

CHURCH SCHEDULE

**Sunday School /Adult
Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.**

Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m.

**Wednesday Bible Study:
7:00 p.m.**

October 16: NO Bible Study
*Annual Congregational meeting
will be held*

SPEAKERS

October 6: Ivan Niemela, *Holy
Communion*

October 13: Ivan Niemela

October 20: Paul Coponen

October 27: Charles Korhonen,
*Potluck meal following the
service*

CONTACT

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King David's Plea

"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions" - Psalm 51:1

David, a child of God all the days of his life, pleaded with God to forgive his sins. While he freely acknowledged many of his transgressions, he also admitted that some continued to weigh on his conscience; he could not put them out of his mind. He argued that being born into iniquity made him prone to transgressions, but he found no solace in this truth. Despite his efforts to absolve himself of guilt, he realized that his best efforts were futile in becoming reconciled with God, as they did not stem from a "... *broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart*" (Ps 51:17). Therefore, he turned to God in ardent prayer, hoping that God would grant him the grace to truthfully confess his sins and reward him openly with the forgiveness he was seeking.

David knew that his only hope was to be forgiven by God: "*Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered*" (Psalm 32:1). Scripture told him so. Yet, try as he might, he could not clear his own conscience; "*When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long*" (Ps 32:3). Recurrent thoughts of committing certain transgressions never departed from him; "*For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer*" (Ps 32:4). God never gave up on David. He kept calling him to repent of his sins, which is what bothered him so much.

His greatest fear was that he would lose his faith: "*Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me*" (Ps 51:11). King Saul, his predecessor, lost the Spirit of the Lord only to have an evil spirit replace it because he continually refused to repent of his sin according Samuel's preaching, choosing instead to steadfastly believe this lie: "*I have obeyed the voice of the Lord*" (1 Sam 15:20). He saw no need to repent. David, having seen what happened to Saul, didn't want it to happen to him too. Thus, David pleads his case by praying, "*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow*" (Ps 51:7). He knew from Scripture that whenever a guilty person would voluntarily confess his sin, a priest would then make atonement by sprinkling sacrificial blood, and God would forgive that person. For a long time, David had found it difficult to openly confess his sin to a servant of God, as did Saul.

Thus, God sent Nathan to remind David of two of his sins. He did it lovingly by presenting a story of a rich man who stole from a poor man. Becoming incensed with such cruelty "... *he said to Nathan, As the Lord liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die*" (2 Sam 12:5). Nathan responded by saying, "*Thou art the man... thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife*" (2 Sam 12:7, 9). David immediately acknowledged his sin to Nathan, who said, "*The Lord hath put away thy sin*" (2 Sam 12:13). David received God's forgiveness.

Psalm 51 chronicles the struggle believers have with sin. Interestingly, even though David had committed many sins, Nathan only spoke to him about the sin involving Uriah and his wife (1 Ki 15:5). David's repentance began as a heartfelt conviction of sin followed by an unbearable guilt before God, but his own efforts to free himself failed. It was only when he heard Nathan proclaim God's forgiveness to him that the joy of salvation was restored to him (Ps 51:12). Today, Jesus asks each of us to confess the sin that troubles us to another child of God and to believe, by the grace of God, the life-saving gospel of reconciliation preached to us, just as Nathan did for David. Then, like David, we can have true peace of mind and a lively hope of eternal life in heaven. Truly, "*Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile*" (Psalm 32:2).

God's Peace,
Charles Korhonen