

## **Site: Southern Steps**

### **Scripture References:**

Luke 2:21-41

### **Historical Significance:**

- Called “Psalms of Ascents” (translated to the Psalms of the Steps)
- Both original and restored steps from the Second Temple period
- Leads to the Double Gate of the Temple Mount
- Used by rabbis and teachers as a platform to spread their doctrines
- These are the steps where Mary and Joseph found Jesus after searching for Him for 3 days.
- Used by the pilgrims that would go up to the Temple to worship
- Width of stairs is more than 200 feet, composed of 31 steps with 12 broad steps
- Stones at the entrance of the gates are original from the 2<sup>nd</sup> temple so Jesus would have walked on them
- The Lord himself ascended and descended these steps many times during His visits to the Temple complex

### **Things to look for:**

- The steps are irregular and uneven. This was intentional to require pilgrims to pay careful attention to their steps, encouraging worshipers to adopt a thoughtful and reflective mindset as they approach God
- Stone that Jesus is thought to have walked on

### **What does this site teach us about God?**

- To walk like Jesus, remember that our purpose in life is to serve God.