

When the King Pursues You

Welcome to our celebration of Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week.

Long ago, the people expected the Messiah to come armed to the teeth and riding a war horse. Instead, He came riding a lowly donkey, the symbol of peace. When you come under the sway of this gentle King, you will be transformed.

Let us prepare our hearts for worship by reflecting on one way we would like King Jesus to change us! Spurgeon writes:

“It is not Christ who has come to you, if you have grown prouder, harsher, and more obsessive than ever. No, the Christ who enters to save is Himself gentle and humble of heart. Those who take His yoke upon them learn of Him, and they become like Him. Invite the humble Christ into your life and He will kill your bad temper, conquer your malice, and cast out your pride.”

Let us worship our King who conquers by humility.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION * 11:00 AM Service * Gathered Worship

On this day Lord Jesus,
You did enter the rebellious city where You were to die:
Enter into our hearts, we beseech You,
and subdue them wholly to You.
And as Your faithful disciples rejoiced in Your coming
and spread their garments on the road,
make us ready to lay at Your feet all that we have and are.
And grant that we, after having confessed and worshiped You upon earth,
may be numbered among those who shall hail Your eternal triumph
and bear in their hands the palms of victory
when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that You are Lord.
Amen.

PRELUDE Crown Him with Many Crowns

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 24:7, 10

And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts,
He is the King of glory!**

PRAYER OF ADORATION.

HYMN OF ADORATIONAll 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 prayer and praise
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 prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King!

HYMN OF PRAISELift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near,
the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heav'n's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
until the glorious crown be won.

MORNING PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION.

God, our gracious heavenly Father,
You sent the gentle King of glory to rescue us.
Forgive us for our resistance to Your meek and humble ways.
We confess that we have leaned too much on earthly wisdom
that has produced strife, jealousy, and selfish ambition.
May Your heavenly wisdom bring about its fruit in our lives
– peaceable relationships, merciful hearts, a gentle manner,
a godly sincerity, and a passion for purity.
Mold us into the image of the gentle King of glory,
for we pray in His name, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS.Zechariah 9:9-10

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation,
humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey...
He will proclaim peace to the nations;
His rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the river to the ends of the earth.

HYMN OF SALVATION.Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Hosanna, loud hosanna,
The little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple
The lovely anthem rang;
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
Close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises,
The simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed
among the joyful crowd;
The victor palm branch waving,
with singing clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven rode
on in lowly state, nor scorned that little
children should on His bidding wait.

"Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer,
The Lord of heav'n, our King;
O may we ever praise Him
With heart and life and voice,
And in His blissful presence
Eternally rejoice!

ANTHEM. Hosanna to the Son of David

GREETINGS/MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY CHALLENGE. Philipians 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing,
but in everything
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.
And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL READING Luke 19:28-48

Page 1117 in the Church Bible

THE SERMON When the King Pursues You

#3 in our series on "When Jesus Pursues"

1. He comes humbly to rescue (28-40).
2. He comes tearfully to reconcile (41-44).
3. He comes boldly to preserve (45-48).

HYMN OF COMMITMENT.Lead On, O King Eternal

Lead on, O King eternal,
the day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest
thy tents shall be our home:
through days of preparation
thy grace has made us strong,
and now, O King eternal,
we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal,
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords loud clashing,
nor roll of stirring drums,
but deeds of love and mercy,
the heav'nly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal:
we follow, not with fears;
for gladness breaks like morning
where'er thy face appears;
thy cross is lifted o'er us;
we journey in its light:
the crown awaits the conquest;
lead on, O God of might.

BENEDICTION. 2 Corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all. AMEN.