

First Scripture Reading
2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
from the Common English Bible

¹Once again David assembled the select warriors of Israel, thirty thousand strong. ²David and all the troops who were with him set out for Baalah, which is Kiriath-jearim of Judah, to bring God's chest up from there - the chest that is called by the name of the LORD of heavenly forces, who sits enthroned on the winged creatures. ³They loaded God's chest on a new cart and carried it from Abinadab's house, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, Abinadab's sons, were driving the new cart. ⁴Uzzah was beside God's chest while Ahio was walking in front of it. ⁵Meanwhile, David and the entire house of Israel celebrated in the LORD's presence with all their strength, with songs, zithers, harps, tambourines, rattles, and cymbals. ^{12b}So David went and brought God's chest up from Obed-edom's house to David's City with celebration. ¹³Whenever those bearing the chest advanced six steps, David sacrificed an ox and a fatling calf. ¹⁴David, dressed in a linen priestly vest, danced with all his strength before the LORD. ¹⁵This is how David and the entire house of Israel brought up the LORD's chest with shouts and trumpet blasts. ¹⁶As the LORD's chest entered David's City, Saul's daughter Michal was watching from a window. She saw King David jumping and dancing before the LORD, and she lost all respect for him. ¹⁷The LORD's chest was brought in and put in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it. Then David offered entirely burned offerings in the LORD's presence in addition to well-being sacrifices. ¹⁸When David finished offering the entirely burned offerings and the well-being sacrifices, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of heavenly forces. ¹⁹He distributed food among all the people of Israel - to the whole crowd, male and female - each receiving a loaf of bread, a date cake, and a raisin cake. Then all the people went back to their homes.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Reading
24
from the UMH, 755

¹The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof...
the world and those who dwell within...

²for God has founded it upon the seas...
and established it upon the rivers.

³Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
And who shall stand in God's holy place?

⁴Those who have clean hands and pure hearts...
who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

⁵They will receive blessing from the Lord...
and vindication from the God of their salvation.

⁶Such is the generation of those who seek the Lord...
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the Ruler of glory may come in.
⁸Who is the ruler of glory?

The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!
**⁹Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the Ruler of glory may come in.**

¹⁰Who is the ruler of glory?
The Lord of hosts, the Lord is the Ruler of glory!

Second Scripture Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

from the Common English Bible

³Bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing that comes from heaven. ⁴God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless in God's presence before the creation of the world. ⁵God destined us to be his adopted children through Jesus Christ because of his love. This was according to his goodwill and plan ⁶and to honor his glorious grace that he has given to us freely through the Son whom he loves. ⁷We have been ransomed through his Son's blood, and we have forgiveness for our failures based on his overflowing grace, ⁸which he poured over us with wisdom and understanding. ⁹God revealed his hidden design to us, which is according to his goodwill and the plan that he intended to accomplish through his Son. ¹⁰This is what God planned for the climax of all times: to bring all things together in Christ, the things in heaven along with the things on earth. ¹¹We have also received an inheritance in Christ. We were destined by the plan of God, who accomplishes everything according to his design. ¹²We are called to be an honor to God's glory because we were the first to hope in Christ. ¹³You too heard the word of truth in Christ, which is the good news of your salvation. You were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit because you believed in Christ. ¹⁴The Holy Spirit is the down payment on our inheritance, which is applied toward our redemption as God's own people, resulting in the honor of God's glory.