



O Bride of Christ, Rejoice

335



1 O bride of Christ, re - joi - ce; Ex - ul - tant raise thy voice
 2 Let shouts of glad - ness rise Tri - um - phant to the skies.
 3 A hum - ble beast He rides, Yet as a King pre - sides;
 4 The weak and tim - id find How meek He is and kind;
 5 Then go thy Lord to meet; Strew palm leaves at His feet;



To hail the day of glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Now comes the King most glo - rious To reign o'er all vic - to - rious.
 Though not ar - rayed in splen - dor, He makes the grave sur - ren - der.
 To them He gives a trea - sure Of bliss be - yond all mea - sure.
 Thy gar - ments spread be - fore Him And hon - or and a - dore Him.



Refrain
 Ho - san - na, praise, and glo - ry! Our King, we bow be - fore Thee.

Tune and text: Public domain

“O Bride of Christ, Rejoice”

This hymn is like yesterday’s in that it has its roots in the text about Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. It is based on Zechariah 9:9, which states: “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The *bride of Christ* in verse 1 is the Christian Church, which includes us. This verse calls for us to raise our voices to greet the Savior. Verse 2 continues this great celebration in honor of Jesus, our King. It even includes the angelic host of heaven.

Verse 3 speaks of when Jesus made his entrance on a donkey. The donkey was an animal that symbolized humility, peace, and David’s royalty. In the Orient, the donkey was regarded as greatly inferior to the horse. The act is symbolic. Jesus would come as the King of humility and peace to show that his kingdom was not of this world. The kings of earth conquer by oppression. Jesus shall be victorious though he seems to surrender. He must enter the realm of death in order to vanquish death. But there shall be a change in the end; when the cloak of humility is removed, his glory shall be resplendent as the sun.

God’s people are called to welcome their coming King with joyful shouts. This is a preview of the depiction of the New Jerusalem as the Bride of Christ (Revelation 21:2). Even in this solemn season we can rejoice, because as Christians we are looking forward to the final fulfillment of prophecy, when the Lord comes again victoriously with all his angels.

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for coming to this earth to be our Savior. Help us to see past the current commotion to the serenity your second coming will give us in heaven. Amen.