



O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

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1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?  
 2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;  
 3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.  
 4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!  
 And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.  
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.  
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast  
 My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new  
 A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high  
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.  
 And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.  
 That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.  
 In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

- 5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden, Cannot His love erase;  
 Your guilt the Lord will pardon And cover by His grace.  
 He comes, for you procuring The peace of sin forgiv'n,  
 His children thus securing Eternal life in heav'n.
- 6 He comes to judge the nations, A terror to His foes,  
 A light of consolations And blessèd hope to those  
 Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,  
 Send forth Your beams so cheering, And guide us safely home.

Tune and text: Public domain

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

In verse 1, the recipient of Jesus’ coming contemplates how most appropriately to greet the Son of God. The recipient is getting really excited in anticipation of Christ’s arrival.

Verse 2 is a strong recalling of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The excitement in verse 1 carries over into verse 2.

The source of the enthusiasm was based in the village of Bethany, on the eastern slope on the Mount of Olives, about two miles from Jerusalem. For many travelers, this was the final station on the road from Jericho to Jerusalem. Jesus and his disciples arrived at Bethany six days before the Passover (John 12:1). Jesus’ raising of Lazarus caused quite a stir and brought him a great deal of acclaim. It also had attracted attention in Jerusalem, where many of its citizens came out to welcome Jesus’ arrival.

Quickly taking off their outer cloaks, several of Jesus’ disciples lay these upon the foal to make a seat for their Master. Many in the crowd spread their garments on the road, as if to receive an emperor, a mighty king. Some cut or tore down branches from trees along the way, and cast them down to make a leafy carpet before Jesus.

The first half of verse 3 is a back-and-forth litany of our sad human condition and the Lord’s work to remedy our woeful state. The second half tells how Jesus showers us with incredible gifts of love. The rest of the hymn describes Jesus’ wondrous works and his sacrifice that paid the enormous debt of our sins and provided peace for our burdened souls. The hymn ends with the joy of Jesus’ second coming.

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for coming to earth to bring great joy and salvation. Thank you for your unending blessings. Amen.