

## RELIGIOUS.

## Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, February 21, 1892, commencing at 2 p. m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

The choir sang the hymn beginning:

Hark! listen to the trumpeters!  
They sound for volunteers.

Prayer was offered by Elder Willard Young.

The choir next sang the hymn:

Come, dearest Lord, descend and dwell,  
By faith and love in every breast.

## ELDER WILLARD DONE

was called to address the congregation. He said the object for which they assembled together on such occasions as the present was, primarily, that they might partake of the emblems of the body and blood of our Redeemer. We had been commanded to do this in remembrance of Him; and hence our minds should be concentrated upon those holy ordinances in which we were participating. There were many outward signs and ordinances pertaining to the Gospel of salvation which had been revealed to us in these days; but there was not one of those outward ordinances that did not have an inward principle and spirit which vivified and made what otherwise would be dead and meaningless alive and full of significance. This was particularly the case with the ordinance of the sacrament. There was a principle underlying this single act of partaking of the bread in remembrance of the body and of the water in remembrance of the blood of our Redeemer; and in one of his epistles the Apostle Paul set forth as the reason why many were sick and many had died among the people to whom he was writing, that they had partaken of this holy ordinance without discerning Christ—without discerning His body in those emblems of which they partook. It had been to them a dead and meaningless form, and the result was that instead of receiving blessings they were the recipients of the opposite.

The speaker referred to the doctrine known in the Roman Catholic Church as transubstantiation, which meant, he said, that when the priest pronounced the blessing upon the bread it became part of the actual body of Christ; and so with the wine, which it was believed became actually His blood. Such a doctrine was, of course, without foundation in fact. They were taught in the Gospel to look upon these emblems as of a sacred character; but still to regard them only as emblems. Much indeed might be said upon this subject; but it was all summed up in the short declaration that he who partook of these emblems unworthily, instead of eating and drinking salvation ate and drank condemnation unto his own soul. He believed that this, in common with all purposes which God had revealed, would be wrought out upon natural principles.

Elder Done referred to various other ordinances in the Church, among them baptism for the remission of sins and the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost. He believed the

mistake was made by many who professed to be Latter-day Saints in that they depended rather upon the outward form than upon the inward principle. We should see to it that we recognized the spirit in which these ordinances were performed, else we were under condemnation. In our advancement in knowledge and understanding we were held back to a very great extent by influences that surround us, and therefore it was not always possible for us to understand fully the spiritual influence unless there was something of a temporal nature presented to us whereby we might comprehend; for we had been told that all spiritual things were made so that temporal things could for the time being represent them.

The Gospel of Christ was made plain unto all those who sought or attempted to study it. Christ was the One to whom we must look for our salvation; He was the One who had come between us and sin, who gave up His own life in order to redeem us from the effects of the fall; and hence the necessity for our faith in Him; for by no other means could we gain the salvation and exaltation to which we aspired. Let us not, then, amid the cares and anxieties of the world, forget the duty which we owed to our Eternal Father.

May the Spirit of God rest upon us, and inspire our leaders and all those who are placed before us to instruct and edify us; may His Spirit rest upon all people in the Church and out of it, that those who have not yet joined the fold of Christ may understand their position and be led unto Him, and become heirs to the blessings which He has promised to the faithful.

## APOSTLE ABRAHAM H. CANNON

was the next speaker. In the course of his remarks he said it would be a blessed thing for us if we could practice in our lives the truths which God had revealed in these last days for the salvation of His children; but how few there were even among the best of those who called themselves Latter-day Saints who could approximate to a life of purity and holiness in His sight. It was said that "many are called, but few are chosen," and our experience proved to us the truth of this. There had been thousands of persons who had received the ordinances of the gospel in this age, and had fallen away therefrom. It was stated, indeed, that the number of those who had apostatized from this Church since its organization was greater than those who were now included in it. Though this might be an exaggerated statement, yet certain it was that very many had turned away from the truth. "But this was no new thing, for we read in the scriptures that even in the days of Jesus many lost the faith, became darkened in their minds, and the Spirit which was given them through obedience to the ordinances of the Gospel was withdrawn, leaving them in darkness. Of the Apostles who traveled with Jesus and ministered under His direction one of them fell into transgression, and was even guilty of betraying his Master.

Speaking of the great and growing desire in the world today for the accumulation of wealth, Apostle Cannon

said the power which it could command among men was not to be despised, and the possession of wealth in itself was no sin; but it was the great love of wealth which was the root of all evil. As Latter-day Saints our hearts should not be set upon these things, for they were of the earth earthy, and with the passing away of the world they would be destroyed. Our desire rather should be to lay up in heaven those stores of treasure "which neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." God held under His control the riches of this earth. In the mountains which surround us lay buried inexhaustible stores of minerals, and God would in His own due time reveal them to the knowledge of His children, when their hearts were right before Him and they would use that which He gave them for the advancement of His cause here upon the earth. But the greed for gain was a passion which few men could subdue. They found this spirit existing in all classes of society, but when it took hold of Latter-day Saints it was apt to make them forget the covenants they had made with God. We should so live that the people of the world might see our good works and be constrained to give us credit for sincerity of purpose. God had been ever ready to hear our prayers, and as we sought to walk in humility before Him He would magnify us in the eyes of the people, and they would yet be led to acknowledge that this was the Zion of our God. As Latter-day Saints we could grow in grace and in the wisdom and knowledge of God; we could grow in wealth also if we would pursue the proper course. The Prophet Joseph had predicted—and none of his predictions thus far had remained unfulfilled—that God would make of us the richest people on the face of the earth. But not so long as our hearts were filled with covetousness.

We were living in a day of trial, when every man's faith would be tested to the uttermost. How could we stand the ordeal? It was only by seeking the Lord constantly and carrying out that which he had told us to do in the affairs of life, holding everything subject unto Him, yielding obedience to His commands in all things. We should be careful not to destroy the trust which God had imposed upon us, but be faithful in every respect, and He would pour out His Holy Spirit upon us in such measure that men would see our good works, and in the days of trouble which were to come they would turn their eyes Zionward and seek among this people that refuge and safety which were denied them among their own in the places in which they now dwelt.

How happy we should be in the midst of trial, how faithful when attacked by the world, and when persecution ran mountains high, seeking to overwhelm us, how comforted in the knowledge that God was at the head of this work, and that whatever happened was with His permission and under His direction, for the strength of His people and the glory of His name in these latter days.

The choir sang the anthem:

Unfold, ye portals everlasting.

Benediction by Elder John Alford: