



All Glory, Laud and Honor



"All glory, laud and honor to Thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring:
Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One!

"The company of angels are praising Thee on high,
and mortal men and all things created make reply:
The people of the Hebrews with palms before Thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before Thee we present.

"To Thee, before Thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to Thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise:
Thou didst accept their praises - accept the praise we bring,
who in all good delightest, Thou good and gracious King!"

"The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel! –
John 12:12-13

Palm Sunday was the only day of triumph known by Christ in His earthly ministry. It was a fulfillment of OT prophecy in Zechariah 9:9, which reads:

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The week preceding Easter Sunday is known as Holy or Passion Week, and is celebrated by Christians around the world. These seven days have been described as the most intense and most important week of history. The dramatic events that occurred during Christ's final days on earth are recorded in all four Gospels - Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; and John 12.

In John 11, Jesus had raised Lazarus of Bethany from the dead. In verse 45, many of the Jews who witnessed this miracle believed in Him. But verse 46 says that others went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done. This was a cause for great alarm among the Jewish leaders, so they convened a council of the Sanhedrin, who were the highest judicial body in Israel, consisting mostly of Sadducees. Although there was often conflict between the Pharisees and Sadducees, they were united in action by their mutual hatred of Jesus. After much discussion, we read in verse 53, "So from that day on they planned together to kill Him."

We see in John 11:55 that the Passover of the Jews was near. This is highly significant since the perfect Lamb of God had finally come to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29). The Jews who had filled Jerusalem for Passover were watching to see if Jesus would dare to show up there. The chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where He was he was to report it, so that they might seize Him (v.57).

In John 12:1-10 we read that Jesus returned to Bethany, to enjoy a supper with Mary, Martha and Lazarus. While Martha was serving Mary took a pound of very costly perfume and anointed the feet of Jesus with her hair. Judas objected to this apparent misuse of such expensive perfume, which could have been sold and given to the poor. John explains that it was not out of his concern for the needy, but rather that Judas, their treasurer and a thief, was able to pilfer money for his own desires. Jesus commended Mary for her good act, because it symbolized the anointing of His body for burial in a few days.

A large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was at His friends' home, and came to see Him as well as Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. But we see in verse 10 that "the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also; because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus."

Today's Palm Sunday hymn was written around A.D. 820 by Bishop Theodolph of Orleans, France, while he was imprisoned at the monastery of Angers. Theodolph was a well known poet, pastor and beloved bishop of Orleans.

When Emperor Charlemagne died in 814, the bishop was put into a monastic prison by Charlemagne's son and successor, Louis 1 the Pious, for allegedly plotting against him. A popular legend says that a short time before the bishop's death in 821, Louis was visiting the area where Theodolph was imprisoned, and by chance passed under his cell. He could hear the prisoner singing and worshipping by himself and was so moved by the incident that he immediately ordered his release.

So let us likewise worship the King of Israel who made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem just days before His crucifixion. And with Theodolph of old, may we faithfully present our praise, prayer and anthems to our good and gracious King, not only on Palm Sunday, but every day that He gives us to worship Him.