

## REAL. PRESENT. GOD. – “PRESENT” (Psalm 46:4-7)

Pastor Augie Iadicicco

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Have you ever considered the words of Psalm 139:1 “Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?” These are either terrifying or comforting words depending on your perspective. If you are hiding from God, His presence might be unnerving but if you are afraid or in danger, then God’s presence is a great comfort. In Psalm 46, God’s presence is offered as a comfort to His people. The image is of God as a refuge - a place of great strength when you are weak and a place of protection and provision when you face persecution or struggle. We thank God for his sweet and comforting presence in our lives!

**This is worse than complaining:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In times of trouble, people often ask: “ \_\_\_\_\_ ?”**

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble – Psalm 46:1 (ESV)*

**Our God is \_\_\_\_\_!**

Psalm 46:4-7, Isaiah 6:5, Luke 5:8

*The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress – Psalm 46:7*

**1. God’s presence is our refuge and strength, \_\_\_\_\_.**

**a. No matter what \_\_\_\_\_ or not done**

Matthew 11:28, 1 Timothy 1:15-16, Jeremiah 31:3

*Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst – 1 Timothy 1:15*

**b. No matter what is going on \_\_\_\_\_ right now**

Romans 8:31-39, Psalm 23:4

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? – Romans 8:35*

**2. God is present in His \_\_\_\_\_.**

Psalm 1 & 139:7-10, 1 Kings 8:27- 28, Matthew 28:20, John 1, 1 Corinthians 10:16, 2 Timothy 3:16

**3. God is present \_\_\_\_\_.**

Matthew 18:19-20, John 13:35, Hebrews 10:24-25, Romans 6, Galatians 2:20, Philipians 2:13

*“For where two or three are gathered in My name, there I am among them.”  
– Matthew 18:20*

Questions for individual or group reflection:

Are you a complainer?

How often do you wonder whether God is present and acting?

Why is despair worse than complaining?

Do you believe that God promises His presence in His people’s lives? What Scriptures would you reference to make such a statement?

Are you tempted to believe that God will leave you if you sin?

Discuss why the circumstances of life and the world might make a person doubt the presence of God?

How important to know that God doesn’t leave you in the hard times?

Does God’s presence in your life mean you won’t have hardship?

What then does God’s presence promise you?

Does God come to us in His Word and Sacrament?

If God is invisible, how do we know where He can be found?

How does God use people around us as His presence on earth?



**Pray: Heavenly Father, I am sorry that I demonstrate my doubt and weak faith by questioning your presence in my life. Forgive me for complaining about the work that you are doing that I do not understand. Help me not to despair wondering if you have abandoned me, but instead to trust your promise to be with me even in the valley of the shadow of death. Cause me to confidently cling to your presence especially in the difficult times of life. When I am weak, you are strong. At those times, instead of despair and hopelessness, may I sense your presence even more powerfully in my life. Thank you that you have given us your Word and Sacrament as places where you may be found. And thank you for fellow believers to encourage us along our pilgrim way. May we demonstrate your love and presence to each other, until we see you face to face. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.**

**Do: Spend time in the presence of God through Word, prayer and the Holy Sacraments!**

**Memory Verse: Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there – Psalm 139:7-8**

REAL.  
PRESENT.  
GOD.

20 LCMS Youth  
19 Gathering

This is worse than complaining: Despair

REAL.  
PRESENT.  
GOD.

Watch video at:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=279754566075062>



“Where was God?”



REAL.  
PRESENT.  
GOD.

20 LCMS Youth  
19 Gathering

*There is a river whose streams make glad the city of  
God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.*

*God is within her, she will not fall;*

*God will help her at break of day.*

*Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;*

*he lifts his voice, the earth melts.*

*the LORD Almighty is with us;*

*the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

*- Psalm 46:4-7*



Our God is PRESENT!

REAL.  
PRESENT.  
GOD.



*“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”*

- Isaiah 6:5

REAL.  
PRESENT.  
GOD.

*When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"*

*- Luke 5:8*

**REAL.**  
**PRESENT.**  
**GOD.**

*The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of  
Jacob is our fortress.*

– Psalm 46:7

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no matter what.

*God is our refuge and strength, a very  
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– Psalm 46:1 (ESV)

REAL.  
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GOD.

*There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.*

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1. God's presence is our refuge and strength,  
no matter what.
  - a. No matter what I have done or not done

REAL.  
PRESENT.  
GOD.

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and  
burdened, and I will give you rest.”*

- Matthew 11:28

REAL.  
PRESENT.  
GOD.



1. God's presence is our refuge and strength,  
no matter what.
  - a. No matter what I have done or not done
  - b. No matter what is going on in my life  
right now

REAL.  
PRESENT.  
GOD.

1. God's presence is our refuge and strength,  
no matter what.
2. God is present in His Word and Sacraments.

REAL.  
PRESENT.  
GOD.

*Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?  
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.  
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,  
even there your hand will guide me,  
your right hand will hold me fast.*

- Psalm 139:7-10



*“But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built! Yet give attention to your servant’s prayer and his plea for mercy, LORD my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day.*

- 1 Kings 8:27- 28

REAL.  
PRESENT.  
GOD.

*Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?*

- 1 Corinthians 10:16

REAL.  
PRESENT.  
GOD.

1. God's presence is our refuge and strength,  
no matter what.
2. God is present in His Word and Sacraments.
3. God is present through His people.

REAL.  
PRESENT.  
GOD.

*“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”*

- Matthew 18:19-20

REAL.  
PRESENT.  
GOD.

*“By this everyone will know that you are my  
disciples, if you love one another.”*

- John 13:35

REAL.  
PRESENT.  
GOD.



*And let us consider how we may spur one another  
on toward love and good deeds, not giving up  
meeting together, as some are in the habit of  
doing, but encouraging one another—and all the  
more as you see the Day approaching.*

- Hebrews 10:24-25

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Our God is PRESENT!

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