

NEWSLETTER

June - 2025

CHURCH SCHEDULE

***Sunday School & Bible Study
will resume in September***

Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m.

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

SPEAKERS

June 1: Ivan Niemela, *Holy
Communion*

June 8: Mark Sunnarborg

June 15: Ivan Niemela

June 22: Ivan Niemela

June 29: No Service in Tapiola

*Annual ALCA services will be held @
Zion Lutheran Church June 26-29;
<https://www.youtube.com/@zionhancock3655/streams>*

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TAPIOLA APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH

Trials, Tribulations and Trust in God

"O LORD, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed. My soul is also sore vexed: but thou, O LORD, how long?" - Psalm 6:1-3

David's life as a child of God is one example of the sorrows even faithful believers can encounter today. His walk of faith shows that being a child of God does not exempt us from hardships; rather, these challenges equip us to face life's difficulties with purpose and hope, trusting in God's plan for salvation. The Israelites provide another example of character-molding tribulation, where God tested them for forty years in the wilderness to reveal what was in their hearts—whether they would trust in Him or not. We are no different. As believers, we can *"glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope"* (Romans 5:3-4). Without experiencing life's trials and tribulations, we would soon find no need for God, a lesson many have learned throughout the Bible. Moreover, without a need for God's word, we would be eternally lost (John 6:68).

Our text clearly shows that God is rebuking David for a reason, as David prays not for God to stop His actions but rather that He would not act in anger. Over time, David learned to recognize and value the loving discipline he often received from God (Heb 12:6). However, there were moments when he felt forsaken by God: *"Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?"* (Psalm 10:1). During such times, it seemed to David as though God looked the other way while those around him lived carefree lives. This feeling is echoed in Asaph's Psalm, *"For I was envious at the foolish... there are no bands in their death... their strength is firm... they are not in trouble as other men"* (Psalm 73:3-5). As king, David was accustomed to attacks from the outside world, but criticism from friends and family hurt the most, especially when it challenged his faith, causing feelings of doubt and concern.

One might think that David's greatest challenges came from outside his faith, particularly from those who politically hated Israel as a nation. However, Psalm 7, attributed to David, expresses his profound distress over unjust accusations made by Cush the Benjamite. In this Psalm, David asks God to judge his heart rather than Cush's. As a Benjamite, Cush was a fellow Israelite and a member of David's faith, yet there was friction between the two. Instead of asking God to correct Cush, David asks God to search his heart with this plea, *"O Lord my God, if I have done this; if there be iniquity in my hands"* (Psalm 7:3). Essentially, he is saying that if he is guilty of any sin, he deserves for his enemies to prevail over him. This shows that David was not self-righteous when he disagreed with Cush; instead, he was willing to be judged fairly by God. Despite facing false accusations from someone within his own faith, David retained his faith and integrity in God by asking Him to search for any wickedness in him (Ps 139:23-24).

Throughout the Psalms, David often prayed for God's justice and intervention concerning his political enemies and religious accusers. However, he did not attack individuals like Cush or wish for their spiritual downfall; rather, he sought for God's tribulations to come upon them to awaken them to their unbelief.

Further, David asked God to use him as a means to lead others toward repentance and confession of their sins at the door of the Tabernacle (Lev 1:3). While he sought personal forgiveness for his own sins, his broader desire was for his enemies and accusers to recognize their sins and turn toward God. He expressed this in Psalm 51:10-13: *“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me... Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee”*.

David truly embodied the heart of a Christian, showing love to his neighbors. He prayed for their well-being and eternal salvation—not only for those who loved him but also for those who physically and spiritually persecuted him. However, David was not without sin and needed to hear the word of reconciliation preached to him by another servant of God. In one notable instance, Nathan the prophet revealed David’s sin against Bathsheba and Uriah. Upon hearing this revelation, David immediately confessed, *“I have sinned against the Lord”* (2 Sam 12:13). Nathan then assured David of God’s forgiveness by saying, *“The Lord also hath put away thy sin”*. As believers, we also have that same privilege to *“Confess your faults one to another”* (James 5:16) and to hear and believe, by the grace of God, that same word of reconciliation personally proclaimed to us: *“Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee”* (Matt 9:2).

God’s Peace,
Charles Korhonen