

ALL HAIL

KING

JESUS!

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March 20, 2016

Sermon in a sentence: Praise, honour and glory are due to our King who conquered sin, death, hell and the grave.

Congregational reading: John 12:12-16

Scriptures: (NKJV unless otherwise noted.) John 12:12-16; (Matt. 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-40); Zech. 9:9-10; 1 Chr. 29:11; Psalm 47:1; James 2:13; John 3:14-17

John 12:12-16 The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, ¹³ took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! *'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'* The King of Israel!" ¹⁴ Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: ¹⁵ *"Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt."* ¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and *that* they had done these things to Him.

It is a long time since we have seen the coronation of a king or queen of Canada. Queen Elizabeth's was the last one, over 60 years ago in London, on June 2, 1953.



Jesus entry into Jerusalem was somewhat less ornate than Queen Elizabeth's in London,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWYmTA3QpMM>

but it had certainly been long anticipated, and prophesied by Zechariah over 600 hundred years before His arrival:

Zech. 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He *is* just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WdvLw7OKQU>

(Fade at 1:34)

The first word uttered by the crowd as Jesus came into Jerusalem was "Hosanna", the Hebrew word that originated as a prayer, but over the years was transformed into an exclamation of joy and praise. Hosanna means: "Save we pray!"

John 12:13b "Hosanna! *'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'* The King of Israel!"

Here came Jesus into the capital of Israel, the city of David, the city of kings, the location of the temple, the symbolic earthly residence of the Spirit of God, the city where the blood of bulls and goats had been shed year by year for the remission of sins.

On this occasion, the crowd actually recognized Him as the king of Israel to whom "Hosanna" should be prayed and sung! No doubt, they had political salvation in mind. Jesus had already showed His miraculous power over nature, demons, sickness and death. Now surely He could lead them to victory over the Romans!

On that day however, they did not realize that Jesus was, in fact, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. That is exactly what He came to do.

So, the people received Him with the prayer and the praise: “Hosanna”; “Save we pray!” He answered their prayer, not in the way they expected, but in the way they most needed – in providing salvation for their souls.

It is important for us today, on this Palm Sunday, to join with the adoring crowd in welcoming Jesus as our Messiah, Saviour and King. He is the One who alone fulfills every aspect of God’s desire to redeem His people and restore them to the place they lost through sin. He came to restore us to a place by His side, as His church and as His bride.

Today, we are not thinking about the way the crowd rejected Jesus a mere five days later. Right now, we want to continue the celebration they began, and pray the prayer they prayed: “Hosanna!” Lord, “Save we pray!”

We know that there is no hope for our world apart from the salvation Jesus purchased through His death, burial and resurrection. Lord, “Save we pray!”

Every religious system humanity has devised fails in this respect: they cannot forgive sin. Nor can good works and penitence overturn the penalty for sin, which is spiritual death and eternal separation from God.

Now, let us consider the significance of Jesus’ chosen mode of transportation. He was riding a donkey. Every depiction we see of glorious, powerful, victorious kings shows them riding the biggest, most powerful horse they can find. But the King of Kings rode a donkey!

This was not actually as strange as it may seem at first glance. In ancient times, kings rode their best and strongest horses as they went into battle. Horses are built for war.¹ But when dealing with their subjects in the normal course of life, Israelite kings often rode mules and donkeys.² The horse was a symbol of power and might. The donkey was a symbol of humility, non-aggression and servitude.

So, Zechariah noted that all the implements of war would be laid aside by this King who was coming:

Zech. 9:10 **I will cut off the chariot** from Ephraim and **the horse** from Jerusalem; **the battle bow** shall be cut off. **He shall speak peace to the nations**; His dominion *shall be* “from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.”

Instead, the King who was to come would be riding a donkey and speaking peace to the nations.

At His birth, the angels said: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men” (Luke 2:14).

The apostle Paul greeted the church in Rome with these words: “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 1:7).

In his opening words in Revelation, John says: “Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come....” (Rev. 1:4).

¹ E.g.: Job 39:19-25.

² Examples: 1 Kings 1:33; Judges 10:4; Judges 12:14; 2 Sam. 16:2

Jesus came to bring us back to a place of peace with God, through the forgiveness of our sins.

All of this joy and celebration was accompanied by the waving of palm branches (as detailed in John's gospel).

In Bible times, irrespective of the nation or culture, palms represented victory and triumph, peace and eternal life.³ When we wave our palms, we are joining in a hymn of praise, a march of victory, a shout of joy in celebration of what our God has done for us!

1 Chr. 29:11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all *that is* in heaven and in earth *is Yours*; Yours *is* the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head over all.

Psalm 47:1 Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!

James 2:13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. [But,] Mercy triumphs over judgment.

John 3:14-17 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Let us give all glory and honour to our victorious King who has conquered death, hell and the grave on our behalf.

³ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palm_branch_\(symbol\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palm_branch_(symbol)), accessed March 16, 2016.

**Better still, let us gladly receive the great gift of salvation
He purchased for us, which leads to eternal life, through
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Songs:

**All Hail King Jesus, All Hail Emmanuel
King of Kings Lord of Lords Bright Morning Star
And throughout eternity I'll sing Your Praises
And I'll reign with You throughout eternity.**

**Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him, Lord of all!**

**Reign Jesus reign, reign Jesus reign
King of Zion, Judah's Lion
Reign Jesus Reign**

**Thank You Lord for saving my soul
Thank You Lord for making me whole
Thank You Lord for giving to me
Thy great salvation, so full, so free**

**I am redeemed, but not with silver
I am redeemed, but not with gold
I am redeemed by the blood of Jesus
That washes white as snow**

**Victory in Jesus, my Saviour forever
He sought me and He bought me
With His redeeming blood
He loved me ere I knew Him
And all my love is due Him
He plunged me into victory
Beneath the cleansing flood**