

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, March 1st, 2026
Rev. Gerry Gallant

Transformed by the Presence of God
Second Sunday of Lent
Psalm 27

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

As we gather in this sacred season of Lent, we come seeking the presence of God—our light, our salvation, and our stronghold.

The Lord is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear? We come to dwell in the house of the Lord, to gaze upon His beauty, and to seek His face.

In the midst of trouble, God shelters us. In the day of uncertainty, God lifts us high upon the rock. In the silence, God invites us to seek His face.

Your face, Lord, do we seek. Hide not Your face from us. Teach us Your way, O Lord; lead us on a level path.

Let us wait for the Lord with courage. Let us trust in His goodness, knowing He will never forsake us.

We wait for the Lord; we are strong, and our hearts take courage. We trust that God's presence will transform us.

May the light of Christ drive out our fear. May His salvation steady our hearts. May His beauty captivate our souls.

And may His presence transform us into the people He has called us to be.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

O Holy and Gracious God,
We come before You in awe and wonder,
For You are the Creator of all that is seen and unseen,
The source of light, love, and life.

We adore You for Your majesty and mercy,
For Your faithfulness that endures through every generation,
For Your wisdom that guides us,
And Your compassion that comforts us.
You are worthy of all praise—
Our hearts rejoice in Your goodness,
Our spirits are lifted by Your grace.
As we gather in Your name,
We humbly invite Your presence among us.
Come, O Lord, and fill this place with Your Spirit.
Open our minds to Your truth,
Open our hearts to Your love,
Open our lives to Your transforming power.
May our worship be pleasing to You,
And may we be drawn ever closer to Your heart.
Amen.

Call to Confession

As we gather before God, let us come with honest hearts,
Acknowledging our need for mercy and grace.
Let us lay aside all pretense and bring our shortcomings into the light,
Trusting that God hears our prayers and forgives all who turn to Him.
Let us confess our sins together.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
We confess that we have sinned against You
In thought, word, and deed—
By what we have done,
And by what we have left undone.
We have not loved You with our whole heart;
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ,
Have mercy on us and forgive us,
That we may delight in Your will
And walk in Your ways
To the glory of Your name.
Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news:
 God is gracious and slow to anger,
 Abounding in steadfast love.
 In Christ, we are forgiven—
 Set free from sin and restored to new life.
 Friends, believe the gospel:
 In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
 Thanks be to God!

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
 Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.
 For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory,
 Forever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn #193: Out of My Bondage, Sorrow and Night

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
 Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;
 into thy freedom, gladness and light,
 Jesus, I come to thee;
 out of my sickness into thy health,
 out of my want and into thy wealth,
 out of my sin and into thyself,
 Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
 Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;
 into the glorious gain of thy cross,
 Jesus, I come to thee.
 out of earth's sorrows into thy balm,
 out of life's storms and into thy calm,
 out of distress to jubilant psalm,
 Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
 Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;
 into the joy and light of thy home,
 Jesus, I come to thee;
 out of the depths of ruin untold,
 into the peace of thy sheltering fold,
 ever thy glorious face to behold,
 Jesus, I come to thee.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 95:1-9

95 Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
² **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
 let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

³ For the Lord is a great God,
 and a great King above all gods.

⁴ **In his hand are the depths of the earth;
 the heights of the mountains are his also.**

⁵ **The sea is his, for he made it,
 and his hands formed the dry land.**

⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
 let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

⁷ **For he is our God,
 and we are the people of his pasture,
 and the sheep of his hand.**

Today, if you hear his voice,

⁸ **do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
 as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,**

⁹ **when your fathers put me to the test
 and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.**

Anthem (Music Ministry): “Let Us Break Bread Together”

Prayer for illumination
(Congregant Prepared)

Scripture**Psalm 27**

¹The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers assail me
to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stumble and fall.

³Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.

⁴One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to inquire in his temple.

⁵For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high upon a rock.

⁶And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

⁷Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸You have said, "Seek my face."
My heart says to you,
"Your face, Lord, do I seek."

⁹Hide not your face from me.
Turn not your servant away in anger,
O you who have been my help.
Cast me not off; forsake me not,
O God of my salvation!

¹⁰For my father and my mother have forsaken me,
but the Lord will take me in.

**¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.**

**¹² Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they breathe out violence.**

**¹³ I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living!**

**¹⁴ Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!**

Sermon

As we walk through this season of Lent, we are reminded of our call as Christians, to walk a path marked by self-reflection, humility, a longing for a relationship with our God and the repentance that His Word demands from each of us.

When we do this honestly, when we look at ourselves and begin to examine our own faith, we are faced with a great question, ‘What does it mean to live in the transforming presence of God?’

You see Lent is not meant to be a season of just self-denial, or a time to try-harder to be a good Christian. Lent is meant to be a pilgrimage of the heart, a spirit led journey by which God brings us into deeper communion, deeper honesty, deeper trust and deeper transformation. It is a season in which we are called to slow down and examine our lives carefully so that we might be awakened to God’s presence in our lives. It is a time where we name our fears, confess our sins, confront our idols, delay our longing, and rediscover the God who never forgets us or forsakes us.

Psalm 27 is a faithful representation of the Lenten journey. It is a Psalm that was born in a time of tension, a time that David was caught between fear and faith, threat and trust, longing and assurance. It speaks with clarity about things we are all familiar with danger, enemies, loneliness and uncertainty, and yet it also contains an important message about a God who saves, shelters, illumines and transforms.

The Psalm is more than a simple declaration of confidence, or a lament; it is a man’s trust, desire, vulnerability and hope woven together into a prayer. It is a man seeking to look upon the face of God, and that is what the season of Lent is all about. Each of us examining ourselves as we seek out our God who is our light, our salvation, and our stronghold.

Psalm 27:1

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation;

**whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?**

I am confident that we have all heard these words before. It is probably one of the most quoted pieces of Scripture in media to this day. In almost every movie or television show where a Christian faces something that they should be afraid of, this verse pops up. And it is for a reason. This line is not a line spoken in times of peace and plenty. These are words that are spoken when people are facing real danger, something which can cause serious and immediate harm. These are the words of one who is facing their enemies, standing up to the adversaries or facing armies. Yet even in the face of fear, David does not begin there, instead he begins with God.

He calls God his light, meaning God is David's source of understanding, clarity, truth and joy.

That word 'light' in Scripture never refers to the mere physical light. It speaks of the very presence of God breaking into and overcoming the darkness.

From the very first-time light is brought to the world by God in the book of Geneses, with his spoken words, 'Let there be light.' To the pillar of fire that guided the nation of Israel, to the brightness of the glory of God that filled the tabernacle, light has always been a symbol of God's presence, his nearness, his grace.

David looks around him and acknowledges the dangers that he faces, but instead of seeing the gloom and doom, he sees them in the radiance of God's light, he knows that no matter what happens it is God who has the final say.

He also refers to God as his salvation. This is not sentimentality, it is testimony. David has already been through many dangers in his life which should have killed him. He has confronted Goliath, been pursued by Saul, been ambushed, been betrayed and yet over and over again, God had saved him.

To David God's salvation was not theoretical, it was his lived experience. And he proclaims it boldly, '**The Lord is the stronghold of my life**'

To David God is not a rescuer that shows up when he is in trouble and saves him only to disappear again, instead God is a fortress in which He lives. David's faith is not one that seeks help in times of trouble alone, it is a faith that is anchored in the abiding refuge of the Lord.

So, David asks, '**of whom shall I be afraid?**' Not because the threats that he is facing are minor, but because he knows that no matter what he faces, God is greater. This is where

transformation begins, when the presence of God becomes more real to us in our lives than the dangers that surround us in this world.

And it is after this bold confession that his words take a surprising turn. Instead of calling for safety, victory or relief from the dangers he is facing, David asks for something deeper.

Psalm 27:4

**⁴One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to inquire in his temple.**

In the midst of chaos, David expresses his desire to be in the presence of the Lord.

Take a moment to consider this. David is a king, a warrior, a leader of men. He has responsibilities and burdens that weigh heavily upon him. In this moment he could have asked God for anything, for victory in battle, for protection from his enemies, for vindication against his accusers, but instead he asks for communion with his God. David's one desire is an ongoing, unbroken, transformative relationship with God.

He wants to '**dwell in the house of the Lord**' He is not speaking of the physical building, but the presence of the One True Living God. To David God's presence is not an occasional refuge, it is the very environment in which his soul flourishes. He wants to be in God's presence always; he wants to live every moment of His life with an awareness of his relationship with God.

To this David adds, '**to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord**' David is not speaking of the beauty of God's sanctuary, instead he is speaking of the beauty of God's character. David seeks to dwell in God's holiness, His mercy, His Steadfast love and His Glory. There is something magical and transforming about beholding God's beauty. People become what they love, and when you behold God's beauty and you love your Lord with all your heart, soul, body and mind, you begin to be reshaped, transformed by his radiance.

Next David says that he longs, '**inquire in his temple.**' David seeks God's wisdom, guidance and understanding. To David the presence of God is not only a place of worship, but also a place of teaching. David understands that God reveals himself to the heart that seeks Him.

This is the heart of a true disciple. A heart that desires a personal relationship with God above all else. When we honestly seek God's presence in our lives we are changed, our fear will diminish, our desires are reordered and we become centered on the eternal glory of God's kingdom.

David then continues

Psalm 27:5

**⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
V.**

**⁶ And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

David does not deny troubles; in fact, he says that he expects them. Faith in God does not eliminate hardship. We know that as God's children we are going against the ways of the world, which means we will face trials, troubles, tribulation and persecution. Faith does not eliminate hardship; it invites it in and then anchors us in God's protection throughout whatever we face in this world.

David uses three images to show us how God protects and transforms; the shelter, the tent and the rock.

For David, God is his shelter. This is covenantal language drawn from Israel's time wandering in the wilderness. When they wandered lost in the desert, the tabernacle, God's shelter, was a visible sign to the people that God dwelled among his people. To be sheltered by God means to be brought under His covering, guarded from harm and enveloped in His faithfulness.

Next, he says that God will '**conceal [him] under the cover of his tent**' This is a picture of the intimate relationship between God and His people. In the ancient world to be invited into someone's tent was to be welcomed into their hospitality and protection. The concealing in the tent is not just a place where he is hidden from the dangers of the world, but also a place where he is in close relationship with the Lord.

Finally, he states that, '**he will lift me high upon a rock**' God's presence is not only protective but also elevating. God will lift David to a place of stability and perspective. When he is lifted upon that rock he will begin to see things from God's vantage point, the troubles do not disappear, but they begin to lose their power.

And how is it that David responds to God's divine shelter. He worships!

'I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.'

Transformation always leads to worship. When God comes into our lives and lifts us from fear to confidence, from peril to praise, our natural response is joy in the Lord. Not some superficial happiness, but a deep gratitude for a God who loves us.

However, in verse 7 the tone of the Psalm shifts.

Psalm 27:7-8

**⁷Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!
⁸You have said, "Seek my face."
My heart says to you,
"Your face, Lord, do I seek."**

After all of his declarations of confidence, his visions of praise and worship, David begins to cry out to the Lord. This is not a contradiction but a spiritual truth of our walk in faith.

Faith is not a straight line. Confidence and doubt can co-exist. The life of a disciple often moves between times of assurance and desperation.

In these verses David reveals the honesty of a soul that is pursuing God. He acknowledges that it is God who initiates the relationship, God calls his people, God invites them into relationship, God says, 'Seek me'. And Davids' heart answers that call. He earnestly seeks the Lord his God.

Yet even in his honest and heartfelt seeking of the Lord he wrestles with the realities of this world.

Psalm 27:9-11

**⁹Hide not your face from me.
Turn not your servant away in anger,
O you who have been my help.
Cast me not off; forsake me not,
O God of my salvation!
¹⁰For my father and my mother have forsaken me,
but the Lord will take me in.
¹¹Teach me your way, O Lord,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.**

David's words come from the truths of human experience. There will be times in our lives when God will seem hidden, where he may seem distant, where he appears to be silent.

David knows that he is a sinful man and that his sin can cause a rift in his relationship with God.

So, he prays boldly, because he knows of his own faith's frailty, instead he calls upon God's character, God's holiness, His mercy, His Steadfast love and His Glory.

David anchors his prayer in his experience. He knows that God has helped him in the past and that God will help him again. He knows that even when human relationships fail, when worldly ideas fall apart, that God will take him in, guide him, protect him and provide for him.

David understands that God's faithfulness surpasses even the closest of earthly bonds.

So, he calls for God to teach him, lead him.

Transformation is not just an emotional change of character, it is not just a feeling of warmth, safety, and security. It is not just feeling loved by God. It is a moral and ethical change of character, it is God shaping our heart, our mind and our path through this life through the truth of His Word and the power of the Holy Spirit in us.

Psalm 27:13

**¹³ I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living!**

David finishes this Psalm with a statement of absolute trust in God. He knows that he will face threats, he will have fears, there will be times of uncertainty and times when he has difficulty seeing God's presence in his life, however, he believes that through all of these times he will still be experiencing the goodness of God.

David has hope, his faith is strengthened because of his trust in the Lord. This is the fruit of real transformation.

His final words spoke to himself, to the nation of Israel and to every Christian who has walked on this earth.

Psalm 27:14

**¹⁴ Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!**

Wait.

Waiting is one of the hardest disciplines for Christians to master. We live in a world that teaches us not to wait. Waiting is not a passive task that God gives us, it is an active one. Waiting as a Christian is not wasting time, it is placing our trust in God. Waiting is our soul standing at attention, ready to respond to God's timing, open to God's leading and surrendering to God's wisdom.

Waiting purifies, strengthens and cultivates courage.

A courage that does not come from our human resolve but from God's sustaining presence. Courage grows where fear once lived because of God's presence in our lives, because we place our trust in him and not in ourselves or in the world around us.

This is the message of Lent, wait for the Lord. Examine yourself, empty your false hopes, surrender your self-sufficiency, admit your sins and trust that God will renew you, restore you and transform you in this world according to His will.

Psalms 27 is about the transforming presence of God in the life of David and of all believers. It starts with fear and ends with courage. It begins with longing and ends with hope. It faces danger with worship. Throughout the Psalm we see that God is the Light, the Salvation, the Beauty, the Teacher, the Shelter and the Rock.

We learn how transformation comes through the presence of God in our lives, not by our will.

This is why Lent, a time when as Christians we are called to pause - reflect on our lives - and confront the reality of our need for repentance is important. It calls for us to name our fears and confess our sins to God. It reminds us that we are to deepen our desire for a personal relationship with God, and to wait for him with courage.

Lent is not about giving trivial things up, it is about seeking to give up those things that interfere with our relationship with God.

And it is in Jesus Christ, that the fulfillment of the Psalm is revealed. He is the true light that shines into the darkness. He is the Salvation who rescues us. He is the Stronghold who guards us. He is the Beauty we behold. He is the Face of God turned toward us in grace. In Him, the invitation to "seek My face" becomes the promise, "I am with you always."

May this Lent draw us deeper into His presence.

May His light drive out our fear.

May His salvation steady our hearts.

May His beauty captivate our souls.

And may His presence transform us into the people He has called us to be as we walk as the Salt and Light of His Word in this dark and broken world.

Let us Pray,

Prayer of Augustine (Church Father)

O good and omnipotent God,
 you care for every one of us, as if you cared for each alone,
 and you care for all as if all were one!
 Blessed is the one who loves you,
 and who loves their friend in you,
 and who loves their enemy for you.
 For with you, we lose none dear to us,
 to whom all are dear.
 You, our God, who made heaven and earth and fill them,
 and by filling them you create them.
 Your law is truth, and truth is yourself.
 I see the things of this earth pass away,
 and I see other things take their place,
 but you remain forever.
 Therefore, my God and Father,
 to you I entrust all I have received from you,
 for then, I can lose nothing.
 You, O Lord, have made me for yourself,
 and my heart can find no rest until it rests in you.
 Amen.

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
 this is the joyful feast of the people of God.

At this Table, Christ offers Himself to His church
 as spiritual nourishment and comfort.
 Here, by faith, we partake of the benefits
 of His once-for-all sacrifice,
 and are strengthened in our communion with Him
 and with one another.

Come—not because you are worthy in yourself,
 but because Christ is worthy;

not because you are strong,
but because He is gracious.

Come with repentance,
come with faith,
come looking away from yourself
and wholly unto Christ.

For all who belong to Him,
who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
and who desire to live unto His glory,
this Table is prepared for you.

Let us Pray,

Merciful God,
we confess that we are sinners in need of grace.
We have fallen short of Your glory and cannot stand before You on our own.
We bring nothing to commend ourselves,
only our need and our trust in Your mercy.
We turn from our sin and from every false hope,
and we look to Jesus Christ alone.
We believe that He gave His body for us
and shed His blood for the forgiveness of sins.
We receive Him by faith as our Savior
and submit to Him as our Lord.

Cleanse our hearts,
renew our minds,
and restore us by Your grace.
As we come to this table,
feed us with Christ Himself,
strengthen our faith,
and deepen our repentance,
that we may walk in newness of life.
We ask this with humble hearts,
trusting in Your steadfast love.
Amen.

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and fitting
to give Him thanks and praise.**

Holy and gracious God,
 We give you thanks and praise,
 For you are our Light and our Salvation,
 Our stronghold and our song.
 You have called us from darkness into your marvelous light,
 And in your presence, we find our true home.
 In this season of Lent,
 You invite us to journey deeper—
 To name our fears, confess our sins,
 And seek your face with longing hearts.
 You do not turn us away,
 But draw us near with steadfast love.
 We remember your servant David,
 Who longed to dwell in your house,
 To gaze upon your beauty,
 And to inquire in your temple.
 We remember how you sheltered him in trouble,
 Lifted him high upon a rock,
 And transformed his fear into courage.
 Most of all, we remember Jesus Christ,
 The fulfillment of every longing,
 The true Light who shines in our darkness,
 The Bread of Life broken for the world,
 The Cup of Salvation poured out for all.
 Holy and gracious God,
 Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts,
 That we may be transformed by your presence,
 Strengthened for the journey,
 And made one with all your people
 In hope, in courage, and in love.
 All glory and honor are yours,
 Almighty God, now and forever.
Amen.

Let us together confess the faith of the church at all times and in

all places:

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. AMEN.**

Communion

On the night He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said,
"This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
(Luke 22:19)

We remember that His body was broken for us,
that we might be healed, forgiven, and restored.

In the same way, He took the cup, saying,
*"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for many for the
forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."*
(Luke 22:20)

We remember that His blood was shed for us,
the innocent for the guilty,
the righteous for sinners.

Taking of the bread

Take, eat, and remember:
Christ died in our place,
and by His body we are united to Him
and to one another in the bond of peace.
Let us eat together, proclaiming the Lord's body broken for us.

Drinking of the cup

Take, drink, and remember:
we are redeemed, reconciled, and washed clean,
not by our works,
but by the one sacrifice of Christ Jesus our Lord.
Let us drink together, proclaiming the Lord's death until He comes.

Prayer after Communion

Gracious and faithful God,
we thank You for meeting us at this table
and for nourishing us with the signs of Your grace.
You have fed us not because we are worthy,
but because You are merciful.
Strengthen us now by what we have received,
that our faith would be renewed,
our hope made firm,
and our love enlarged.
Send us out in the power of Your Spirit to live as grateful and obedient people.
Keep us in unity,
guard us in holiness,
and help us to bear faithful witness in word and deed.
May the life of Christ be seen in us as we go from this place,
until that day when we feast with Him in glory.
We give You all thanks and praise,
now and forever.
Amen.

Invitation to Offering

Offering

Offertory Prayer
(Congregant Prepared)

Closing Hymn #534: "All Who Hunger; Gather Gladly"

All who hunger, gather gladly
 Holy manna is our bread
 Come from wilderness and wand'ring
 Here in truth we will be fed
 You that yearn for days of fullness
 All around us is our food
 Taste and see the grace eternal
 Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers
 Seeker, be a welcome guest
 Come from restlessness and roaming
 Here in joy we keep the feast
 We that once were lost and scattered
 In communion's love have stood
 Taste and see the grace eternal
 Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together
 Jesus Christ is living bread
 Come from loneliness and longing
 Here in peace we have been fed
 Blest are those who from this table
 Live their days in gratitude
 Taste and see the grace eternal
 Taste and see that God is good.

Pastoral Prayer

Gracious and loving God,
 We thank you for meeting us here,
 For shining your light into our hearts,
 And for drawing us ever closer to your presence.
 As we journey through this season of Lent,
 Help us to name our fears honestly,

To confess our sins with humility,
And to seek your face with longing and trust.
Transform us, O God, by your nearness.
Lift us from fear to courage,
From longing to hope,
From danger to worship.
Teach us to wait for you with patience,
To trust in your goodness,
And to walk in your ways each day.
May your Spirit strengthen us for the journey ahead,
And may your love shape us into the people you have called us to be.
We pray all this in the name of Jesus Christ,
Our Light, our Salvation, and our Stronghold.
Amen.

Benediction

Go now in the peace of Christ.
May the Lord be your light and your salvation.
May the presence of God shelter you,
The beauty of God captivate you,
And the courage of God fill your heart.
Wait for the Lord, be strong,
Let your heart take courage,
And know that God is with you—now and always.
Amen.