

Awesome Mystery

Journey to Easter - Monday, March 22 (Day 34)

Psalm 118:1–2; 19–29 NIV

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Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.
Let Israel say:
“His love endures forever.”
Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.
This is the gate of the LORD
through which the righteous may enter.
I will give you thanks, for you answered
me;
you have become my salvation.
The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the LORD has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
The LORD has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.
LORD, save us!
LORD, grant us success!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of
the LORD.
From the house of the LORD we bless
you.^[b]
The LORD is God,
and he has made his light shine on us.
With boughs in hand, join in the festal

procession

up^[c] to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will praise you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

Discussion

It is remarkably easy to get trapped by the shadows of the past and the future. With regard to the past, we have anger about something that was done to us or we have guilt over something we did to someone else. With regard to the future, we tend to let our fears dominate our horizons. We get stuck in a "what if" way of thinking where we imagine dark scenarios about our health, our loved ones, or our nation.

Verse 24 reminds us of the importance of the present time: "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." Christ is alive and in our midst, reminding us that anger, guilt, or worry does not define us. Moreover, he declares to us that we are his beloved children—right now— and therefore freed from the captivity of the past or future.

Today's Prayer

Lord Jesus, we rejoice in this day. May your Word of forgiveness and love shape our hearts and minds as we move and breathe and live. Amen.

Source: Luther Seminary – St. Paul, MN 2021 Lenten Devotional “Awesome Mystery”

Image: Submitted by Judy Hewitt and Bret Hassel (**Image Below**)

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