

Psalm: 118:1-2, 19-29

Notes to reader:

Please do not announce the specific text. It is already printed in the liturgy booklet for those who wish to look it up.

This Psalm is replete with praise. Cyrus has released the Judean slaves!

They have returned to Jerusalem to build the Second Temple.

There are a lot of exclamation marks in the text!

Listen for words of faith in the Hebrew Psalms:

Tell Yahweh how thankful you are,

because God is kind and always merciful.

Let Israel shout:

“God is always merciful!”

Open the gates of justice!

I will enter and tell Yahweh how thankful I am.

Here is the gate of Yahweh!

Everyone who does right may enter this gate.

I praise Yahweh

for answering my prayers and saving me.

The stone that the builders rejected
has now become the most important stone.
Yahweh has done this, and it is amazing to us.
This day belongs to God!
Let's celebrate and be glad today.
We'll ask Yahweh to save us!

Hosanna, O God, Hoasannah! |

We'll sincerely ask Yahweh to send us success.
God bless the one who comes in the name of Yahweh!
We praise you from here in the house of Yahweh.
Yahweh is our God, and has given us light! Start the celebration!
March with branches all the way to the altar.
Yahweh is our God!
I will praise Yahweh and say how thankful I am.
Tell Yahweh how thankful you are,
because God is kind and always merciful.

[PAUSE]

For words of praise
We give thanks

Gospel: Matthew 21: 1-11

Notes to reader:

Please do not announce the specific chapter and verses. They are already printed in the liturgy booklet for those who wish to look them up.

This is another entrance to Jerusalem. Although there is welcome, it is more subdued in tone.

It is a humble entrance to Zion. There is a sense of what comes next.

Listen for words of faith in the Gospel according to Matthew:

When Jesus and the disciples came near Jerusalem, they went to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives and sent two of them on ahead. Jesus told them, "Go into the next village, where you will at once find a donkey and her colt. Untie the two donkeys and bring them to me. If anyone asks why you are doing this, just say, 'The Teacher needs them.' And they will at once let you have the donkeys."

So God's promise came true, just as the prophets had said,

"Announce to the people of Jerusalem:

'The Anointed One is coming to you! Humble and riding on a donkey, coming on the colt of a donkey.'"

The disciples left and did what Jesus had told them to do. They brought the donkey and its colt and laid some clothes on their backs. Then Jesus sat on them.

Many people spread clothes in the road, while others put down branches which they had cut from trees. Some people walked ahead of Jesus and others followed behind. They were all shouting,

“Hooray for the Child of David!

God bless the one who comes in the name of Yahweh.

Praise for God in heaven above!”

When Jesus came to Jerusalem, everyone in the city was excited and asked, “Who can this be?”

The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

[PAUSE]

For the Word that was in the beginning,
for the Word that inspires and invites,
for the Word embodied in us, we give thanks.

We give thanks.