

Sunday, February 28: ***Second Sunday in Lent***

Readings: Genesis 15:1-12, 15:17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17—4:1

Luke 13:31-35

Prayer: *God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world, Gather all peoples into your arms and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*<sup>24</sup>

Focal Verse: “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?” Psalm 27:1

Reflection: Psalm 27 is both a prayer of assurance and a prayer calling for God’s assistance. In fact, logically we might more easily understand the psalm if it began with verses 7-14. These verses constitute something of a prayer for divine help. Verses 1-6 are a hymn to the confidence a believer has in God. Some biblical scholars suggest that originally these halves were two distinct psalms. However, as in life, confidence and pleas for assistance often exist side by side. Perhaps this psalm is an example of that circumstance. The psalmist reverses the fear of enemies and of being forsaken by God with a confession of confidence in the Lord at the psalm’s beginning. In other words, the fear in the psalm’s last half is conquered by a trust in the first half.

As stewards mature, we develop wisdom that what we do for God and others has a deep and abiding purpose. If we did not believe that what we did with our time and treasure was of worth, then we would invest our stewardship in other ways. Yet we stewards have full confidence that what we do with what God has loaned us has some greater significance than what often meets the eye. It is out of this conviction that we willingly offer what we have to the Lord.

We respond as stewards in faith because of the trust and assurance that God has already offered us in Christ. It is the confidence we have in God’s providence and protection that gives stewards the courage to do what many modern people are too fearful to do. With glad and generous hearts, we share out of the bounty that God provides.<sup>25</sup>

What do you hear?

How does it make you feel?

Toward what are you being drawn?

What do you sense you should do?

<sup>24</sup> Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

<sup>25</sup> Mosser, David, *The Stewardship Companion*, Westminster John Knox Press, © 2007, p. 188.