**Sunday, August 2nd, 2020**

**Psalms 11:3-4**

When all that is good falls apart, what can good people do?

The Lord is in his holy temple.

The Lord sits on his throne in heaven.

The Lord still rules from heaven.

He watches everyone closely, examining every person on earth.

He observes everyone on earth; his eyes examine them.

The Word of the Lord.           **Thanks be to God**

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Many centuries ago, as David wrote this Psalm,

            he asked a question which all generations have asked.

We have faced destructive tornados and hurricanes,

widespread fires and terrible tragedies.

We have lived through snowstorms, and hailstorms, and rainstorms.

And we have asked ourselves the same question David asked:

            When all that is good falls apart, what can good people do?

That is when we are facing doubt storms.

Every so often a doubt storm rolls into our lives, bringing with it a flurry of questions,

and gale-force winds of fear and anxiety.

And we begin to ask so many questions:

            Why do so many people have to hurt?

            If God is so good, why do we sometimes feel so bad?

            If his message is so clear, why do I get so confused?

            If the Father is in control, why do good people have gut-wrenching problems?

            It all comes down to: Where is God when his world is so stormy?

David asked the same question.

And then he went on to answer his own question.

Where is God?

            The Lord is in his holy temple.

            The Lord sits on his throne in heaven.

            The Lord still rules from heaven.

            He watches each one of us.

When the doubt storms are too great,

            when the turbulent days are too menacing, when the enemy is too big,

            the future too bleak, and the answers too few,

David reminds us God is still with us; He is closer than we think.

God is where he is supposed to be, doing what he is supposed to do.

When we look up and reach toward Heaven for hope and healing,

            wisdom and strength and purpose, we find it.

When all that is good seems to be falling apart around us, God stands firm.

And because God is God, he is not limited to one place.

He is with us, each one of us, all the time.

We pray, comforted in the knowledge that God is listening.

God hears us.

Where is God?

He is where he is supposed to be, doing what he is supposed to do.

Look up and see what God has done.

Look up and see what God is doing.

Though we may not be able to see his purpose, or his plan,

the Lord of heaven is on his throne, and in firm control of the universe and our lives.

This knowledge gives us confidence as we face the uncertain future.

We know he is in control of the universe, and so we can rest secure.

Trusting God, we can then ask: When all that is good falls apart,

what can good people do?

            God is doing his job.

            We are his people.

We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession.

We are the people of God, and God is with us always.

God is with us today; at this hour, at this minute.

God has placed his hand on our shoulder and said:

            "You are something special. You are mine.

             You are my child. I love you dearly.”

Since we are God's people, his children, his special possession,

            we have much which we can do, much which we ought to be doing.

Our task is to do God's will wherever we can, whenever we can, in any way we can.

When all that is good falls apart, what can good people do?

      More than we can ever imagine.

We can fulfill God's will. We can live as God's People

We can take care of each other and those around us.

We can love our neighbors, and help them.

Remember: The ruler of the universe rules our hearts, and our lives.

Let God Be God, and let us live as God's people.

There is always plenty to do.

Amen