



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 25th January 2026

compiled by Barbara Dalton - Local Preacher in training

Call to worship

God of light,
bringing joy and freedom to all nations.
Gather us to yourself,
call us to the light of your presence
and help us to shine outwards so that others can see your light. Amen

Song

1] Lord, the light of
Your love is shining
In the midst of
the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World
shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth
You now bring us,
Shine on me. Shine on me.

2] Lord, I come to
Your awesome presence,
From the shadows
into Your radiance;
By the blood I may
enter Your brightness,
Search me, try me,
consume all the darkness.
Shine on me. Shine on me.

3] As we gaze on
Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may
our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me. Shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations
with grace and mercy;
Send forth Your word,
Lord, and let there be light.*

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

Let us pray

Dear Heavenly Father, You are my sufficiency and strength, my light and my life, my all in all. I pray that when dark clouds of unknowing loom across my heart, that I immediately call to mind the wonderful truth of Who You really are. May I rest in the wonderful security and eternal salvation I have in Christ, in Whose name I pray, AMEN.

Reading: Psalm 27 v1 and v4-9

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?

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

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

⁸ 'Come,' my heart says, 'seek his face!'

Your face, LORD, do I seek.

⁹ 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!

Reflection

David is saying that God is the source of guidance (*light*), rescue (*salvation*), and protection (*stronghold*). Because God defines his safety and direction, fear loses its power. This isn't claiming a trouble-free life - it's declaring that fear doesn't get the final word when God is trusted.

Psalm 27 speaks to me as a reminder of where my confidence truly comes from. When fear, uncertainty, or pressure surround me, this psalm calls me back to God as my light and my safety. It helps me realize that fear does not disappear because life becomes easier, but because I choose to trust God in the middle of what I don't understand.

Out of all possible requests, David chooses one: closeness to God. "Dwelling" doesn't mean living in the temple literally, but living in ongoing relationship and awareness of God's presence. This psalm shows that intimacy with God matters more than comfort, success, or even safety. God's presence is pictured as a place of refuge. Protection here is not the absence of trouble, but the assurance that God shelters and sustains David in the middle of it.

Verse 4 especially challenges me. David asks for only one thing - to dwell in the presence of the Lord. This makes me reflect on my own priorities. Often, I ask God for solutions, protection, or answers, but this psalm reminds me that the greatest gift is closeness to God himself. Being with God matters more than having everything resolved.

David trusts that God will lift him out of defeat and shame. Worship and joy follow deliverance - praise is his response, not pride.

The psalm shifts from confidence to prayer. Even strong faith still cries out. This shows that trusting God includes asking for help and mercy, not pretending to be fearless. God invites relationship, and David responds. "Seeking God's face" means desiring closeness, truth, and presence - not just blessings or solutions.

As the psalm continues, I notice the honesty in David's prayer. Even with strong faith, he still cries out for mercy and reassurance. This comforts me because it shows that faith does not require perfection. I can be

confident and vulnerable at the same time. I can trust God while still asking him to stay near and not turn away from me.

Psalm 27 encourages me to seek God's face daily - not just in moments of trouble, but as a way of life. It reminds me that waiting on the Lord is an act of strength, not weakness. In choosing to wait, we learn patience, courage, and deeper trust.

Overall, this psalm reassures us that God's presence is our greatest source of peace. No matter what we face, we are reminded that we are not alone, and that in God's presence, our heart can find courage and rest.

These verses teach that:

- God is the foundation of courage (v1)
- God's presence is the greatest desire (v4)
- Faith includes both confidence **and** vulnerability (v7-9)
- True security comes from relationship, not circumstances

Song

1] The Spirit lives to set us free,
walk, walk in the light;
He binds us all in unity,
walk, walk in the light.

*Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light of the Lord.*

2] Jesus promised life to all,
walk, walk in the light;
the dead were wakened by His call,
walk, walk in the light.

Walk in the light....

3] He died in pain on Calvary ,
walk, walk in the light;
to save the lost like you and me,
walk, walk in the light.

Walk in the light....

4] We know His death was not the end,
walk, walk in the light;
He gave His Spirit to be our friend,
walk, walk in the light.

Walk in the light....

5] By Jesus' love our wounds are healed,
walk, walk in the light;
the Father's kindness is revealed,
walk, walk in the light.

Walk in the light....

6] The Spirit lives in you and me,
walk, walk in the light;
His light will shine for all to see,
walk, walk in the light.

Walk in the light....

Damien Lundy (1944-1997)

Intercessional Prayer

Loving and faithful God,

You are our light and our salvation; in You we place our trust.

We come before You not only for ourselves, but for all those who are struggling with fear, uncertainty, and hardship.

Lord, be the light for those who feel lost or overwhelmed.

For those facing danger, conflict, or insecurity, be their stronghold and refuge.

Replace fear with courage, and remind them that You are near.

We pray for those who long for Your presence but feel distant from You.
Draw them into Your dwelling place, O Lord.
Help them to seek Your face and find peace in knowing You walk with them each day.

In times of trouble, shelter those who are hurting -
the sick, the grieving, the lonely, and the anxious.
Lift their heads above despair and surround them with Your comfort and hope.

Hear the cries of all who call out to You today.

Do not hide Your face from them, Lord.

Show mercy to those who feel forgotten or rejected, and remind them that You never forsake Your children.

Teach us all to wait for You with trust and strength.

As we wait, renew our hearts, deepen our faith, and help us to encourage one another with courage and love.

We place all these prayers into Your hands,
confident that You are our light, our salvation, and our hope -
now and always. Amen

Ponder Throughout the Day

The Lord is your light and salvation. The Lord will protect you with his strength. You can live and work without fear.

For Further Reflection

Read all of Psalm 27, paying attention to what the Spirit of God is stirring up in your heart. Talk with God about what you are thinking and feeling.

Each new day is a gift from God. When we wake up, it's a good idea to start with Him. Talking to God in the morning helps us feel safe, strong, and ready for anything. That's why Psalm 27 used as a morning prayer is a powerful way to begin your day.

One of the best ways to begin your day is by praying with God's Word.

Psalm 27 is full of strong words that remind us that God is with us. It tells us that God is our light, our helper, and our hiding place.

The Lord's Prayer

Final prayer

God of light,

keep us faithful as light-bearers.

Help us to keep our focus on you and then outwards to others.

Be with us as we move outwards beyond our comfort zone.

Help us, like the fishermen, to leave behind the familiar and safe
and move into your light with freedom and joy. **Amen**