

God's love conquers all things, even fear and death. In Isaiah's prophecy, written about 750 years before Jesus, the Prophet looks forward to that day when death is destroyed forever, and God's plan of salvation reaches its final climax. In the meantime, we struggle in this life. But the words of both the Psalm and St. Paul remind us that we have nothing to fear because God is our Light and Salvation, and His love, through Christ our Lord, conquers overwhelmingly. Ultimately, the only thing that can truly separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus is our own decision to reject Him.

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts
will provide for all peoples.
On this mountain he will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,
The web that is woven over all nations.
He will destroy death forever.
The Lord GOD will wipe away
the tears from all faces;
The reproach of his people he will remove
from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.

On that day it will be said:
Indeed, this is our God; we looked to him, and he
saved us!
This is the LORD to whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 27

Response (*R/.*) *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*
[OR] *I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in
the land of the living.*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?
The Lord is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid? *R/.*

One thing I ask of the Lord;
this I seek;
To dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord
and contemplate his temple. *R/.*

Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call;
have pity on me, and answer me.
Your presence, O Lord, I seek.
hide not your face from me. *R/.*

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord with courage;
be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord. *R/.*

Second Reading: Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

Brothers and sisters:
If God is for us, who can be against us?
He who did not spare his own Son but handed him
over for us all, how will he not also give us
everything else along with him?
Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?
It is God who acquits us.
Who will condemn?
It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who
also is at the right hand of God, who indeed
intercedes for us.
What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will
anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?
No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly
through him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor
angels, nor principalities, nor present
things, nor future things, nor powers, nor
height, nor depth, nor any other creature will
be able to separate us from the love of God in
Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.