



he 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?

(PSALM 27:1)

STRUCTURE

- v. 1** Confidence in the Lord.
- v. 2-6** Praise: My enemies are the ones who stumble.
- v. 7-12** Lament: I am forsaken by all, do not leave me!
- v. 13-14** Confidence in the Lord.

AT A GLANCE

“TENT” The tent which will provide concealment for David, and where he will offer sacrifices, is the tabernacle, where the Lord met with His people Israel.

“WAIT” Throughout the psalter, the psalmists speak of waiting on God’s help, with patient confidence in His deliverance that cries to Him for aid.

PART OF A WHOLE The abrupt shift from praise to lament (v. 6-7) has led many to conclude that Psalm 27 began as two separate psalms, perhaps joined by mistake.



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In many psalms, there is a movement from lament to praise, which seems natural to us. In Psalm 27, however, we abruptly move in the opposite direction. David begins with great confidence. There is no reason to fear if the Lord is his “life and salvation,” the “stronghold of my life” (v. 1). Enemies will gather against him, but they will be defeated, causing David to declare, “I will sing and make melody to the Lord” (v. 6). But the Christian’s life in this world is not a straight line toward glory, and David must cry out again: “Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud!” (v. 7). He is rejected by his family, and enemies surround him. He is seeking God’s face as commanded, and he pleads that God would not hide that same face from him. Yet even as he cries out in lament, there is a note of confidence at the end of this psalm. David believes that he will look upon the Lord in the land of the living, and he exhorts himself and those who pray with him to have patience in affliction, to “wait on the Lord” (v. 14).



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USE IN THE CHURCH

Antiphon: v. 2b
In the Daily Office: Mondays at Matins; Matins on Good Friday and Holy Saturday
At the Divine Service:
One-Year:
 Introit for Exaudi (ant: v. 7a, 8b, 9a), Trinity 4 (ant: v. 3a) and Trinity 5 (ant: v. 7a, 9b)
 Psalm for Trinity 20 (ant: v. 8)
Three-Year:
 Introit for Lent 4B (ant: v. 1) and Easter 7B (ant: v. 7); introit verses for Lent 4A
 Psalm for Epiphany 3A and Pentecost Tuesday (ant: v. 1), Propers 11C and 20A (ant: v. 4)
Hymn: LSB 723, “The Lord Is My Light”

SPIRITUAL CARE

- For divine protection.
- Against false preachers and teachers.
- To embolden faith.
- For the coming of Christ and eternal life.
- To remind God of His promises.



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PSALM PRAYER

O God, our light and salvation, remove from us the night of sorrow and ignorance. Give us the light of truth and knowledge, that all our hope may remain fixed on You, and that all who would seek to hurt us may be brought to nothing. Set us high upon a rock, that being made strong in Christ, we may be lifted up in love, and edified in faith; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PSALM

27

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