

Palm Sunday

**Worship at
Home
28 March**

Today we celebrate the fulfilment of this prophecy in Jesus:

See, your king comes to you righteous and victorious, lowly, and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Zechariah 9:9

Let us sing or say this song of praise:

Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise Him in the morning
Praise Him in the noon time
Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise Him when the sun goes down.

Love Him, love Him ...

Serve Him, serve Him...



Psalms 145:3

Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

Let us pray:

Loving God, we come to honour you with our praises and to tell you how great you are. Our God who has always been, and who always will be, we lift you up in love and praise.

Accept our worship today in Jesus name.

Amen.

The Lord's prayer - Our Father, who art ...

Matthew 16:15-16

Jesus asked,

Who do you say I am?

You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

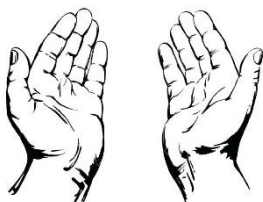
Simon Peter answered

How do we answer Jesus' question?

Who do **you** say Jesus is?

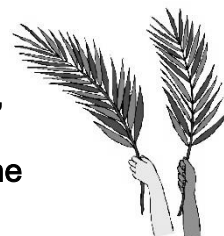
Let's open our hands to our Lord and take time to declare aloud or in our hearts who we know Jesus to be...

Let us read the story of Palm Sunday where the crowd shout declarations about Jesus from Matthew chapter 21:



Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

As they approached Jerusalem ... Jesus sent two disciples... to the village ahead... They brought the donkey ... for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,



"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Being part of crowd means we can get caught up with others in the moment and join in where others lead.

As we read this familiar passage, let's imagine we are part of that exuberant crowd welcoming Jesus, the itinerant teacher, healer, miracle worker, riding into Jerusalem on a humble donkey. Imagine the branches being torn down, laid in the path of the donkey, laying a 'red carpet' for the King of Kings. Where did those cries honouring and blessing Him come from? Who was it first realised who Jesus was and started loudly acknowledging him as the Son of David, as Saviour? Imagine the impact on the city of the voices from the crowd echoing around the streets of Jerusalem.

Were they thinking of the prophecy from Zechariah which many would have been familiar with? Or were they just caught up in the moment?

Imagine the joy, the hope the wonder of that occasion. Perhaps you have been part of a big worship event, praising God, lifting up your heart, heads and hands in praise, giving glory to Jesus for who He is. Maybe these experiences are a little similar? Praise just bubbles up and has to be expressed to our amazing Lord. The crowd had to honour Jesus with their voices and with what was around them. They lose themselves in praise. In Luke's account of this event, the Pharisees asked Jesus to keep the crowd quiet. But Jesus replied, 'I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.' (Luke 19:40)

Let us echo their cries as we sing or say:

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the
highest!

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the
highest!



Lord we lift up Your name,
With hearts full of praise
Be exalted oh Lord my God!
Hosanna in the highest!

Glory, Glory, Glory to the King of Kings!
Glory, Glory, Glory to the King of Kings!

Lord we lift up Your name,
With hearts full of praise
Be exalted oh Lord my God!
Glory to the King of Kings!

Carl Tuttle

However, the celebrations in Jerusalem were short lived. What a complete contrast just a few days later when the crowd were given the option by Pilate to free Jesus from arrest. Instead cried, 'Crucify!'

How easily we too can change our responses.

'With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing'.

James 3:9-10

Let us Pray: Father God, we open our hearts to you now, acknowledging that You are Lord of all. But we know that we let you down, when we don't allow you be Lord of everything in our lives. Please forgive us when we do not give you honour and praise by the way we act, speak, or think. Thank you for your forgiveness freely given through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for us.

*We think of people and situations,
and pause to bring them before you now,
naming those we know:....*

Those who are ill and suffering ...

Those who are mourning loss ...

Those in debt and without work ...

Those who are in prison ...

Those who are living with violence ...

Those who are supporting others ...

Those who are in authority ...

Those who go unnoticed by others ...

Father, we know that you see the hearts and lives of every person and each is precious to

you. Let them know they are loved and valued by You. Teach us to love and serve the lost and the lonely, and to point them to You. In Jesus' precious name we pray. **Amen**

Offering Please accept and use all that we have to give to serve You today. Amen

Let us sing or say:

Praise is rising, eyes are turning to You
We turn to You
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for You
We long for You
'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day
In Your Presence all our fears are washed away, washed away.

Hosanna, hosanna
You are the God Who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus.

Hear the sound of hearts returning to You
We turn to You
In Your Kingdom broken lives are made new
You make us new
'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day
In Your Presence all our fears are washed away, washed away.

Hosanna, hosanna
You are the God Who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus.

Paul Baloche

Let us pray:

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy –to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and for evermore! Amen.

