

הַכְּנֻסַת הַתּוֹרָה

We rise as the ark is opened.

Leader:

יְהַלְלוּ אֶת־שֵׁם יְהוָה כִּי נִשְׁגַּב שְׁמוֹ לְבָדוֹ.

Congregation:

הוֹדוּ עַל אֶרֶץ וְשָׁמַיִם. וַיִּרַם קָרְן לְעַמּוֹ.
תְּהַלֵּה לְכָל־חֲסִידָיו, לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל עִם קְרֹבוֹ, הַלְלוּיָהּ.

מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד

הָבוּ לַיהוָה בְּנֵי אֱלֹהִים, הָבוּ לַיהוָה כְּבוֹד וְעֹז,
הָבוּ לַיהוָה כְּבוֹד שְׁמוֹ, הַשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ לַיהוָה בְּהַדְרַת קֹדֶשׁ.
קוֹל יְהוָה עַל הַמַּיִם,
אֵל הַכְּבוֹד הַרְעִים, יְהוָה עַל מַיִם רַבִּים.
קוֹל יְהוָה בַּפֶּתַח,
קוֹל יְהוָה בַּהֲדָר, קוֹל יְהוָה שֹׁבֵר אֲרָזִים,
וַיִּשְׁבֵּר יְהוָה אֶת־אֲרָזֵי הַלְּבָנוֹן.
וַיִּרְקִידֵם כְּמוֹ עֵגֶל, לְבָנוֹן וְשָׁרְיוֹן כְּמוֹ בְּנֵי־אֲמִים.
קוֹל יְהוָה חֹצֵב לְהַבּוֹת אֵשׁ,
קוֹל יְהוָה יַחֲלִיל מִדְּבָר, יַחֲלִיל יְהוָה מִדְּבַר קֹדֶשׁ,
קוֹל יְהוָה יַחֲלִיל אֵילוֹת.
וַיִּחַשְׁף יַעֲרוֹת, וּבִהִיכְלוֹ כָּלוּ אִמֵּר כְּבוֹד.
יְהוָה לְמַבּוּל יֵשֵׁב, וַיֵּשֶׁב יְהוָה מֶלֶךְ לְעוֹלָם.
יְהוָה עַז לְעַמּוֹ יִתֵּן, יְהוָה יְבָרֵךְ אֶת עַמּוֹ בְּשָׁלוֹם.

תהלים כט

EXTOL יְהַלְלוּ. Psalm 148:13–14. The practice of reciting these verses while returning the Torah to the ark is mentioned in the earliest prayerbooks.

PSALM 29. Psalm 29 was chosen to accompany the procession of the Torah as it is returned to the ark on Shabbat morning because of the predominant image of the voice of God. The phrase *kol Adonai* (“the voice of God”)—which was identified by the ancient rabbis with the revelation of God’s word on Sinai—is repeated seven times in this psalm. The thunder and lightning described here evoke the scene of the revelation at Sinai in Exodus 19; the Bible identifies Kadesh with the Sinai desert.

Biblical scholars see the psalm as a depiction of a storm coming in from the Mediterranean, passing over the mountains of Lebanon—cedars top those high mountains and are among the world’s sturdiest and longest-lived trees—and moving over the fertile land and then through the desert.

The psalm begins with reference to the waters of the Mediterranean Sea and ends with God enthroned

above the primal waters of creation. It also begins with an angelic chorus praising God and toward the end mentions the human chorus praising God in the Temple. Thus earth and heaven, the human and the Divine, are joined.

We began the Torah service with verses marking a royal procession and now, as the Torah is returned to the ark after it has been read to the congregation, we end with verses depicting God as enthroned as the “eternal sovereign.”