

**Sermon Title:** *“Stay Home, Stay Safe?”*

**June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Text:** Psalm 91



**Theme:**

**What's in it for me?**

**Sermon Text:**

Grace and Peace to you from our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

When preparing for a message, I take a look at the entire lectionary, including the appointed Psalm of the day, and then I pray about what does God want you to know about this week? What does He want you to take away from our worship today? How can you apply God's inerrant Word to your lives? Quite often, Jesus' words in the Gospel are very powerful and meaningful, not just for His original audience, but for us too. There are other parts of God's Word, too, and they also speak to us, so we shouldn't ignore those parts. Many times, we can find great strength and comfort in the Psalms, a part of our lectionary we all too often ignore.

Psalm 91, the appointed Psalm for today, I think checks all of these boxes. It spoke to David, the original author, it spoke to people in Jesus' day, and it speaks to us. It even spoke to the Devil himself, as he twisted it when he was attempting to tempt Jesus in the Wilderness.

When Absalom, one of David's sons, staged a coup, and David had to flee, death and disease surrounded him. Many others suffered greatly during this coup and David witnessed some of these horrors first hand, but David prevailed and he was able to regain his throne. God protected him, but the death of Absalom left a scar on David for the rest of his life.

When people survive a tragedy, people sometimes have "survivor's guilt." This is most prevalent when the person suffering from this was very close to others who did not survive and is unable to articulate why. Many times it just appeared to be dumb luck. The survivor altered his or her daily routine at the last minute and was spared. Quite often, people suffering extreme cases of survivor's guilt usually require professional help to fully recover from these kind of tragedies.

Instead of dumb luck, however, I think today's Psalm gives us God's take on these events. Yes, David suffered during his son's coup attempt, but God limited that suffering. God did the same for the Church. During the first 300 years of the church, there were periods of persecution, but just when the persecution seemed poised to wipe it out, the Roman government found something else to focus on and

the persecution died down, at least for a while. Even during the reformation, there were enough distractions to keep the Roman Catholic Church and its allies from completely crushing the reformers.

Psalm 91 tells us that God will protect and lays out several attributes of God. He is our “refuge and fortress,” and our “dwelling place.” No matter what goes on in this world, we can go to God. We can live in God’s shadow. He did all of the work for our salvation and he still limits how much harm comes to us. Check out verse 3, *“For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.”* (Psalm 91:3). Did you hear that gang? He delivers us from pandemics. God delivers us from Covid-19. But the real pandemic that God is delivering us from is our own sin. David sinned. We sin. David repented and so do we. Sadly there are those who do not repent and they have fallen and will fall around us. God wants those wicked people around us to repent.

While Psalm 91 offers a lot of comfort to us who are living through this pandemic and God promises His protection here, it would be wrong to assume that just because someone contracts Covid-19 that God is somehow punishing that person because he or she is particularly wicked. God does use diseases and illnesses to bring people together, and this pandemic may serve a greater purpose, but let us look upon our neighbor as one who also needs God’s healing. While I am thankful that so far our congregation has been spared from Covid-19, many of us know people who have contracted the disease. I am truly grateful for this, but I am even more grateful that knowing that none of us could free ourselves from the pestilence of sin, God sent Jesus to pay that price and redeem us. God promises that his angels will protect us. He promises that through Jesus, we will conquer the lion, adder (a type of venomous snake), and the devil himself. Jesus did these things for us so we need not worry.

So we need not have survivor’s guilt. Jesus had redeemed us and protects us. While horrible things happen all around us, some of these things a little too close to home, we can relax and know that God’s got this. He is in control and will protect us. Revelation tells us the same exact thing. God’s in control. No matter how bad things look, if we put our trust in God, we will be alright in the end.

I know that this pandemic has taken its toll on you. You have been isolated from your family and friends. You have had to deal with feelings of loneliness and every time you step out your doorway, the fear of contracting the disease. Phone calls and online meetings help, but it’s not the same. Fortunately, we are able to start meeting together again. 3Ms are able to start meeting again, but those meetings bring about additional stress. We want you to feel safe in worship and will welcome you back when you feel that it is safe to do so.

God doesn’t want you to take a cavalier attitude towards the virus either. God intended verses 11 and 12 to be very comforting, but here is where the Devil tries to twist God’s Word. Fortunately, Jesus gives us the correct response, “You shall not put your Lord, God to the test.” See Matthew 4:5-7 and Matthew 25:53-54). In other words, know that God will protect you from harm, but He doesn’t

want you going out taking unreasonable risks. As people of God, we can go about our lives, knowing that God will be there for us and protect us. Take prudent precautions to protect yourself from the coronavirus, but don't live in fear either. Stay home, stay healthy? Welcome to the Lord's house. Whether you come home physically or online, He keeps you healthy by faith through grace.

God has one more promise in Psalm 91, He listens to us. When you have all of those feelings of depression, anxiety, and/or stress, take it to God in prayer. Jesus did. We should too. Walk in God's shadow. Crouch under His wings. Listen to God, *<sup>14</sup>Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. <sup>15</sup>When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. <sup>16</sup>With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.*" (Psalm 91:14-16).

In Jesus name,

Amen.

Timothy Quindt,  
Licensed Lay Deacon  
(503) 358-0770  
[tquindt@hotmail.com](mailto:tquindt@hotmail.com)

Quotations from Scripture come from:

Various Authors. *The Lutheran Study Bible*. Concordia Publishing House. Kindle Edition.