

## Psalm 118:19-29

- <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.

**OR**

## Psalm 31:9-16

- <sup>9</sup> Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am in distress;  
my eyes grow weak with sorrow,  
my soul and body with grief.
- <sup>10</sup> My life is consumed by anguish  
and my years by groaning;  
my strength fails because of my affliction,<sup>(b)</sup>  
and my bones grow weak.
- <sup>11</sup> Because of all my enemies,  
I am the utter contempt of my neighbors  
and an object of dread to my closest friends—  
those who see me on the street flee from me.
- <sup>12</sup> I am forgotten as though I were dead;  
I have become like broken pottery.
- <sup>13</sup> For I hear many whispering,

“Terror on every side!”  
They conspire against me  
and plot to take my life.  
<sup>14</sup> But I trust in you, LORD;  
I say, “You are my God.”  
<sup>15</sup> My times are in your hands;  
deliver me from the hands of my enemies,  
from those who pursue me.  
<sup>16</sup> Let your face shine on your servant;  
save me in your unfailing love.

## Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 50:4-9a

<sup>4</sup> The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue,  
to know the word that sustains the weary.  
He wakens me morning by morning,  
wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.  
<sup>5</sup> The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears;  
I have not been rebellious,  
I have not turned away.  
<sup>6</sup> I offered my back to those who beat me,  
my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from mocking and spitting.  
<sup>7</sup> Because the Sovereign LORD helps me,  
I will not be disgraced.  
Therefore have I set my face like flint,  
and I know I will not be put to shame.  
<sup>8</sup> He who vindicates me is near.  
Who then will bring charges against me?  
Let us face each other!  
Who is my accuser?  
Let him confront me!  
<sup>9</sup> It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me.  
Who will condemn me?

## New Testament Reading - Philippians 2:5-11

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:  
<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;  
<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.  
<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!  
<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **Gospel Reading - John 12:12-19**

### **Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King**

<sup>12</sup> The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem.  
<sup>13</sup> They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is the king of Israel!”

<sup>14</sup> Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

<sup>15</sup> “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;  
see, your king is coming,  
seated on a donkey’s colt.”

<sup>16</sup> At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

<sup>17</sup> Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. <sup>18</sup> Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. <sup>19</sup> So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!”

**OR**

## **Gospel Reading – John 12:20-43**

### **Jesus Predicts His Death**

<sup>20</sup> Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. <sup>21</sup> They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup> Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. <sup>25</sup> Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

<sup>27</sup> “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup> The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

<sup>30</sup> Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up<sup>a</sup> from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup> He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

<sup>34</sup> The crowd spoke up, "We have heard from the Law that the Messiah will remain forever, so how can you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?"

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. <sup>36</sup> Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light." When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

## **Belief and Unbelief Among the Jews**

<sup>37</sup> Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. <sup>38</sup> This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet:

"Lord, who has believed our message  
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

<sup>39</sup> For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

<sup>40</sup> "He has blinded their eyes  
and hardened their hearts,  
so they can neither see with their eyes,  
nor understand with their hearts,  
nor turn—and I would heal them."

<sup>41</sup> Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him.

<sup>42</sup> Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup> for they loved human praise more than praise from God.