SCRIPTURE:
But thou, O Lord, be not far off!
   O thou my help, hasten to my aid!
Deliver my soul from the sword,
   My life from the power of the dog!
Save me from the mouth of the lion,
   My afflicted soul from the horns of the wild oxen!
I will tell of thy name to my brethren;
   In the midst of the congregation I will praise thee.
You who fear the Lord, praise him!
   All you sons of Jacob, glorify him,
   And stand in awe of him, all you sons of Israel!
For he has not despised or abhorred
   The affliction of the afflicted;
And he has not hid his face from him,
   But has heard, when he cried to him. (Psalm 22:19-24)

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?
And now my head is lifted up
   Above my enemies round about me;
And I will offer in his tent,
   Sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord. (Psalm 27:1, 6)

MEDITATION:
When asked to provide a devotion, I immediately thought of Psalm 27, which has been a comfort to me for many years with its promise that the Lord will lift me up above my enemies. Then I reread the directions and learned we were supposed to write something connected to Holy Week. What could be more of a connection than Psalm 22 where the Suffering One is lifted above his enemies?

I know our sufferings are not as great, but we can rely on the Father's care in the face of our enemies just as Christ did.

We all have enemies: anger, sorrow, poor time management. And those are just mine at present.

God can turn anger to peace, sorrow to calm. God can help me focus so that I use the time he has given me wisely.

REFLECTION:
1. What or who are your enemies?
2. How can our Mighty God change your relationships with your enemies?
PRAYER:
In this Holy Week, we thank you, God, for sending your son. We thank you, Jesus, for dying for us. We thank you, Holy Spirit, for caring for us every day. Deliver us from our enemies. We thank you for hearing and answering our prayers. Amen.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:
Jackie Allen is a retired nurse and long-time member of the ASA, an organization that kept me sane during a period when I had problems with the tenets of my faith and those of science. My late husband, Craig, an engineer, introduced me to the ASA. He started as a student member. I have three children and am an active member of University Lutheran Church where our focus is on ministry with the students of University of California, San Diego.