

Lent Devotion for Saturday, April 1

## Psalm 118:1-2; 19-29

### THANKFUL HEARTS

*“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.”*

Psalm 118 is traditionally read in Jewish customs both at Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles. Historically, Psalm 118 testifies to the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles after the completion of the second Temple, according to Nehemiah 8:13-18. The psalm begins with great celebration, reflects on hardships and discouragements, and returns, in the end, to praising God for what he has done. The psalm speaks of the miraculous deliverance of the people of Israel and points towards a Messiah who would rescue them and establish the Kingdom of God in their midst.

We too await the return of Christ. We too are in need of great deliverance. Although we have the promise sealed by the sending of the Holy Spirit, we live in expectation of the full reign of the Kingdom of God. In this time of waiting, the invitation to “give thanks to the Lord, for he is good” repeats in our hearts, especially throughout the Lenten season, encouraging us to give thanks because God is good. As we experience God’s goodness, we again give thanks.

The act of thanksgiving has a way of centering our hearts and minds, shifting our tendencies of entitlement and pride to thankfulness and praise, reminding us of who God is as our provider and that it is Christ that holds all things together, not ourselves. We recognize, as the psalmist says in this passage, that it is the Lord who has done these things. God has created us, continues to sustain us, and gives us good things from his own hand.

During this Lenten season, the invitation stands for us to turn our eyes again to Christ with thankful hearts, remembering all he has done for us, praising God for the true gift, Jesus, coming to us from the Father, who sent his only Son for our salvation. May our hearts be attuned to this—and may we respond with thankfulness as we remember.

*Lord, bring to mind today the great works you have done in our lives. Cause us to remember your good deeds and praise you, for you are good. Your love endures forever.*