

Title: THIS IS THE DAY, PSALM 118:19-29
(Chatham, NJ; 03/29/15, AM) [Pd]

Theme: The psalmist predicts the salvation that we enjoy today and exhorts the community to be thankful for God's steadfast love.

Purpose: To be thankful for the love of God in choosing Christ as our cornerstone and rock of salvation.

I. Psalm 118:1-4, 19-21

- A call for the worshipping community to affirm, "His steadfast love endures forever," 1-4
- Between verse 4 and verse 19, we hear a litany of God's saving works
- 5-7, distress with certainty that God will deliver
- 8-9, better to take refuge in God rather than man
- 10-13, though many surrounded me, God cut them off and helped me
- 14-16, God is my strength
- 17-18, though God may discipline me, he will preserve me
- The Gates of righteousness: only through these can we reach the presence of God
 1. I will enter and give thanks
 2. God has become our salvation
 3. Jesus entered Jerusalem to the sound of triumph and praise, John 12:12-19

Song:

II. Psalm 118:22-25

- John 12:16 says what we now know: the disciples didn't fully understand all that this entry meant at the time it happened
- They were driven by the raising of Lazarus, John. 12:18 (later the crowd turned on him)
- We learn here of the stone and the cornerstone – both ideas surface in 1 Peter 2:6-8 (Isaiah 28:16)
- Ephesians 2:19-22 teaches us that we are a temple built upon this foundation
- This is "God's doing" – a part of a divine plan initiated and carried out by His Spirit
- "This is the day the Lord has made" – a day of salvation for all mankind
- Christ's sacrifice and resurrection is the focus and climax of all world events that brings us to the gates of righteousness and allows us to enter

Song:

III. Psalm 118:26 – 29

- Jesus is He who comes in the name of the Lord
- He comes triumphant into the holy city, John 12:12 – 19
- He is God's light that shines upon us, 27
- He is the light of the world that enlightens the darkness, John 8:12
- We give thanks and praise because "he is good" and "his steadfast love endures forever"
- More than that we live knowing there is life beyond the grave
- God's love assure us that he will come again, and we will always be with the Lord, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Song: