

## ACTS OF WORSHIP—THANKSGIVING

### Psalm 118

- <sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.
- <sup>2</sup> Let Israel say:  
"His love endures forever."
- <sup>3</sup> Let the house of Aaron say:  
"His love endures forever."
- <sup>4</sup> Let those who fear the Lord say:  
"His love endures forever."
- <sup>5</sup> When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord;  
he brought me into a spacious place.
- <sup>6</sup> The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid.  
What can mere mortals do to me?
- <sup>7</sup> The Lord is with me; he is my helper.  
I look in triumph on my enemies.
- <sup>8</sup> It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in humans.
- <sup>9</sup> It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in princes.
- <sup>10</sup> All the nations surrounded me,  
but in the name of the Lord I cut them down.
- <sup>11</sup> They surrounded me on every side,  
but in the name of the Lord I cut them down.
- <sup>12</sup> They swarmed around me like bees,  
but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns;  
in the name of the Lord I cut them down.
- <sup>13</sup> I was pushed back and about to fall,  
but the Lord helped me.
- <sup>14</sup> The Lord is my strength and my defense;  
he has become my salvation.
- <sup>15</sup> Shouts of joy and victory  
resound in the tents of the righteous:  
"The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!"
- <sup>16</sup> The Lord's right hand is lifted high;  
the Lord's right hand has done mighty things!"
- <sup>17</sup> I will not die but live,  
and will proclaim what the Lord has done.
- <sup>18</sup> The Lord has chastened me severely,  
but he has not given me over to death.
- <sup>19</sup> Open for me the gates of the righteous;  
I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.
- <sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the Lord  
through which the righteous may enter.
- <sup>21</sup> I will give you thanks, for you answered me;  
you have become my salvation.
- <sup>22</sup> The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;
- <sup>23</sup> the Lord has done this,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

- <sup>24</sup> The Lord has done it this very day;  
let us rejoice today and be glad.
- <sup>25</sup> Lord, save us!  
Lord, grant us success!
- <sup>26</sup> Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
From the house of the Lord we bless you.
- <sup>27</sup> The Lord is God,  
and he has made his light shine on us.  
With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession  
up to the horns of the altar.
- <sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will praise you;  
you are my God, and I will exalt you.
- <sup>29</sup> Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.

### Thank you, God, for...

#### 1. ...your goodness and enduring love. (v. 1-4, 29)

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.*

1 Chronicles 16:34; 2 Chronicles 20:21; Psalm 106:1, 107:1, 118:1, 136:1; Jeremiah 33:11

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. **Psalm 23:6 (NIV)**

#### 2. ...our spacious place of lament and thanksgiving. (v. 5-19)

*When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord; he brought me into a spacious place. The Lord is with me.*

"We can't take away hardship. But we can stop and remember. We can acknowledge pain. We can pray for grace. And, ultimately, healing."  
**Edie Littlefield Sundby, *The Mission Walker***

#### 3. ...our salvation and foundation in Jesus. (v. 20-28)

*You have become my salvation. The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.*

"Jesus is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.'" **Peter in Acts 4:8-11**

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **1 Peter 2:4-5**

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. **Ephesians 2:19-20 (NIV)**

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS—WEEK OF AUGUST 2, 2020

### Psalms: ACTS of Worship—THANKSGIVING:PSALM 118

1. How would this psalm be a testimony to Israel of God's love and faithfulness? What was the witness to other nations?
2. What does David credit God for doing for him? How does he express his thanks?
3. How might you express your current emotions as a cry of lament to the Lord?
4. How has God given you empathy and faith for others out of your own lament and thanksgiving? What could you do this week to create a "spacious place" for others to experience God's goodness and love in the midst of their lament?
5. How would you describe the "enduring love of God"? Consider the ways you experienced God's enduring love this week. How could this become a prayer of thanksgiving to God?
6. Close by praying together prayers of thanksgiving. Focus on God's goodness and love, times of protection and provision, and our salvation and foundation in Jesus. Each person end your prayer with "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good" and everyone else respond with "his love endures forever."