

January 27, 2008 "Waiting in the Shadow" - Rev. Linda Veltheim

- Sometimes, when things are tough, we may question where God is during our trials. We may question our faith.
- Faith is not about prescribing to a particular doctrine – it is a way in which we live by, and die by, in the face of evil.
- Facing evil is inevitable, but the faith is what enables us to fight it.
- There are no easy answers as to why suffering happens, and there are no "pat answers".
- The Lord is my life and salvation.
- It's not what happens to us that matters, but what we do with it.
- We can turn evil into triumph.
- We do not have to be demoralized.
- We are not broken; we can be assured that we are in the hands of a loving God.
- Pray in the light of God's grace.
- Keep seeking God – do not dwell on the worst-case scenario – don't even go there.
- If we do not turn to God, we can go from standing in the shadow being cast into inner darkness and agony.
- "Red Rover" analogy – It's the tight faith that holds, not the loose grip.
- We can trust God in all situations.
- Stay with God, take heart, don't quit.

Assurance

God's love never ends! Now we know we are forgiven; now, we know we are healed. Now we can bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, endure all things. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Psalm 27

**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?**

When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.

Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.

Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Hear my voice when I call, O LORD; be merciful to me and answer me.

My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, LORD, I will seek.

Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior.

Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.

Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.

Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, breathing out violence.

I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.