

# Psalm 27:1-9

## Of David.

<sup>1</sup> 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?

<sup>2</sup> When the wicked advance against me  
to devour<sup>a</sup> me,  
it is my enemies and my foes  
who will stumble and fall.

<sup>3</sup> Though an army besiege me,  
my heart will not fear;  
though war break out against me,  
even then I will be confident.

<sup>4</sup> One thing I ask from the LORD,  
this only do I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD  
and to seek him in his temple.

<sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble  
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;  
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent  
and set me high upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup> Then my head will be exalted  
above the enemies who surround me;  
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make music to the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> Hear my voice when I call, LORD;  
be merciful to me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup> My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"  
Your face, LORD, I will seek.

<sup>9</sup> 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,  
God my Savior.

## Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 9:1-4

**9** <sup>a</sup>Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

**2** The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

**3** You have enlarged the nation  
and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice  
when dividing the plunder.

**4** For as in the day of Midian's defeat,  
you have shattered  
the yoke that burdens them,  
the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor.

## Epistle Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

### A Church Divided Over Leaders

**10** I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,<sup>a</sup> in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. **11** My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. **12** What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas<sup>b</sup>"; still another, "I follow Christ."

**13** Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? **14** I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, **15** so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. **16** (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't

remember if I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

## **Christ Crucified Is God's Power and Wisdom**

<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

# **Gospel Reading – Matthew 4:12-25**

## **Jesus Begins to Preach**

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— <sup>14</sup> to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

<sup>15</sup> "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,  
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,  
Galilee of the Gentiles—

<sup>16</sup> the people living in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the shadow of death  
a light has dawned."<sup>Ⓜ</sup>

<sup>17</sup> From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

## **Jesus Calls His First Disciples**

<sup>18</sup> As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." <sup>20</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>21</sup> Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, <sup>22</sup> and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

## **Jesus Heals the Sick**

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. <sup>24</sup> News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. <sup>25</sup> Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis,<sup>Ⓜ</sup> Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.