

**LORD, GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

In our quiet moments we often reflect on things that we have experienced in our sojourn here in this life. In these experiences, we now see how the Lord has guided us along life’s way. As we consider these thoughts of reflection, one thing stands out so clearly and it is this; God’s children can thankfully acknowledge, whether our experiences have been joyful or unpleasant, He who is faithful, has been there to guide us from the difficult times and unto the good times with his unerring hand. Prone to wander, still He does not leave us. Drawn closely unto him, He rejoices with us. Lord, great is thy faithfulness.

Even today, we journey through life with this sinful nature, and so shall it always be while embodied in this human form. But how comforting it is to know that the Great Shepherd of Israel, the Lord Jesus Christ, has also tread the hard, cold floor of this earth and although he journeyed sinlessly, he knows our temptations and struggles. His desire continues to be that we would daily seek the guidance of his Holy Spirit which he has given to all believers. Let us remember the words Jesus spoke to his disciples when they were with him before he was crucified, so that we too, might today, be comfortingly reminded of his great love for us and his concern for our spiritual wellbeing. Jesus said, *“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you”* John 14:16-18. Again, Jesus tells his disciples, *“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth: ...”* John 16:13. So graciously has the Lord given his believers his Spirit to guide us today. Lord, great is thy faithfulness.

In these uncertain times, may our Heavenly Father grant us all clear spiritual vision and strength to walk in faithful obedience to his Word. When today, our nation and the whole world appears to be cast into utter chaos, let us be reminded that these things, too, will pass away. Thanks be to God we need not be overwhelmed with anxiety or fear because our Savior still leads his dear children along, as the song writer has penned, *“Some through the water, some through the flood, some through the fire, But all through the blood.”* What joy and promise these words embrace for every believer.

And it is our prayer that the children of this world would also come to know the grace, mercy, peace, and joy we share by faith in the reconciling blood of our Redeemer. Herein lies the whole message of Good Friday and Easter. Lord, great is thy faithfulness.

Pray God, dear fellow traveler, that the Christian church would remain a beacon of hope and a bastion of truth in this sin-darkened world, doing that which Jesus commanded *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”* Matthew 5:16. If we, God’s children, fail to hold high the Light who has come into the world, who will? Perhaps even today there may be some poor storm-tossed sailor scanning the horizon of the raging sea of life, searching for the lower lights that mark the refuge and safety of the peaceful harbor of grace and forgiveness, of joy and thanksgiving, in the glorious gospel of Christ. Will we be numbered among those lower lights?

May these quiet moments of reflection stir up the gift we have been given and prompt us to greater faithfulness and to praise him who has loved us and given himself for us, to him be all honor and glory, power and dominion, now and ever henceforth. Amen.

*Ken Storm – Pastor*

<b>April Speakers</b>		
Apr 2 Good Friday	Ken Storm	7:00 p.m.
April 4 Easter	Ken Storm	11:00 a.m. Holy Communion
April 9*	Service @ Atlantic Mine	7:00 p.m.
April 10*	Fellowship/Song Service Location to be announced	7:00 p.m.
April 11*	Titus Fraki, Herb Jarvi	10:30 a.m.
	Titus Fraki, Dave Lappi	2:00 p.m.
	Dave Lappi, Charles Korhonen	6:00 p.m.
April 18	Ken Storm	11:00 a.m.
April 25	Nathan Ruonavarrta	11:00 a.m.

*\*Please join us for special services April 9<sup>th</sup> through April 11. Meals will be provided between services on April 11.*

### **Church Schedule**

Sunday School/Adult Bible Study....10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.  
Church Cleaning.....Pete Olson Team

### **TAPIOLA APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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