

## THE STONE THE BUILDERS REJECTED

Responsorial Song from Psalm 118 for Easter 4B

for Cantor, Assembly & Descant  
with Keyboard, Flute & Guitar

TONY BARR

*The stone the builders rejected  
has become the Cornerstone.*

Give thanks to the God beyond all gods,  
whose kindness is without end  
Better to seek refuge in God  
than to trust in rulers, the pow'rful.

I give thanks, you heard me and answered,  
and you led me to freedom  
Worthless the stone to the builders,  
the cornerstone of our foundation.

Great things have been done this day,  
what marvels lie before us!  
Welcome the one coming in my name,  
we sing our delight in the Lord.

I give thanks, you heard me and answered,  
and you led me to freedom  
Give thanks to the God beyond all gods,  
whose kindness is without end.

The psalm appointed in the lectionary for Easter 4B consists of 12 verses, each of 6 lines. I have taken the creative liberty of forging a responsorial song from the text, extending it to 4 verses, while including all 12 lines of the lectionary text. In many of the lectionaries, the Easter Vigil Gospel Alleluia, Psalm 118 is sung 4 times in Year B, the Year of Mark.

Psalm 118 is a song from the Feast of Tabernacles, which celebrated both the Exodus event leading to freedom and the return of the Liberating God to reclaim those who had remained faithful to Covenant. It has also been chosen as the psalm of joy for embracing the new exodus of Easter, and at one time was also the psalm of joy for Christmas, since at one time or another, both feasts had been baptismal liturgies.

Mark's is the most sparse of the Gospels, especially when it comes the Resurrection. There is even a vagueness about the end, ephemeral in its description(s) of what was to become the most central tenet of Christianity. Even in both Infancy and Resurrection Narratives, scholars have suggested that Mark may have been the earliest of the Gospels, and his core catechesis further expanded by the other two Synoptics. It is generally accepted that, independently of Mark, an unwritten source, *Quelle* (*Quelle* is the source) contributed the more expanded content of Matthew and Luke.

- Tony Barr

music & text of Psalm 118 © Tony Barr 1971, 2018  
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music & text from 1971, 2018 Tony Barr

INTRO ♩ = ca. 60

B $\flat$  Eb F Gm F Eb Cm Gm Cm

## REFRAIN

Flute on selected Refrains

Descant on selected Refrains

stone — the build-ers re - ject — — — — — be - come the Corn - er - stone.

stone the build-ers — — — — — be - come the Corn - er - stone.

B $\flat$  Cm7 F Cm7 F Cm7

1-4

F

Cm7

Cm7

to Verses

Final

F

Cm7

F

Cm7

F

VERSES Cantor

1. Give thanks to the God be - yond all gods, whose kindness is with - out end  
 2. I give thanks, you heard me and answered, and you led me to freedom.  
 3. Great things have hap - pened this day, what marvels lie before us!  
 4. I give thanks, you heard me and answered, and you led me to freedom.

Gsus4 Bb Absus4maj7 Cm Bb

1. Better to seek re - fuge in the Lord than to trust in ru - lers, the  
 2. Worthless the stone to the builders, the cornerstone of our foun -  
 3. Welcome the one com - ing in the name of the Lord, we sing our de - light in the  
 4. Give thanks to the God be - yond all gods, whose kindness and mer - cy are

C Gm7 Ab Gm7

1. pow'rful. The  
 2. dation.  
 3. Temple.  
 4. endless.

C Ab Bb/Ab Gm Ab Bb+2



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REFRAIN ♩ = ca. 60

Descant on selected Refrains

music & text from Psalm 118 Tony Barr

The stone the build - ers re - ject has -

All The stone the build - ers re - ject - ed has be -

come the Corn - er - stone.

come the Corn - er - stone.

to Verses

## VERSES Cantor

1. Give thanks to the Lord, for he has answered all gods,
2. I give thanks, you heavens, and answered,
3. Great things have happened to us this day,
4. I give thanks, you heavens, and answered,

1. whose kindness is without end
2. and you led me to freedom.
3. what marvels there be - fore us!
4. and you led me to freedom.

1. Better to seek refuge in God
2. Worthless the stone to the builders,
3. coming in God's name,
4. we give thanks to the God beyond all gods,

1. to trust in ru - lers, the pow'ful.
2. the cornerstone of our foun - dation.
3. we sing of light in the Temple.
4. whose kindness and mer - cy are endless.

to Refrain