

## ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH-Red Bud, Illinois

Adult Bible Class: "Fear or Faith; Terror or Trust? Worldly Worry or Christian Living"

Hymn: 947 "All Glory Be to God on High" (What is the promise of stanza 1? \_\_\_\_\_)

The hymnwriter Nicholas Decius, was a contemporary of Martin Luther. He early on became a convert to the Reformation and became a preacher at St. Nicholas Church in Stettin in 1526. He died there suddenly on March 2, 1541 giving rise to the rumor that Roman Catholic enemies had poisoned him since his work was carried on under constant opposition from the Church of Rome. He was a popular preacher and a good musician. (Handbook to The Lutheran Hymnal, CPH, 1942, page 498) **Was life carefree and easy when Decius wrote this hymn?** \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 27: "This psalm continues the themes of protection from enemies and dwelling in God's presence. However, in this psalm joy in the presence of God is more prominent than concern with the enemy" (John Brug, People's Bible Commentary, CPH, page 122).

"The first six verses express David's confidence in God" (Lutheran Study Bible, p. 868).

**Did David always have a carefree and easy life?** \_\_\_\_\_ (Goliath, Saul, Absalom, etc.)

Verse 1: The questions of this verse come with their own built-in answers. Why be afraid?

**What is the benefit of light?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the meaning of salvation?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the blessing of a stronghold?** \_\_\_\_\_

*John 8:12* Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Verse 2: **What are the threats to David's life?** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**What are they trying to do to David?** \_\_\_\_\_ (literal or figurative?)

**What happens to them?** \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 3: **What is the threat against David here?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is his attitude at such a time?** \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 4: **At such a time of threat what is the one thing David seeks after?** \_\_\_\_\_

"As sinners, we cannot physically see God in worship, but we recognize God's goodness and character. God's children who come in faith do not find a wrathful, terrifying God. God is beautiful to those who receive the Gospel. 'Inquire' may also be translated 'meditate,' in which case David is restating his desire to worship" (Lutheran Study Bible, p. 868).

Verse 5: **What does God promise to do to those who come to Him "in the day of trouble"**

\_\_\_\_\_

Verse 6: **What is the result of being with God at a time of trouble?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What are we to do at such a time of victory?** \_\_\_\_\_

"David's greatest joy comes not from his wealth or his honors, but from the freedom to worship in the Lord's tabernacle. The greatest grief David suffered during his exile was being deprived of this privilege of worship. David's greatest desire is that the Lord will preserve his freedom of worship" (Brug, page 124).

Psalm 34: The setting of this psalm is 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 21:10-15 when David sought refuge from Saul's threats in the Philistine city of Gath, but then realized he was in enemy hands and pretended to be insane in order to get away from them. The king Achish said, "Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this fellow to behave as a madman in my presence?"

"David invites us to learn from his experience so that we always place our trust in the Lord for deliverance from trouble" (Brug, page 145).

Verse 1: **When will David "bless the Lord"?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Would this include when times are tough and our lives are threatened?** \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 2: **When times are tough what are we to boast in?** \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 3: **What does David invite us to do?** \_\_\_\_\_

**In what way are we to do this?** \_\_\_\_\_

"Praise and worship in the congregation is much deeper and more meaningful than individual worship" (Lutheran Study Bible, p. 875).

Verse 4: **What did God do when David sought Him?** \_\_\_\_\_

**From what did God "deliver" David?** \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 5: **What are the promises made to those who look to the Lord?**

\_\_\_\_\_

Verse 6: **Why could David describe himself as "this poor man"?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How do we share in David's "poverty"?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What does God do in response to our cries of help?** \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 7: **Who is "the angel of the Lord"?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What does this angel do?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What does the word "fear" mean in this setting?** \_\_\_\_\_

*Psalm 56*: This setting of this psalm comes from the same time as Psalm 34 when David mistakenly sought refuge from Saul's persecution of him with the Philistines in Gath. He learned that they were after him also.

Verses 1-2: Be gracious to me, O God, for man tramples on me; all day long an attacker oppresses me; my enemies trample on me all day long, for many attack me proudly.

**For what does David ask?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What verbs does David use to describe what is happening to him?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**What is the extent of this opposition to David?** \_\_\_\_\_

Verses 3-4: When I am afraid, I put my trust in You. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust: I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?

**When life makes us afraid, where are we to put our trust?** \_\_\_\_\_

**As we trust in God, what else should we be doing?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the answer to David's question?** \_\_\_\_\_

"David's double expression of confidence contains some beautiful phrases which apply to almost any danger. They are a fitting prayer in sickness, in storms, in war, in persecution and in any other danger" (Brug, page 229).