SUNDAY SERVICES.

Elder G. C. Lambert and Counselor C. W. Penrose the Speakers at the Tabernacle.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, February 7, 1892, commencing at 2 p. m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding.

The choir sang the hymn beginning:

Lord, Thou hast searched and seen me clear!
Thou know'st my thoughts with piercing view.

Prayer was offered by Elder Henry Stevenson.

The choir next sang the anthem:

"Look on me and pity your God in love."

The Priesthood of the Nineteenth ward officiated in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

ELDER GEORGE C. LAMBERT

was called to address the congregation. He said that having been unexpectedly called upon to speak that afternoon, he trusted that he might be gifted by the Holy Spirit of the Lord. The Lutheran church was turned a peculiar people, and one of the peculiarities found among them was the custom of calling upon Elders from the congregation to address the Saints without any previous warning.

He knew that his religion was true, but it was one thing to have a testimony of this fact and quite another to be able to impress others with that truth. If he were asked how he became possessed of the knowledge of the truth of the religion which he believed, he might not be able to make a very satisfactory explanation to those who were strangers. While it was quite satisfying to him, unless the person to whom he might attempt to offer the explanation were possessed of the same spirit, he would not be likely to comprehend the testimonies that had been given to him through the operation of the Holy Spirit. The truth which he had embraced had been revealed anew in this age; it was the same Gospel that was preached by the Savior and His apostles. It had been restored again to the earth after the inhabitants thereof had been for a long period deprived of it, they having followed in their own way and devised creeds to suit themselves. It was said of old by the Lord through the Prophet Jeremiah that the people had engraved two sins—they had forsaken Him, the true and the living God, and had hewed out for themselves broken cisterns which would hold no water. That expression might apply to applied to the creeds which existed both now and when the Gospel was restored to the earth. In fact, he believed the prophet foresaw and had in his mind the various religious systems which existed at the present time when he used those words.

If the chiefs of those who established these different religious systems were analyzed it would be found that the authority which they arrogated to themselves was not the word of God. Certainly they did not receive it from the Apostles to whom the commission was given by the Savior, not having lived on the earth in their day.

The Lord condescended to make known His will to the boy Prophet Joseph Smith, who sought Him in earnest prayer, desiring to know which of the creeds then extant was the proper one for him to embrace. To his surprise—for such a thought had never entered his mind—he was told by the heavenly messenger who visited him that they were all wrong, and that he should embrace neither of them. The various creeds, he was informed, were all teaching for doctrines the commandments of men, but that if he proved faithful, the Lord would in the time to come make him the true Gospel, and through him establish His church and kingdom upon the earth. It was, however, very generally disbelieved, and the idea was even ridiculed, that heavenly messengers ever appeared to the Prophet Joseph. But why not, seeing that angels were as much in evidence in the ancient days? If we believed the Bible we must believe that such things did happen in past ages; there was it authenticated that it was not confined to those days, neither had His ear grown heavy that He could not hear. If the heavens were as brass, with them should open the earth in the latter-day, as it had been declared of ancient Israel, that their iniquities had separated between them and their God, and their sins had hidden His face from them. It might be one, again, in a lack of faith. If people did not have faith in the existence of God, it was impossible to believe that He would answer their prayers. Joseph Smith was simple minded, believed that the Lord was capable of hearing and answering prayer to this age just as in the ages that had passed and gone, and he went and bowed in faith before Him. The Father and the Son appeared unto him some marvelous beings as bodily shapes and forms as men, the fulfilment of prophecy. Christians to have their prayers answered might be attributed to their lack of intelligent faith in the existence of the Deity. A person who had such a faith—as distinguished from a blind faith—in the existence of the Deity had such a knowledge of His character, and he thought that was the kind of faith which the Apostle referred to when he declared that without such faith it is impossible to please God.

Even now, notwithstanding that so many years had elapsed since the Lord revealed himself to the Prophet Joseph, there was a great lack of faith throughout the world in regard to the true existence of God, and yet