

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, June 29th, 1890, commencing at 2 p. m. Counselor Charles W. Penrose presiding.

The choir and congregation sang:

Great God, attend while Zion sings
The joy that from Thy presence springs.

Prayer by Elder George Goddard.
The choir sang the hymn commencing:

Farewell, all earthly honors,
I bid you all adieu.

The Priesthood of the Sixth Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

ELDER D. M. M'ALLISTER

was called to address the congregation. He said the Latter-day Saints revered the Bible as the word of God, and regarded its teachings as of divine origin. The Lord has also given revelation in the latter days, and the Saints have these in addition to what is contained in the Bible and Book of Mormon. The Latter-day Saints claim further that in the Church are inspired men through whom God reveals His will. The Saints bear testimony that they are members of the Church of Christ. I am one of that number, and can say that I know that this Church is the Church of Jesus Christ. There are hundreds present today who have the same testimony.

The Savior said, "By their fruits shall ye know them." The Saints are prepared to meet this test. It is true that much evil is said of them, and that they are misrepresented. But the evil that is attributed to them is not the fruit of their doctrines. The teachings of the Church are the same as the Lord Jesus imparted to the people when He and His Apostles administered unto men in the flesh. The principles thus taught are calculated to induce men and women to put away evil and to prepare them for the communion and blessings of God. When people conform to those principles their fruits are worthy of God and His angels, and bring the blessings of the Almighty. The Lord has designed to establish His kingdom on the earth, and He will do it with a people who are willing to serve Him. We have received His Gospel, and if we fail it is because we have not heeded the instructions He has given. It is not he who sayeth Lord, Lord, who shall enter into His rest, but he that doeth the will of the Father. I know that a large proportion of the Saints are earnestly striving to do that will. They are laboring to be worthy to assist in establishing God's Kingdom on the earth in the last days. They are eagerly looking to that time when God will usher in a reign of righteousness on the earth.

I wonder sometimes if we realize as we should the blessings we enjoy in being associated with this great work. If we did so realize, would we not live closer to the Lord than

many of us are doing? I know that the Saints are the best people I have met with, but I know also that it is possible for them to be still better. We are not yet sufficiently advanced in our conformity to the laws of the Gospel to enjoy all the blessings that the Lord has promised to those who faithfully serve Him. It is necessary for us to be more diligent in making the fruits of our lives acceptable to the Lord. I have no doubt that if we lived up to the light we have, much of that which is now referred to as persecution would be averted.

About seven months ago I returned from a mission, and I cannot but contrast the great advantages and blessings we enjoy in these valleys with the misery and suffering in many cities which I have visited. The people here have had the blessings of the Lord poured out upon them abundantly in temporal matters. But this prosperity is only a small item compared with the mercies bestowed on us by the Lord in a spiritual direction. He has revealed to us the plan of salvation, and there is no longer a doubt among the Saints as to what the future will bring. The Saints realize that they will be rewarded for the deeds they perform. According to our diligence in this life so shall our glory and blessing be hereafter. God has opened the way of eternal life to all of His children, and we have learned with a certainty what we need to look forward to. It is our earnest desire to be worthy of that greater glory—the presence of God the Eternal Father. This can only be by faithfulness to all of His laws. Let us be diligent in observing the will of the Lord in all things. Let us be honest in all our dealings; and let us love one another and work righteousness. I would advise those who are not members of the Church to investigate the Gospel, for their own sakes, and if they do so honestly, they will receive the testimony of which I have spoken. The Lord will give to them the knowledge that this is His work, if they but do His will. I testify that this is the work of the Lord. May His power be with those who seek to do His will that they may walk in the way to eternal life.

ELDER JOHN MORGAN

was next called. He read from Matthew, chapter ii, verses 1 to 6, and testified that the Latter-day Saints are engaged in the work of God. We find that when Jesus was born, that event had an effect upon the ruler and wise men, so much that they consulted together regarding it. This coming of the Messiah had been the theme of the Prophets down through the ages up to that time. No topic had been so thoroughly delineated by those inspired of God. They had declared His birth, His manner of life, His rejection by His own, and that His blood should be shed for the sins of the world. With all these teachings, it seems almost incredible that when He was born on earth, when the signs promised appeared, when He was heralded by a mighty Prophet, when He fulfilled all the prophecies concerning Him—it seems almost

incredible that He should be rejected by a people who claimed to be walking in the light of the word of God to Israel. But He was rejected by His own. The teachers and preachers of the day cast Him from their synagogues though He performed many wonderful miracles. With the record of His wondrous power, yet he was crucified between two thieves.

When I reflect on these things it causes me to think of the remark of an ex-Governor of this Territory, that it seemed an incredible thing that in this enlightened century acts of confiscation would be passed by our government. It doubtless seemed an incredible thing to Pilate that the multitude should demand Christ's crucifixion; or incredible to the liberal-minded Roman that followers of the lowly Nazarene were subjected to the most horrible indignities. Yet history records that such was the fact. The heritage of those who followed Him was that they should suffer persecution. That is the heritage of the Saints today. It is also the heritage of the followers of Christ that they should receive the greatest reward. These things are not strange to the Saints. It is not strange to the "Mormon" Elder who has been hounded by mobs that his divine Master was scourged and crucified, and His Saints subjected to persecution.

Christ the Lord proved Himself conqueror over all in that He overcame death and the grave, and opened the way to the resurrection and the life. After His resurrection He entered into the presence of His Father. The angels promised when Christ ascended that in like manner would He again descend. We have the fulfillment of of this promise in the appearance of the Father and Son to the boy Prophet, Joseph Smith. Christ opened the way for the establishment of His Church and kingdom on the earth in this day, gathering into this dispensation all the keys and powers of all other dispensations. A mighty responsibility devolves upon the Latter-day Saints in this respect, for the preparation of a people to receive the Lord, who will come in mighty power to take possession of the earth and redeem it from the curse; when He will drive back the powers of darkness and usher in a Millennium of rest and of righteousness; when men will be brought into the light and fullness of the truth, and the way be opened to life and salvation for all the sons and daughters of God; when every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus is the Christ, and when the Kingdom of God will be established, to stand for ever, and men be freed from the shackles of darkness. The world has but a brief time to see this fulfilled. The world of the Lord has gone forth, and it will not return to Him empty: The Latter-day Saints are the standard-bearers in this mighty work, and herald the warning to all the world. They are proclaiming immortal truths, as did the mighty Nazarene, whose followers they are.