

## Hosanna to the Son of David!

by Bonnie Heidenreich

Scripture: *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)*

Narrator: Today is Palm Sunday, a day which came one week before the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Why was this day so important?

Scripture: *The feast of the Passover was at hand. As Jesus drew nigh unto Jerusalem, He sent two of His disciples, saying, Go ye into the village, where ye shall find a colt tied whereon never man sat: loose him, and bring him hither. And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them. And they brought the colt to Jesus, and cast their garments on him; and set him thereon. And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way. And the multitudes that went before, and they that followed, began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David! Then the whole multitude cried out the more, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!*

*Some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. And he answered and said unto them, “I tell you that if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.” (Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12)*

Narrator: Palm Sunday was indeed a day of joy and of gladness, for this throng of eager followers knew the identity of the One entering Jerusalem. In Hebrew, ‘Hosanna’ means ‘God save us’, a traditional, centuries-old cry, pleading for salvation and deliverance. The crowds were hailing Jesus as their promised Messiah and Savior, and singing praises to Him. “Hosanna to the Son of David! Hosanna in the highest!”

We also can add our voices of praise to His holy name; singing songs of exultation to our Maker, Lord and King!

### **On This Day of Joy and Gladness #64, congregation**

Narrator: The disciples were jubilant. Their Master had come into the holy city in glory and was announced as the Son of David. His followers were multiplying, and all the city was moved. Surely, He would soon take His place as the Messiah and King of the Jews.

But the euphoria of that day was short-lived. What began as joyful anticipation, soon turned into betrayal, pain and despair. In the garden, Christ experienced sorrow unto death with great drops of blood falling to the ground. He was arrested, scourged, spit upon and mocked. He bore His own cross up a lonely hill and was crucified between two thieves, finally crying out,

Scripture: *“My God! My God! Why hast thou forsaken me?... It is finished... Into thy hands I commend my spirit.” (Matt 27:46; John 19:30; Luke 23:46)*

Narrator: Jesus was dead; His lifeless body placed in a tomb. How could this be? Where was the joy? Surely, the disciples wished to return to the celebrations of Palm Sunday. But staying outside the walls of Jerusalem and basking in the euphoria of praise and adoration would deny the atoning powers of Gethsemane. And how could our salvation become reality without Calvary? To experience the morning of the glorious resurrection required first, the mourning at the cross.

Likewise, the landscape of our lives is marked with meadows and marshes; hills and valleys. For the price of joy is sorrow. The price of success is failure. And the price of eternal life for each of us is death in mortality. Christ paid that price in the garden and at the tomb; offering His life so that we might live again...with Him.

Scripture: *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”* (Matthew 11:28-29)

Narrator: O Holy Jesus, most merciful Savior, we stand in awe of your redeeming love.

### **I Stand All Amazed – choir**

Narrator: Though the disciples were despairing and dejected, their grief would not be permanent.

Scripture: *As it began to dawn towards the first day of the week came Mary and certain others unto the sepulchre. And they found the stone rolled away. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Do not be afraid. Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, for he has risen!* (Luke 24, Matthew 28)

Narrator: All the pain, the sorrow and the anguish faded at this joyous news. This is important to us, if we understand the Lord’s timetable. For after we live through the pains of mortality, and after we pay the price to remain faithful; the blessings will come. And they are magnificent!

Scripture: *Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning...* (Psa 30:5) *After much tribulation come the blessings. Wherefore the day cometh that ye shall be crowned with much glory...* (D&C 58:4) *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.* (John 16:33)

Narrator: The angel at the tomb instructed the women to go quickly and tell the disciples.

Scripture: *And they returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest. And their words seemed to them as idle tales...and they believed them not.* (Luke 24:9, 11)

Narrator: It was difficult for the disciples to believe the words of someone who had seen the risen Lord, when they themselves had not.

Scripture: *I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die... Believest thou this?* (John 11:25-26)

Narrator: That is the question for each of us, and it is our challenge today—to believe and to wait patiently with courage, even when we have not seen. For if we go forward with faith, our day of deliverance and rejoicing will also follow.

Scripture: *And again I would exhort you that ye would come unto Christ, and be perfected in him; and if ye love God with all your might, mind and strength, then are ye sanctified in Christ, that ye become holy, without spot.* (Moroni 10:30-33)

Narrator: Believest thou this?... May we ever answer that important question. “Yes! I believe.”

Scripture: *For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.* (Job 19:25-26)

**I Know That My Redeemer Lives #136, congregation**