

Tuesday, April 30, 2024 • Read Psalm 118:19–29

Questions from the from the Scripture text: What does the psalmist now command/request (v19a)? What will he do with these gates (v19b)? And what will he do once on the inside (v19c)? What does he call the gate in v20a? Who will enter it (v20b)? To Whom does he repeat the intention from v19c (v21a)? For doing what will he praise Him (v21b, cf. v5b)? For being what will he praise Him (v21c, cf. v14b)? What has become what in v22? Who has done this (v23a)? Causing what response (v23b)? What does v24a say about this day of victory? What do the saved do in this day (v24b)? What else do they do in it (v25)? For what do they pray? What do they say/do to the King (v26)? What do they say about YHWH in v27a? What has He done (v27b)? With what worship do they respond (v27c)? How does each one, individually, respond (v28a)? How does v28b emphasize this?

How should we praise and pray? Psalm 118:19–29 prepares us for the opening portion of public worship on the Lord's Day. In these eleven verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **we ought to praise and pray as those who are united to Christ**.

Singular victory, shared reward. We have seen in v10–14 a singular victory, with a shared/plural rejoicing in v15–18. Now, each individual who has a share in the King's victory is pictured as also having a share in the King's righteousness, as he enters through the gates that only the righteous may enter (v19–20). Indeed, the Lord Jesus had brought many sons to glory in His ascension (cf. Eph 1:3, 1:20, 2:6), which we experience by faith each week as He leads our worship from there (cf. Heb 2:10; 9:24).

Thy worship be done, in earth as it is in heaven. So, whenever He gathers us to glory in the assembly (cf. Heb 10:25, 12:22–24), we do from earth what they do beyond the gates, where He is: praise (v19c, 22–24; cf. Heb 2:12; Rev 4:8–11, 5:8–14) and pray (v25, cf. Heb 2:13, 4:14–16; Rev 5:8, 6:9–11, 8:3–4). The answered prayer in v21b harkens back to v5b, and the Lord being his salvation in v21c harkens back to v14b. What the Lord has done for His people before, and what the Lord has done for us before, and especially what the Lord has done for Christ—all of these drive us both to praise Him and to call upon Him again in prayer.

Praising what God has done for Christ. It is this ultimate cause—what the Lord has done for Christ—that comes into sharp focus in v22–24. Shockingly, the builders (the men who seem to be something) in Israel reject the Stone, Who is Christ (v22, cf. Mt 21:42, 1Pet 2:4–7). As the victorious Champion enters the gates of glory (cf. 24:7–10), all of heaven rejoices over the reward He has earned through His humiliation (cf. Php 2:5–11). So, also, ought we to do on earth. I wonder, dear reader, whether your heart is often taken up with both praise for Christ in His victory, and praise for God in exalting the King Whom Israel had rejected.

The crowd, just days before Christ's crucifixion, recognized that He is the King from Psalm 118. "Save now" in v25a is "Hosanna" (cf. Mt 21:9). Little did they know that as they were blessing Jesus (v26), they were indeed preparing Him to be sacrificed in order to give life and light to His people (v27). The glorifying of Christ by the sacrifice of Christ is the greatest display of God's glory (v28) and love (v29). And for this we ought to praise Him forever. Let the victory of Christ, through the sacrifice of Christ, ever overwhelm His people's hearts with God's love and fill His people's mouths with God's praise!

How often are you mindful of Christ's having been rejected by His people? How often are you mindful of His sacrifice for your sin? How often are you mindful of His great victory and ascension? What does your union with Him mean has happened to you in His ascension? What time, and way, each week, do you participate in the corporate praise of heaven already?

Sample prayer: Lord, open wide unto us the gates of righteousness, for we come in the Lord Jesus Christ, the righteous One. Grant that we would have entrance through our union with Him, and grant that we would make our entrance by faith in Him. We will praise You, for You have answered us, and You have become our salvation. We come, as living stones, whom You have built up to be a spiritual house, a holy priesthood. Grant, now, that upon Him, the Chief Cornerstone, we would believe—and that we would offer up spiritual sacrifices, that are acceptable to God, through Him! Save and prosper us, and make us to give thanks to You, for You are good, and Your covenant love endures forever! We ask through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP118D "Now Open Wide the Gates" or TPH118A "O Thank the LORD for All His Goodness"

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Psalm 118 verse 19 through 29. These are God's words. Open to me, the gates of righteousness. I will go through them and I will praise Yahweh. This is the Gate of Yahweh. Through which the righteous shall enter.

I will praise you. For you have answered me. And have become my salvation. The stone, which the builders rejected has become the chief, Cornerstone. This was yahweh's doing. It is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which Yahweh hath made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Save now I pray. Oh Yahweh. Oh Yahweh I pray send now prosperity. Blessed. Is he who comes in the name of Yahweh? We have blessed you. From the house. Of Yahweh. God is Yahweh and he has given us light. Bind, the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.

You are my God and I will praise you. You are my God. I will exalt you I'll give thanks to y'all wafer. He is good. For his Mercy endures. Forever. Amen. Thus ends this reading of gods inspired and And Aaron twerked. Uh, we saw last week in verses 15 through 18.

That the victory of the From the previous week in verses 10 through 14. Um was a singular Victory but it had a shared celebration, the voice of rejoicing in the tents of the righteous we had in verses 15 through 8 18. Uh, so Jesus wins the victory, but all of his people Enjoy.

Um, the exaltation, the rejoicing And the spoil receive. That which the Lord has given to his son, because we are united to him. And not only is there singular victory with shared rejoicing. There is also His singular righteousness. Uh, with shared reward. We come now the individual worshiper can come now.

In verses 19 through 20. And say, open to me, the gates of righteousness. We are not the king of glory Yahweh, like in the last part of Psalm 24. Who Jesus having finished his saving work having accomplished, his victory, having conquered even death and risen again from the dead ascends into glory.

Um, And the gates are are opened for him. And the question is asked, who is this king of glory, and it is Yahweh of hosts. So that we know that, when Jesus fulfills that in

himself, that he who became a man, Has been from all eternity before he became a man?

Yahweh of hosts. Now in verse 19, the individual believer can say open to me, the gates of righteousness and I will go through them. I will praise Yahweh. We have entrance into heaven in the Lord Jesus Christ. And it is an application of what we understand here from Psalm 18.

That Ephesians and Hebrews, especially among the New Testament books, Rejoice over the believer on Earth already having been United to Christ in heaven. So that we are seated with him in the Heavenly places. As we see especially in Ephesians 1:3 and Ephesians 1:20 and Ephesians 2:6.

And that Jesus leads our worship. Uh, from As we see in Hebrews 2:10, we're familiar with thinking about Hebrews 2:11 and his declaring his father's name to us and singing God's praise in the midst of the assembly. And Hebrews 2:12 in which it is Jesus, whose faith is perfect, Faith.

And he says, I will put my trust In him and Jesus, who leads our praying from the Throne of Glory, which is a throne of grace. Uh, to us as we think about in Hebrews 4:16. Um, but this Union with Christ and his bringing us there. Is especially seen in Hebrews 2:10 where it says that he brings many sons to glory.

And then, Shows that not just in the ultimate eschatological way, last things sort of way where He prepares. A place for us and he brings us. To that place. But also, even in our public worship, which is being described in Hebrews 2:11 and 2:12. A big part of that is when Jesus says, I will put my trust in him and he is the one then who has perfect faith in God, and Leads his people's worship is our worshiper in Chief in heaven.

He also says, behold I and The children whom you have given me. That we are seated with him in heaven and Every time, then we come to worship, we should Marvel the way verse 20 Marvels. As we as we come near the Living God, We say this is the Gate of Yahweh through which the righteous shall enter.

Now, how can you and I Enter to come near to the Lord. There we are, especially in the public worship of God. But even just now in our household, worship of God, and we come near the Living God, And we are admitted entry. When the ones who enter the gate to come near the Living, God, are the righteous.

How can we be the righteous? And it is, because Singular Victory, shared rejoicing. Singular obedience. Singular righteousness, shared reward. And by faith in Jesus Christ, we are united to Jesus Christ and he is our righteousness. And not just human righteousness, although he exercises that righteousness and his human nature.

But Divine righteousness. Because he is God, the son. The second person of the godhead, the Divine person. And so he who knew no sin was made to be sin. So that in him, we might be the righteousness of God. And every time you come even in your private prayer, And you draw near to God and you call upon his name and you know, that he listens to you and he hears you and he welcomes you into his presence he who is Holy?

Holy holy from whom Angels hide their faces. You know, that you Have come through the gate. Of y'all. Through which the righteous shall enter. And of course, Um, it's not being used in exactly the same way, but there is some overlapping language there. Jesus is the gate to our entering, this gate.

Uh, he is the one. Who makes us righteous in himself. By. Keeping all of the Commandments by his wiping out, the wrath of God. That was Uh, against our sin and enduring it fully in our place. And so, now we uh, do similarly Uh, to the Lord, Jesus, we say, I will praise you.

For you have answered me. Now, the Lord Jesus is the one who called on. In his distress, verse 5 and Yahweh answered him and set him in a broad place. But we all do like Christ, we pray. And he answers us. In the second part of verse 20, or the third part of verse 21 and had become my salvation.

This was the last part of the A song of victory over his enemies and destroying them in verse 14, Yahweh is my strength in my song and he has become Salvation. And so this praising and this, Um, And uh, in this section is like the praise of Christ himself and it is Like the praise that we see in heaven.

When the when the righteous enter, the gates of Yahweh and draw near. What do we see them doing? We see them praising. Revelation 4, Revelation 5, we see them praying. Um, offering up the Incense of prayer. Uh, as it is offered in heaven, Revelation, 5:8, in the fifth seal Revelation 6, verses 9 through 11 and the souls that are under the altar.

Praying. But in Revelation 5:8 and Revelation 8:3 through 4, the prayers of the Saints going up. Uh, with the incense. This is what they do in glory, they praise and they pray. This is what Lord Jesus. Has done. This is what we do on Earth, not just the praise then.

Of verses 19 through 24 which will complete in a moment. But also the praying. Of. Uh, verse 25, which we'll come to in a moment. So, still on the praising that we do worshiping God in Earth as he is worshiped in heaven. We say thy will by be done in Earth as it is in heaven.

And his great will for his people, is that we would be worshipers. And the great thing that we worship for worship Him for is not so much what he has done for us, although he has done it for us because a reunion with Christ, but we praise for what he has done for Christ.

Because Jesus is the one who is worthy. Jesus is the one who deserves all good and we rejoice and we praise because in rewarding Jesus, God also rewards us because we are united to him. But the believer loves Christ and admires adores worships the Lord Jesus Christ and lifts up heart of your praise for what God has done for Christ.

Than even for ourselves apart, for from Christ. In fact, the believer. Uh, ought to refuse to think of himself or herself apart from Christ. So we are praising him. Um, For becoming our Salvation verse 21. How did he become our salvation? Because of what he did even through. The Jews rejecting of Jesus.

Jesus himself. Um, The highlighted verse 22. As being fulfilled, as The Pharisees. And the rulers of the people were rejecting him. Said the stone, which the builders rejected has become the chief. Cornerstone. This was Yahweh's doing it as marvelous in our eyes. So praise God. He's making us to be living stones like we hear about in First Peter chapter 2 he's making us to be a royal priesthood at Kings and Priests unto our God.

He is making us fit to offer to him spiritual sacrifices. That the Living God would receive the offering of your heart up to him, your prayers to him, your praises to him, you're loving him, you're delighting in him and these would be acceptable sacrifices in heaven. You your prayers, you're loving him.

You are trusting him. How is that? Well, he is making you a living Stone. He is making you a living Stone by uniting. You to Christ and fitting you to Christ. And so you are being built upon him who is the Chief Cornerstone and out from the Chief Cornerstone.

He has built the foundation. Of the Apostles and Prophets and he is fitting us up and all of that first Peter 2 Uh, in all of that first Peter 2 is expanding upon Um, the holy spirit is expanding upon there. What he was also giving us here the stone, which the builders rejected has become the chief Cornerstone, we love for the church to be built and, and reformed and revived and purified.

We love for each individual believer, to be Sanctified and shaped, and fit together in the rest of the church. Because all of it exalts, all of it, brings praise to the Lord Jesus, as

the chief Cornerstone it is a continued fulfillment of the glory of Jesus Christ that he who was rejected.

And he who was crucified, endured that in order that God would exalt him and give him the name that is above every other name. There between First, Peter, 2 and Philipians 2. Jesus, humbled himself took the form of the bondsman found in appearance as a man even to the point of death and that on the cross for this reason.

God has highly exalted him. And we praise him. We praise the one who has become the Chief, Cornerstone. And so, the day that the Lord has given us Uh, four seeing Jesus as the Chief Cornerstone. For being united to Jesus, entering Heaven, through Jesus being seated with him, being gathered to God in him, the day that God has given us for having him.

Declare his father's name to us and sing God's praise in the midst of the assembly. So that Jesus is the great praiser. And Jesus is the great prayer, the intercessor through whom we come and he presents us. The many sons that he has brought to glory. A day that Yahweh has made is the Lord's day.

Probably the Ascension of all things. Is in view here and And the last day perhaps for us and the Ascension in Jesus's life. When Enters through the gates at the last day. Uh, when we ultimately are brought near resurrected body and soul. Um, In the last day. But there is Uh, every Lord's Day a sort of Ascension day.

For the people of God. Um, and it's the whole of what Christ has done. That is rejoiced over and the whole of what. Uh, the reward that Christ has earned and that is being bestowed upon him as knees bow and tongues confess that That he is Yahweh. Um, verse 24 is talking especially about the Lord's day and the last day.

Um so yes the Lord has made every day and you should be thankful for that day and the new mercies that are new that morning and the food and the drink and the clothing. And the trouble that he has portioned out and assigned for that day. Oh, but we sing?

This is the day. Yahweh has made. Over the Lord's day. When in the Lord, we come through the gates that the righteous will enter. And we Rejoice over Jesus, receiving his reward. As we see the church, gathered to God, and we see Jesus, the Chief Cornerstone. And we see the other living stones being built, upon him and fitted together and offering spiritual sacrifices what a day.

Lord's day is this is the day. Yahweh has made. We will Rejoice. And be glad in. And it is a day, that was Anticipated and participated in externally. Um, When Jesus just a few days before his death was entering, Into Jerusalem. They said Hosanna. Uh, the word Hosanna is actually the beginning of verse 25 there.

Uh, Hebrew or actually for them. It was probably Um, the the Aramaic derivative from the Hebrew. Save now Hosanna. I pray. Oh yeah, I pray, send prosperity. And they they Praise Jesus. They used words they even said blessed is the son of David? Who comes in the name of Yahweh.

Blessed is the king. Who comes in the name of the Lord blessed is the son of David who comes in the name of the Lord they said Um recognizing that the he in verse 26 rightfully. So is the promised King. The promised Christ. Uh, but little, did they know that in the fickleness of their hearts They would be.

Doing the equivalent. In malice a few days later and they say crucify him crucify him. Uh, to that, which is prophesied in verse 27, bind the sacrifice with courts. To the horns of the altar. The Lord Jesus, of course, Knew that. The praise that they were giving him as the king.

Uh, was connected to The suffering that would belong to him as the sacrifice. For little, did they know that the king In verse 26 is the sacrifice. Inverse. 27. But praise God, he has risen from the dead and ascended and the one who offered himself once for all consecrates heaven, and he does now sit, On the throne.

Of Glory. And we come through. Uh, through him. When we worship God. And so this praise that belongs to Uh Israel that belongs to Aaron in his high priesthood and Christ of course and in his greater high priesthood that belongs to all who fear the lord so that we're not just covenantally Israel externally in our membership but we are internally the true Israel.

Um, By the fear of the Lord, in our hearts that the Lord has given us. We say, His Stef, steadfast love his Covenant, love endures forever, and we give thanks to Yahweh. For he is good. We gather to him in Christ. And praise. Uh, even Christ himself as Yahweh, our God.

Him we praise and exalt because his Covenanted love. Endures forever. So, One of the great takeaways for you. Um, from this. And other places but especially from this Psalm today. And this week is that when we come to worship, God, That your heart would praise God for what he has done for Jesus.

Knowing that it was God's will and Christ's will. That you would be joined to him. And that what God has done for Jesus. Would be a reward for you. Because you are in Jesus. And he is the desire and Delight. Of your heart. Let's pray. Father, thank you. For what you have done.

For your sauna. Lord. Jesus Christ. Thank you, that. Although it cost him crucifixion as the sacrifice. Who was bound to the altar, although it cost him. Being rejected by his own and those who were the builders Rejected him. You have. Because of all of this. Exalted him, highly. And giving him the name that is above every name.

And we pray that your spirit would help us. That he would give us faith and love for the Lord Jesus. And Delight in him. That we would have great rejoicing over his Coming into. What he has earned over his coming into. That of which he is worthy that which is rightfully his Uh, in his Eternal personhood as the And make us to Marvel.

That not only have you done this for him in himself. But that you have given us a personal interest in a personal participation, His victory and his righteousness. So that we enter the righteous gate. Or the gate that the righteous may enter. And so that we also are living stones built upon him.

Who is the chief Cornerstone? So give us to Rejoice. The glory and the reward that comes. Uh, to our King and Redeemer. And give us.

To Rejoice that we are built. Into and upon him. For we ask it in his name, amen. Uh, 118 D. And the blue.

Now open wide, the gates for me, the gates of righteousness and I will enter in through them with thanks. The Lord I'll bless this is our gave that is the Lord's. The righteous entering I am thankful, you have answered me. My savior. You have been that's done. Is now the cornerstone that Builders once?

Despise, this is the doing of the Lord and one does in This is the day, the Lord has made. Let us be glad and sing our Lord. Oh give success O Lord salvation bring, oh blessed, is the one he comes, comes in the Lord's. Great name a blessing from the Lord's on us upon you.

We Proclaim the Lord is God, and he to us as may. The light arise with cords, bind to the altars horns. The theft of sacrifice, you are my God, I'll give you. Thanks my God. Oh, thank the Lord for he as good. His love lies and last days. Amen.