

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 46

*I will be exalted among the nations. (v10)*

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, & to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, & make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Psalm 46 (Lutheran Book of Worship / Book of Common Prayer translation, ©1977)

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge & strength, a very present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, & though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea; <sup>3</sup>though its waters rage & foam, & though the mountains tremble at its tumult. <sup>4</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. <sup>5</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. <sup>6</sup>God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; God shall help her at the break of day. <sup>7</sup>The nations make much ado, & the kingdoms are shaken; God has spoken, & the earth shall melt away. <sup>8</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. <sup>9</sup>Come now & look upon the works of the LORD, what awesome things he has done on earth. <sup>10</sup>It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; he breaks the bow, & shatters the spear, & burns the shields with fire. <sup>11</sup>“Be still, then, & know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.” <sup>12</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. How does Jesus’ call to “not worry” (*Luke 12:13-40*) fit with *Psalm 46*?
2. The Festival of Christ the King celebrates Jesus’ promised return to bring his Kingdom in its fullness. (It’s the completion of annual our Advent expectant waiting.) What do we learn about this kingdom from *Luke 23:33-43*? See *John 5:18-24, 37-42, 8:21-24, 16:4-11, 18:33-38; Romans 5:6-11; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9*

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. *Psalm 46* has brought great comfort to its readers for thousands of years. It even inspired Luther’s hymn “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.” List at least 12 practical, concrete encouragements you find in this psalm for the circumstances of your everyday life.
4. The psalms routinely direct our trust away from human rulers & institutions & back to God’s sovereignty & providence (*i.e., Psalms 60:11, 62:9, 108:12, 118:8-9, 146:3-7; cf. 37:7, 16-19, 83:1*). How does *Psalm 46* help you be still & know that he is God (*v10*) when our political-media complex seeks the opposite?

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. The old prayer (LBW #183 p44) teaches us to “always [remember] the account we must one day give to Jesus Christ our Lord” (*cf. Matthew 10:26; 1 Corinthians 4:5*). How would envisioning Jesus personally, physically present (*cf. vv4, 6*) with you in your thoughts, words, & deeds help you make better, smarter-godly- decisions? How does *Psalm 46* help you cope when these new decisions bring worldly discomfort? How does it help you explain your decisions to others?
6. People often find healing & hope in acts of unity & hospitality- think of the immediate care following a disaster. Remembering those acts also brings healing & hope. How could including the words of *Psalm 46* in your congregation’s acts of mercy become a touchstone for this over the years?

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Festival of Christ the King  
Series: Come Down Here

11.20.22  
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

With Me  
*Today you will be with me in paradise*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (v4)

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-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the  
coming kingdom of our ancestor David. (*Mark 11:9*)

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