



# Cherish All Children

Pray + Educate + Connect + Act

**What is your Psalm 27 today?**

**Wednesday Prayer for January 18, 2017**

**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

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?

One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. Now my head is 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.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!  
"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, Lord, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation! Psalm 27:1,4-9

In the midst of our everyday lives, political realities, and our efforts to end the injustice of child sexual exploitation, we can become fearful.

Psalm 27 speaks to fear in the words of a writer from ancient times (and the Bible translator!) It is a gift for our spiritual journeys to have writings such as this, which speak to God and of God within our very human experiences and feelings.

What would be your Psalm 27 today? Below is my version; I invite you to write your own!

God is my beloved, and I am loved by God.

Whom shall I fear?

Jesus walks with me, willing to give everything  
so love may exist and flourish.

Whom shall I fear?

God's love and peace is the core of my life.

Whom shall I fear?

One thing I ask of God, that I will seek after:  
to live in God's presence all the days of my life, wherever I am.

There I will see God's beauty and grow among God's people.  
There I will see children being cherished.

For God will provide what I need when I am in trouble,  
when I am tired,  
when the forces of evil and violence seem too great.  
I trust God to provide.

I give thanks to God for God's faithful help!  
I shout with joy! Alleluia!  
I sing songs of joy! Alleluia!

Hear me, O God, when I cry out to you!  
Help me to know your grace and mercy!  
Help all your children to know your grace, mercy, and protection!

"Come," my heart says, "seek God's presence."  
I seek your love within me; help me know it is already there.

You are my trustworthy companion, friend, God-with-me!  
Stay with me despite my failings.  
Stay with me to calm my fears.

You are our trustworthy companion, friend, God-with-us!  
Stay with us despite our failings.  
Stay with us to calm our fears.

Stay with us.

\* \* \* \* \*

Today's *Wednesday Prayer* was written by Deacon Amy Hartman, National Director of Cherish All Children.

Prayers also requested for:

- All of God's children, that their lives and futures are what we are seeking to protect and cherish. May we stay focused on what is best for God's children.
- Exploited children - that they would be rescued and healed; vulnerable children - that they would have safe people and places; perpetrators - that they would stop their abusive and exploitive behaviors; bystanders - that they would intervene on behalf of children whenever possible.
- Protection of Cherish All Children leaders, congregations, synods, and the overall organization, that God would thwart any efforts to undermine this ministry.

## **Cherish All Children**

**Cherish All Children is an ELCA ministry that equips congregations to prevent child sexual exploitation.**

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We believe that "Love born of faith in Jesus Christ calls us all to attend to, discuss, resist, and reject the system of sexual exploitation" (**[ELCA Message on Commercial Sexual Exploitation](#)**, pg. 1.)

**You are invited to [give financially](#) to support this ministry.** Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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