

# Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 20) – September 24, 2023

*“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?  
The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?”*

– Psalm 27:1 –

My nine-year-old daughter and I share a common interest in the TV show *The Little House on the Prairie*. We recently watched an episode, where the eldest Ingalls daughter Mary was already blind. She married a blind man named Adam in the show. And in this particular episode, Mary is given a glimpse of hope as she’s able to detect light. She notices when she is in darkness, and when light enters the room, her vision goes from black to white. It gives her hope that she might regain her sight. After a long trip with her Pa to see the specialist in Mankato, Mary receives the disappointing news that her blindness is not reversing after all.

This episode reminded me of the psalmist’s words in Psalm 27:1, “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?” Mary was heartbroken at the news she received, but her Pa helped her to “see” things from a different perspective. Mary realized that she had no reason to be afraid because God has given her everything she needed: a loving husband, a devoted family, and a job as a teacher at a school for blind children.

We, too, have moments that seem scary and dark. We deal with various trials in this earthly life. We’re faced with making big decisions. At times, we’re plagued by fear and anxiety for many different reasons. But the psalmist reminds us that we have no reason to be afraid if we believe that God is the source of our light and our salvation. He will lead us down the right path, so long as we heed his voice through Scripture. Our life-source is God himself. He gives us life and salvation; we can share that same love with others. We will still have times that we are in complete darkness, or so it would seem. Can you imagine the darkness that Jesus’ disciples and mother felt on Good Friday after Jesus had suffered terribly at the hands of others, had been nailed to the cross, left to die, and then buried in a borrowed tomb? There was darkness. Darkness covered the earth (see Mk. 15:33). But darkness did not remain.

On the third day, the Light that is Jesus Christ, returned to the earth, risen from the dead. We have that to hold on to in times of fear and trouble. Jesus Christ, our light and salvation, will give us strength and hope in a dark world.

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