

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

INVITATION:

The LORD is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear? (Psalm 27:1)

Pause and slow your breath before entering into prayer.

BIBLE SONG: Psalm 85:1-7

You, Lord, showed favor to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
You forgave the iniquity of your people
and covered all their sins.
You set aside all your wrath
and turned from your fierce anger.

Restore us again, God our Savior,
and put away your displeasure toward us.
Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger through all generations?
Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?
Show us your unfailing love, Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

PRAYER:

Keep Your people, Lord,
in the arms of Your embrace.
Shelter them under Your wings.
Be their light in darkness.
Be their hope in distress.
Be their calm in anxiety.
Be strength in their weakness.

Be their comfort in pain.
Be their song in the night.

In peace will I lie down, for it is You, O Lord,
You alone who makes me to rest secure.
Be it on Your own beloved arm,
O God of grace, that I in peace shall awake.³

Pause and listen for what God is saying to you.

INTERCESSION:

- *For those in our community struggling with mental health issues
- *for unity among the staff at the Gate
- *for governments, leaders, and the needs of our world

*What else do you want to talk to God about?
How is God inviting you to respond?*

BLESSING:

God's peace be known
deep within your soul
when anxiety and fear
assail you, when daily
life becomes a burden
that is difficult to carry.
God's peace be known
and felt, as those arms
reach out to hold you.
God's peace be known
and heard, in words
of comfort and release.
God's peace be known. Amen.⁵