

Palm Sunday

Common Praise #181

Refrain: All glory, laud, and honor

To thee, Redeemer, King
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring

1. Thou art the King of Israel
Thou David's royal Son
Who in the Lord's name comest
The King and Blessed One

2. The company of angels
Are praising Thee on high
And mortal men and all things
Created make reply

3. The people of the Hebrews
With palms before Thee went

Our praise and love and anthems
Before Thee we present

4. To Thee, before Thy passion
They sang their hymns of praise
To Thee, now high exalted
Our melody we raise

5. Thou didst accept their praises
Accept the love we bring
Who in all good delightest
Thou good and gracious King



This hymn one of the most ancient and famous of our Lenten hymns No Hymnal would be complete without it. It is traditionally sung on Palm Sunday as the processional hymn. In many of our churches the procession starts outside where the congregation follows the crucifer and the choir waving palms and singing this beautiful hymn. I was deployed in Cyprus in 1993 with the UN Peacekeeping mission and we took real palm leaves off the trees outside the Chapel and processed through our camp at the Nicosia airport and back to the Chapel

The hymn lyrics were written by St Theodulph of Orleans in about 771 and was translated in the 19th Century by John Neale a famous British hymnologist. Theodulph was a bishop under Charlemagne, the Holy Roman Emperor, who wrote many scholarly works and works of literature.

The hymn recounts the so-called “Triumphal Entry” of Jesus into Jerusalem the Sunday before his death, which has become known as Palm Sunday for obvious reasons. This upbeat joyous hymn kicks off a week which will end in tragedy and death for our triumphant king. The lenten mood is briefly lightened as we sing Hosannas and wave our palms to greet our Lord.

Questions you might ask yourself:

Read Mark 11:1-11.

- ✓ Why were the crowds so eager to greet Jesus on this day?
- ✓ What is the significance of laying down their cloaks and waving palms as he enters the city?
- ✓ By Friday some of these same people will be shouting for his execution. Why do people change their behavior so quickly? Were both the events of Palm Sunday and Good Friday influenced by other events or people?
- ✓ What part do we play in this drama? What part do we play when people are glorified and then torn down?