

Sermon Title: Psalms: From the Heart, Part XI 1.25.2026

Theme: Courage and peace in life's battles and faith to lead others to safety in the midst of theirs. Live-streaming and sermon notes are at trinitycg.org.

Weekly Question: When was the last time you heard someone pray for salvation?

Sermon Points:

1. **Faith has a refuge.** Psalm 11:1-7 ¹ In the Lord I take refuge; how can you say to my soul, “Flee like a bird to your mountain, ² for behold, the wicked bend the bow; they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart; ³ if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?” ⁴ The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord's throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man. ⁵ The Lord tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence. ⁶ Let him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup. ⁷ For the Lord is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face. Faith doesn't deny danger; it decides where to stand in the face of it. Resist the urge to run away. Walk in faith, not fear. Running away can seem expedient and practical. But obedience to God is when your soul stands against the urge to give in to the world. **Matthew 9:18–26** ¹⁸ While he was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” ¹⁹ And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰ And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, ²¹ for she said to herself, “If I only touch his garment, I will be made well.” ²² Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well. ²³ And when Jesus came to the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴ he said, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. ²⁵ But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. ²⁶ And the report of this went through all that district.

Their faith was their refuge...for the one who had suffered for so long and for the father whose daughter had already died! Think of the faith it takes to publicly ask Jesus to raise the dead to life!

2. **Evil needs shadows.** Evil thrives in secrecy. God works in the light. He exposes hidden things.
3. **God is not absent—He is enthroned.** When your foundations shake, panic is the wrong answer. Creation may shudder, but Heaven is secure. God sees everything—nothing slips past Him. “His eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man” (v.4). God is never sleeping on the job.
4. **The righteous are tested, not abandoned.** Testing is not rejection; it's refinement. God takes evil personally. God's holiness opposes evil. Judgment is certain because it is determined. God's justice may be patient, but it is never forgetful.
5. **The final reward is God Himself.** Heaven is not about the gold but God. He is the great blessing of forever and ever. You must know where you are before you decide where you're going or else you won't know how to get there. Your destination determines your transportation. Is your destination Heaven? The way to get there is Jesus Christ (John 14:6). Get right with God right now!

Reflection: Lord, grant me courage and peace in *my* battles and faith to lead others to safety in the midst of *theirs*.