

Psalm 118: Victory procession in the Temple



Psalm 118 (117) (Mode 4. 3....4 / 2...171)

This is a solemn liturgical hymn, celebrating military victory.

MC *Give thanks to the Lord who is good.
The Lord's great love endures for ever!*

This is pronounced by the person who is leading the liturgy (compare Psalms 100:5; 106:1; 107:1; 52:9; 54:6; 63:3-4; 69:16).

Let the people proclaim:

'The Lord's great love endures for ever'.

Let the priests proclaim:

'The Lord's great love endures forever'.

Let all who fear the Lord proclaim:

'The Lord's great love endures forever'.

'O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,
for those who fear him have no want'(Psalm 34:9).

'The eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love'(Psalm 33:18).

‘O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,
for those who fear him have no want’(Psalm 34:9).

‘The eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love’(Psalm 33:18).

‘The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to
everlasting on those who fear him’(Psalm 103:17).

‘The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him,
and he makes his covenant known to them.
My eyes are ever toward the Lord,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net’(Psalm 25:14-15).

‘Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his commandments’(Psalm 112:1).

‘Happy is everyone who fears the Lord,
who walks in his ways’(Psalm 128:1).

The King I called to the Lord in my distress.
The Lord answered and set me free.
With the Lord on my side,
I do not fear what people can do to me.
The Lord is with me to help me.
I will see my enemies defeated.

‘He has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.”

So we can say with confidence, “**With the Lord on my side, I do not fear what can people do to me?**””(Hebrews 13:5-6)

The Chorus It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to rely on human help.
It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes.

‘Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortal human beings and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord’(Jeremiah 17:5-7).

‘Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal human beings, in whom there is no help’(Psalm 146:3).

The King

The nations surrounded me.

In the Lord's name I drove them back!

They surrounded me on every side.

In the Lord's name I drove them back!

They swarmed like bees, and blazed
like a brushwood fire.

In the Lord's name I drove them back!

I was hard pressed and falling.

The Lord came to my help.

The Lord is my strength and my song.

The Lord is my saviour.

The Chorus Glad shouts of victory ring out
in the tents of the righteous.

With triumphant arm raised high,
the Lord has conquered.

The King I will not die.

I will live to recount the deeds of the Lord.

‘We know that Christ, being raised from the dead,
will never die again; death no longer has dominion
over him’(Romans 6:9).

‘We are treated as dying, and see - we are alive.’

(2Corinthians 6:9)

The Lord punished me severely,
but did not leave me to die.

Correct me, Lord, but in just measure; not in your anger, or you will bring me to nothing'(Jeremiah 10:24).

'I am with you, says the Lord, to save you; I will make an end of all the nations among which I scattered you, but of you I will not make an end. I will chastise you in just measure, and I will by no means leave you unpunished'(Jeremiah 30:11).

‘Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments’(Deuteronomy 8:2).

‘The Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love’(Lamentations 3:31-32).

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter and give thanks.

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle'(Psalm 24:7-8).

'Open the gates, so that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in. Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace – in peace because they trust in you'(Isaiah 26:2-3).

Gatekeepers This is the gate of the Lord.
Through it only the righteous can enter.

The King I thank you that you have answered me.
You have become my saviour.

Gatekeepers **The stone that the builders rejected**

has become the corner stone.

Mark 12:10

This is the Lord's doing;

Matthew 21:42

it is marvellous in our eyes.

Luke 20:17

‘See, I am laying in Zion a foundation stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: “Whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”’

(Isaiah 28:16)

‘This Jesus is “the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.” There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortal human beings by which we must be saved’(Acts 4:11-12).

‘It stands in scripture “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’ To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “**The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner**” (1 Peter 2:6-7).

‘You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the **cornerstone**. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in YHWH; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God’(Ephesians 2:19-22).

Chorus This is the day of the Lord;
 let us rejoice in it and be glad.

‘Proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it’(Psalm 22:31).

Save us, we beseech you, Lord!
Lord, grant us success!’

The Hebrew translated here as ‘save us’ is
hoshi‘ah na’ [הוֹשִׁיעָה נָא], whence the English ‘hosanna’.

Priests Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.

We bless you from the house of the Lord.

‘Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”’

(Mark 11:9-10 = Matthew 21:9 = Luke 19:38)

The Lord God is our light.

‘It is you who light my lamp;
the Lord, my God, lights up my darkness’(Psalm 18:28).

‘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?’(Psalm 27:1)

MC Go forward on this our feast with branches
even to the altar.

‘There was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands’(Revelation 7:9).

King You are my God. I give you thanks.
 You are my God. I extol you.

All *Give thanks to the Lord who is good.*
 The Lord's great love endures for ever!