

אנא ה' הושיעה נא - Ana Adonai Hoshia Na

Psalm 118

About the Piyut

These verses are sung in the Hallel, a prayer of praise and thanksgiving recited on holidays and on the first day of the month. Th Hallel comprises psalms 114-118, and is referred to as The Egyptian Hallel because its opening verses relate the story of the Exodus.

The Hallel starts with thanksgiving and continues to praise the one God (as opposed to the more prevalent paganism). It bestows blessings on different groups and stresses the joy of living and singing. The last part of the Hallel, where the verses of this Piyut appear, is meant to be recited as a psalmody - the leader reading one half of the verse and the chorus or congregation responding. It is still sung in this manner in some congregations, while others repeat verses 21-29, once by the leader and one by the congregation. This style lends itself to music and indeed there are many tunes for these verses.

Hebrew Text

Ana Adonai hoshia na; ana Adonai hoshia na

אָנָּא ה' הוֹשִׁיעָה נָּא:

אָנָּא ה' הוֹשִׁיעָה נָּא:

Ana Adonai hatz'lich na; ana Adonai hatz'lich na

אָנָּא ה' הַצְלִיחָה נָּא:

אָנָּא ה' הַצְלִיחָה נָּא:

English Translation

O Lord, deliver us!

O Lord, deliver us!

O Lord, let us prosper!

O Lord, let us prosper!

Recording by the Piyut North America ensemble