



Bringing Christ to the Nations

THE INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN HOUR "Over Station KBON Every Sunday morn" 11:30 P. M.

—Publicity Department— 3558 South Jefferson Ave. Saint Louis, Missouri

Dr. Walter A. Maier

Buffalo, March 23 (Specia) "Bibles for Berlin," "Testaments for Tokyo" were the slogans suggested here today by Dr. Walter A. Maier, of Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, in an international broadcast of the Lutheran Hour.

Commenting on Christ's plea from the cross, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do," he asserted that the time is now here for Christian forces to reflect the compassion taught by their creed and bring the Gospel to our defeated enemies.

The forces of radical atheism have been far busier in the defeated countries than many Church groups; and he predicted that unless there is an awakening to our religious responsibilities in these lands, they will be won for bold unbelief.

Dr. Maier cited a recent government directive declaring: "Training films, literature or training aids which a definite purpose of inspiring hatred or of directing hatred against any specific former enemy are being discontinued."

If the government calls a halt to hatred, he asserted, certainly the Christian forces of America cannot refrain from pleading for brotherly love.

The failure of force as a means of establishing peace, he concluded, emphasizes the necessity of establishing a spiritual foundation for international understanding through the preaching and practice of Christ's Gospel.

RELIGIOUS NEWS

ST. JOHN AME. CHURCH 22ND AND WILLIS AVE., REV. E. B. CHILDRESS, Pastor MASON DEVEREAUX, Reporter Sunday morning March 16, 1947 was another day of rejoicing and giving praise to our Lord as we listened to a soul stirring message filled with the spirit of God by our pastor Reverend Childress.

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An Excerpt Of Dr. Walter A. Maier, Lutheran Hour Speaker, From The Sermon Of March 16, 1947

The pain and disgrace of bearing the cross suddenly ended for Jesus, just as your sorrows will finally, and often unexpectedly, stop. Our Lord had not had a moment of sleep during the last twenty-four hours; instead, He had been subjected to torture and torment, scourging and slashing, mocking and misery.

Some say that Simon was a Negro—and he did come from sun-baked Cyrenian Africa. Personally, I wish that we could prove that this cross-bearer for Christ was a member of the race long

burdened by crosses of cruelty which, we the white people, have laid on their backs. Did you read the newspaper story of a frail Negro woman who for the last thirty years worked in unpaid drudgery for seventeen hours each day as a veritable slave to a socialist Boston couple?

28th. Easter Sunday night "Seven Last Words" by the Choir. Fashion Preview Every-Ready Club, April 28th.

Mothers send your children to Sunday School every Sunday morning at 9:30 a. m. Attend our morning services at 11:00 a. m. Union Services at 7:30 p. m.

Visitors and friends are always welcome at St. John's, the friendly church at 22nd Willis Avenue. Come and worship with us won't you?

FIRST MISSION OF GODSENT LIGHT Bethel Hess, Pastor We are grateful to God and to our many friends for their splendid cooperation throughout Sunday.

BETHEL AME. CHURCH REV. H. W. BLETSCH, Pastor CHESTER SCOTT, Reporter Sunday School opened at 9:45 with Mrs. George Reeves and teachers at their posts.

Let us pray for the sick throughout the week whoever they might be or where-ever they might be.

Mrs. Childress and her assistants with the Easter Program, is asking the mothers of St. John's to send your children Saturday March 22 at 1 p. m. at the church for the Easter rehearsal.

The Watchmen will rehearse at the home of Brother L. L. McVay, 2868 Corby St., on Friday, March 21, 1947 at 8 p. m.

An attentive and spiritual-filled congregation heard our pastor deliver one of the most powerful religious messages since the Union Services began in January on Sunday evening, March 16th.

The final Union Services of this year will be held at Zion Baptist Church Sunday, March 23rd. Our brother and fellow minister Rev. F. C. Williams will deliver this final Union message.

COMING EVENTS Elks Ensemble—Pastor Aid Club, Monday March 24th. Widow's Contest Friday March

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A Call To Prayer

BISHOP WRIGHT CALLS AFRICAN METHODISTS TO OBSERVE "GOOD FRIDAY" AS A DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

New York, March 16.—In an impassioned speech to the A.M.E. Preachers meeting in New York, held in Bethel Church, Bishop Wright called every presiding elder, every pastor, officer and member of the African Methodist church to seriously observe Friday, April 4 as a day of Fasting and Prayer.

accomplish their work of destruction by employing all the tricks of deception known to the rascal-frauder, the demagogue, and the creator of hatred.

Well aware of all this, the American people are setting themselves against it. They have determined to build a better democracy.

For this reason I call all African Methodist under my jurisdiction in New York, in New Jersey, in New England, in Bermuda, in Kentucky and in Tennessee to your knees in prayer all day Friday.

Let no church neglect this great duty. In places where there are many churches, let them come together for this service.

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Card of Thanks

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the acts of kindness, messages of sympathy and beautiful floral offerings received from our many friends in Omaha and other cities in our recent bereavement in the loss of our beloved wife, mother, and sister, Mrs. Emma Knight who departed this life Saturday March 8th.

Mr. Roscoe C. Knight, husband. Mrs. Florence Jones, daughter. Mrs. Nellie Parker, sister. Mrs. Virginia Clark, sister. Mrs. Sadie Tate, sister. Mr. Lewis Hawkins, brother.

Colored Church Women To Hold Monthly Meeting The Omaha Council of Colored church Women will hold their monthly meeting Wednesday, March 26th at Bethel Baptist Church, 5318 South 30th Street.

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Improved Uniform SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By HAPOLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D. Of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. Released by Western Newspaper Union.

LESSON FOR MARCH 23 Lesson subjects and Scripture texts selected and copyrighted by International Council of Religious Education; used by permission.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD LESSON TEXT—John 17:11-13, 20-23. MEMORY SELECTION—And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep them through thy name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.—John 17:11.

The voice of the Son of God lifted in audible prayer! What could be more sacred and more blessed? He who had by act and example taught his disciples loving service (John 13), and had spoken to them words of comfort and assurance (John 14-16), now prayed for himself, for them, and for us.

While he spoke most intimately with the Father as his only begotten Son, he prayed aloud that his disciples might hear his prayer and join with him in it.

This prayer is often called the high-priestly prayer of Christ, and rightly so, for here the "one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5) spoke as "the High Priest of mankind who begins his sacrifice by offering himself to God with all his people" (Godeset).

First we find that he prayed for himself as he spoke of I. Salvation Finished—Then Glory with the Father (vv. 1-5).

He looked up and said, "Father," that was all. No struggling, no pleading, just the recognition of his own divinity, his intimate and unique Sonship to God. Throughout this entire prayer the same close relationship is found. It was not as we would pray "Our Father," but "Father."

Jesus was the Son of God. Yes, he was and is God. He and the Father are one in blessed eternal, infinite unity. But as he is in the Father, who he believe are in him. So the poet well says:

"Near, so very near to God, Nearer I cannot be, For in the person of his Son I am as near as he."

This divine Redeemer, who laid down his glory when he came to earth (Phil. 2:7), to be a Saviour, was now ready to take up that glory again. He spoke of the work of salvation as completed—for in his obedient soul the death on the cross which was just ahead was already accomplished.

Now he was ready for the Father to glorify him even as he had glorified the name of the Father. That prayer was answered, and Christ now sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven. What a glorious Saviour we have!

His prayer was soon turned to those who had believed in him. They were precious to him, for they were given to him by the Father.

II. Out of the World—Then Kept by the Father (vv. 6-11). There is something powerfully assuring to the believer to read the words of Jesus which declare that these who had believed on him, had been given to him by the Father. They belonged to the Father, and he gave them to the Son. They kept the Word of God, and thus they knew the Son as the manifestation of the Father's name. What could be more certain for time and eternity!

Note that they were taken "out of the world"—that does not mean that they left this earth. They lived here as we live here, but they were delivered from that evil world power which opposes God.

Some professed Christians who find their greatest delight in fellowship with the Christ-rejecting world had better read carefully here, for it appears that the one who is truly in Christ is not "of the world."

These disciples had to remain in the world (though they were not of it!) and they needed to be kept. Now that the earthly ministry of Jesus was to be brought to a close, he tenderly placed them anew in the Father's mighty hand. Again we say, what could be more blessedly secure than that!

We must note that our Lord had a special interest and prayer for his own. Verse 9 obviously does not mean that he is not interested in all mankind. He died for them (John 3:16). But here his prayer was for his own, and in that prayer the world was left out. That makes us feel still more assured in him. He, the blessed Son of God and only Saviour, prayed for me for you!

The closing words of verse 11 reach out into the third petition of our Lord, as he prayed for their III. Unity in Christ—Then Testimony to the World (vv. 20-23).

The verses between the foregoing division and this one (vv. 12-19) are important. Our Lord was concerned about the hatred of the world for the Father, and yet he would not have them taken out of the world. They were to be his witnesses—even as we are to be in our day. They must remain in the world; but being one in Christ and sanctified through the truth, they were to be kept for God and used by him.

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