

Sunday, Sept 20, 2026
Sermon text: Psalm 27

In the name of the Most Holy Trinity, Father, + Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Beloved in the Lord,

Before I turn to our text, I wish to sincerely thank you for your warm welcome at Our Saviour, and I bring you the greetings of the saints of God living in Rome (and also those in Florence, whom I have had the pleasure of meeting just recently).

Today's Psalm opens and closes with two bold confessions of faith: "THE LORD IS MY SALVATION: WHOM SHALL I FEAR? THE LORD IS THE STRONGHOLD OF MY LIFE: OF WHOM SHALL I BE AFRAID?" Whose words are these?

Certainly, you would be right if you said that they are David's: the superscript reads, "OF DAVID," after all! It was him that penned these reassuring words, and there is something reassuring in thinking that even such a great and holy king as he had struggles not unlike ours. At the height of his godliness and prosperity, a sin as mundane as lust overtook a man with hundreds of wives, and the consequences of his misconduct resonated well into his grandchildren's generation.

David was a saint, an anointed king, a prophet—and yet, always a man. And, as a man, he needed the same help we all do: God's grace and Spirit. As a believer, he relied on the one thing he knew heaven and earth are worth betting over: the promise. In his case, the promise that the Lord would be the God of the Davidic dynasty. He knew that God was with him because God had sworn an oath to his forefather Abraham, and had now sworn a new one to him. And so David was small, weak, human, but the help he received was gigantic, powerful, divine.

That is quite the comfort, brothers and sisters. There is much in this life to make us feel small and insignificant. The Law of God in our conscience reminds us how much we are still falling short of. Society dins into you its own, not-so-healthy expectations of what you ought to do and be. The shadow of parents and guardians looms over our souls even long after we have grown up. We hit wall after wall—whether it be finances, family trouble, or something else. And of course, people look up to you. Your spouse, your children, your country, your congregants look up to you, hoping that you will have the right answer.

David does not need to lie to himself. He does not need to turn himself into a giant golem to trust in. It was not in himself he trusted when he faced Goliath, nor when he sought deliverance from Absalom. David is a living testimony that we are indeed called to be godly, to be good, to be brave, but that we also have a God who is greater than our smallness. We, like David, have a promise in Jesus Christ—a promise that the Father is our God, our Saviour, our Rescuer. We do not need to be great enough for our lives; He is for us.

But then, I ask again the same question: Whose words are these? Who is speaking in this Psalm? The Church has always learned from the New Testament to hear in the Psalms the voice of Christ. Surrounded as He was by His enemies, He, too, repeated: “THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND MY SALVATION.” And this He believed, even in the midst of His Passion and death. We should not forget that Christ was obedient unto death, and that obedience includes perfect faith in the Father. It is as if we may picture Him crucified, mocked by His accusers, and yet His heart repeats: “And yet THIS IS MY ASSURANCE: I WILL BEHOLD THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.” And of course, He was right: the Father did not leave Him in death’s clutches, but delivered Him from them on the third day!

And here we uncover, in turn, just how intimately *ours* the words of this Psalm are. They are not merely the godly hope of a saint of old. They lie on the lips of our Head, our Captain. And if the Head is safe, so is the body. If the Captain of the ship knows how to guide it to a peaceful harbour, all the sailors are safe with him! How could we be united to Christ, be indwelt by His Spirit, robed in His righteousness, and not share in His assurance? How could we be His adoptive brothers, if we did not share the same Father?

Christ perfectly trusted His Father’s love. Even as He stepped onto death’s threshold, His heart clung to that love with the unwavering assurance that, though death be frightening and cold, though devils and men were snarling and jeering, the Father’s hand was never too far from rescuing Him.

But this same trust becomes our own birthright, brothers and sisters! In His priestly prayer, in John 17, Christ says to the Father, “YOU HAVE LOVED THEM JUST AS YOU HAVE LOVED ME.” And because Christ loved us so much to become ours, and make us His, all that is His is ours, and all that is ours is His. Our weakness, our sin, our smallness is cast onto His shoulders, and is consumed by His glory like a piece of cloth in fire. And His glory, His sonship, His intimacy with the Father—they all become ours.

So then we have a right to say with David, with ancient Israel, and with the Church of all ages: “THIS IS MY ASSURANCE: I WILL SEE THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.” Why? Because the goodness of the Lord was promised to Christ, and through Christ, to us. The intimate care and love God has for His Son is now ours.

Think about how true the words of today’s Psalm ring for us! Think about it, and then think about it again, because I promise you that you aren’t fathoming an inch of it! Think of Christ: think of the intimate bond of love of the Most Holy Trinity, where Father, Son, and Holy Ghost have loved each other since eternity. Think of how Christ walked this earth, poor, with NO PLACE TO REST HIS HEAD, and yet never forsaken by the Father. Think of how, even as He descended into death, the Father’s love rescued Him. Think of how He is seated in glory, always beholding the Father’s tender and loving face. And then think how the Gospel writes “Yours” on each of these moments.

The Father’s love for the Son in eternity past? It’s yours! The Father’s love for Christ as He walked on earth? Yours. The Father’s love for Christ as He drew Him out of the pit of darkness? Yours. The heart of God does not even beat once for His Son without beating also for you—because you are His, and He is yours.

Do you now BEHOLD THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING? Oh, brothers and sisters, *let yourselves be small*. Let your Goliaths be big, but let your Jesus be bigger! Let Jesus be your elder Brother, who takes care of our guilt, our temptations, our shame. Let Jesus be your bigger Brother who takes you in His arms, carries you into the presence of the Father, and reassures you that all is well. Let Him be the adult, and yourself the dumbfounded kid that looks around with no idea of what’s going on.

Whatever worry may fill your mind—money, family, health, DEATH, LIFE, ANGELS, AUTHORITIES, POWERS, PRESENT OR FUTURE THINGS, HEIGHT, DEPTH, OR ANY OTHER CREATURE—they all lie in Jesus’ firm, loving grasp. As do you. Does that mean you know what will be of you, on this side of the grave? Will your financial debt surely be extinguished? Will you surely recover from sickness? Christ was not spared the cross, and neither are we. But in the midst of His Passion, He could seize the certainty of the Father’s love. And, in Him, so may you: even as the tempest rages, You may look on Christ and see the face of a tender, loving Father holding you by your hand.

And as you see Christ revealing the Father's love for you, you may very well say:
THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND MY SALVATION ... THE LORD IS THE
STRONGHOLD OF MY LIFE ... THIS IS MY ASSURANCE: I WILL SEE THE
GOODNESS OF THE LORD IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.