about upon all things and now the eventide was come, He went out unto Bethany with the Twelve."

After healing the blind man near Jericho, Jesus continued His journey to Jerusalem, where in a few days He was to suffer and die. In entering the city, Jesus once more gave proof that He is the all-knowing Son of God, the Savior whom God sent to His people. When He came to Bethany and Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, near Jerusalem, He sent two of His disciples to go into the village before them. There they would find a colt tied. This colt they should untie and bring to Him. And if any man should object and ask them why they were untying the colt, they should answer that the Lord had need of him and that He would return the colt to the owner. How did Jesus know all these things? Is it not because He is the all-knowing Son of God, from whom nothing is hidden, not even the secret thoughts of our hearts?

The disciples went into the village to carry out the instructions which Jesus had given them. There they found the colt and untied him; and when some of the men standing there asked them why they were untying the colt, the disciples answered just as Jesus had told them to do. When the men heard that Jesus had need of the colt, they let the disciples take him. As the owner of this colt was willing to place him into the service of the Lord and Savior, so we ought gladly to place all our possessions into His service whenever He has need of them.

The disciples brought the colt to Jesus and put their garments upon the colt, and Jesus,

sitting upon the colt, rode towards Jerusalem. When the news spread in Jerusalem that Jesus of Nazareth was about to enter the city, a great multitude went out to meet Him. Many of them "spread their garments on the way; others cut down branches off the trees and strewed [spread] them on the way. And they that went before and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord." By their actions and words these people confessed Jesus to be the Son of David, the Messiah, the Savior whom God had sent.

This same Jesus of Nazareth who entered the city of Jerusalem to suffer and die for the sins of the world is also *your* Savior. He comes to *you* even today in His holy Word and offers *you* the salvation which He earned for all men. Welcome Him in true faith as your Savior, pray for His kingdom, and sing praises to Him.

E. EN.

IN THE MORNING MAIL

The Cleveland Field. — April 21 was a day of great joy. On that day we were able to begin our new Sunday-school of 42 lip-reading children residing in Greater Cleveland. May God preserve these children for Christ and for our holy Christian religion! Since these children are lip-readers, your missionary was able to use other Lutheran teachers to assist him in our five classes, the upper classes being taught by Pastors E. G. Mueller, H. Platzer, and T. Frederking, while the primary classes are being taught by Mrs. E. Blake and Mrs. T. Frederking. We give all glory and praise to our God for leading and blessing us in organizing this Sunday-school. May God preserve it and bless it abundantly for the salvation of the precious souls!

THEO. FREDERKING

Mission for Blind and Deaf. — The schools for the deaf in our territory are closing their doors in May for the 1937—1938 school-year. We made our last visits during the first ten days of May and were again informed that the children eagerly look forward to our meetings. We hope to see many of them in our services at mission-stations during the summer months.

The superintendent of a home for the blind in England last week sent us an additional request for a subscription to the *Lutheran Herald for the Blind*, Moon type, and added: "A number of our blind folk eagerly await their copies and derive a great deal of help from their reading." We pray that the Holy Spirit may continue His blessed soul-saving work in the hearts of our readers to the glory of the Savior.

O. C. S.

Milwaukee, Wis. — Walter Juedes was born Sept. 1, 1891, died Dec. 12, 1937, and was buried April 3 of this year. You will notice the lapse of time between his death and burial. On Dec. 12 of last year he was seen

on his way to the bay near Oshkosh to do some ice-fishing. This was his favorite sport. The man, 46 years old, was not seen again until Friday, April 1, when he was found on the opposite side of the lake, near Stockbridge, 12 to 15 miles from Oshkosh. At the funeral, Sunday afternoon, Rev. F. C. Gade of Milwaukee preached in both languages, English and the sign-language, and Rev. J. Elbert in English. Mr. Juedes was confirmed Sept. 13, 1934, and was an ardent member, never missing services, except when out of town. Dec. 23 his pastor arrived on the train but did not see Walter standing at the church corner. "Where is Walter?" was the question. "In lake," the deaf answered. It may be of interest to you to know that on the same day Walter's nephew in company of other young men was ice-boating. The ice gave way, and the young man nearly lost his life in the same lake. M. GAETH

South Dakota Mission.—In thirteen services held in Sioux Falls there has been an average attendance of 35 deaf. The highest number in one service was 49. This high was reached twice. The lowest number in a service has been 17. The Sioux Falls deaf have a ladies' aid society, which is also well attended by about



The Deaf of Sioux Falls, S. Dak., with their new pastor, the Rev. A. Jonas

18 or 19 ladies. The deaf are very much pleased to have regular services and are very enthusiastic workers both for the church and the ladies' aid society. Work in the State School has as yet not been arranged. However, the prospects for next fall, when school takes up again, are very promising.

Yankton and Mitchell, the two largest fields outside of Sioux Falls, are served twice monthly. A trip is made once a month to Aberdeen, Big Stone City, Watertown, and Appleton. All these towns are in South Dakota, with the exception of Appleton, Minn.

We ask the Lord's continued blessing upon this work, that the deaf may grow in knowledge and faith and hope and love to God and their fellow-men. May they always keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace!

A. T. JONAS

Golden Gate Mission.—From our midst two esteemed Christian gentlemen have been called to their heavenly home. Mr. T. Sanderlock, a native of Chicago, was the oldest deaf man in California. He was one of the first to take confirmation instructions six years ago, never missed a communion service, and proudly pointed to the fact that he had missed only one church service in all these years, being prevented from attending by ill health. The weakness of his 88 years

gave him a peaceful sleep, from which he awoke, we trust, in the kingdom of God. Our beloved friend Frank Bangs of San Jose, an ardent worker and supporter of our missions for many years, also proudly pointed to the fact that even his health did not prevent him from attending the house of God up to the very night that he passed away in his blessed sleep.

Our Bible classes, as we call our confirmation classes, are constantly bringing results. We have them continually in Oakland and San Francisco or in case of necessity conduct them alternately. This Easter eight of the deaf confessed the risen Christ as their Savior. The Easter services in San Francisco and Oakland were attended by the largest groups in our missions' history. We have repeatedly had one hundred in attendance, but to go far beyond that was much of a surprise to us. The newly baptized were Mr. F. Sladek and his sister, Mary Sladek, Mr. O. Johnson, Mr. A. Campbell, and Mrs. E. Gerde. Among the confirmands we had Mrs. M. Maciel and Mrs. A. Campbell. Some of the members after the services called attention to the fact that our Easter Communion services in Oakland and San Francisco were both attended hundred per cent. by the membership. A check of the attendance verified the statement. No effort is being spared by the members to make the church services beautiful. The additional gowns purchased for the signers remove many an objection.

At the California State School for the Blind we have a very enthusiastic class of four. The work there should be in the hands of a local pastor, who could join these people to a hearing parish. But since the school adjoins the deaf school, the missionary has agreed to serve it and perhaps will continue to do so. At the deaf school we had to close our lists for the time being. Ten more pupils wished to join our instruction classes there this year, but the previous classes were too far advanced, and our time was so fully taken up that we could only admit the others to the Sunday morning services.

Our attention is constantly being called to the Sacramento Valley. But we have no time to reach the people in Sacramento, Stockton, Lodi, Livermore, Tracy, and as far south as Fresno. We have only touched the surface of possibilities in California, and we ask those who have mission-work at heart, "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth laborers into His harvest."

G. W. GAERTNER

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