

## Main Point: Jesus answers our desperate cries for salvation.

Sometimes, and one of those times being right after I preach this sermon, we sing a song called “Hosanna.” The constant refrain in the chorus of that song is “Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.” Many of us are probably very familiar with the song or at least the phrase “Hosanna in the highest,” but what does it mean?

That refrain is closely connected with this very day on the Christian calendar. We call today “Palm Sunday,” because we celebrate Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem on the Sunday before he went to the cross. As he entered the city, crowds laid down palm branches and cloaks before him as a sign of honor.

The people acted this way for a reason. Jesus’ entry was simple but it was highly significant.

- About 500 years before the gospel writers recorded this event, the Prophet Zechariah wrote:

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

### Zechariah 9:9 ESV

- Matthew quotes this prophecy in his account of Jesus’ entry. Because this is exactly how he entered Jerusalem, as a humble King, riding on a donkey (Matt. 21:5)
  - No warhorse
  - No chariots
  - No weaponry
  - He has no need for a show of power, **HE IS POWER.**
  - He’s a King who came to do battle against our greatest enemy (sin + death). He’s a conquering King who rode in, to defeat the tyrant, and establish a good Kingdom for us to live in and gave us commandments that are for our flourishing.

## Hosanna

- As the crowd laid down their palm branches and cloaks they shouted to him “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

- These words were not random, They held centuries of history and meaning to the people that were shouting them.
- “Hosanna” is a Greek transliteration that finds its roots in Psalm 118:25. This is where the minds of the people would have been that day as they cried out. A familiar Psalm that points to the coming Messiah. The most quoted psalm in the New Testament and one that had been sung on Jewish high Holy Days for hundreds of years:

**Psalm 118:25-26**

**25** Save us, we pray, O LORD!

O LORD, we pray, give us success!

**26** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

- Save us, we pray” → Hebrew: “hoshia na”
  - We often think of this word similarly to “Hallelujah,” like a shout of praise, but this is not what those shouting it would have had in mind.
  - “Hosanna” is a plea for salvation
    - Instead of:
      - **\*NOT melodic\*** “Save us, we pray,” “Praise you Jesus,”
      - **\*BUT desperate\*** “SAVE US, WE PRAY!” “LORD HELP US!”
    - There is a desperation in their hearts and in their cry.
    - Here is a conquered people, who had experienced centuries of broken leadership, multiple conquerings by foreign powers and are now under the heavy hand of the Romans. They don’t realize the extent of it, but they have been conquered by more than physical enemies. They are being crushed by a burden of sin, a darkness, that they desperately need that weight lifted.
    - **Illustration:** Psalm 42:1 As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.
    - **Illustration:** Desert Island/Boat - Cry for Help
      - “SAVE US, WE PRAY!” - **We are Needy**
        - Do you feel that this morning? That desperation?
        - Do you feel the weight of brokenness?
        - Do you feel shackled to a weight of sin that seems unshakeable?
        - Do you feel conquered?

- When you look around you, or within, does it seem utterly hopeless?

We are ALL in desperate need of salvation, and there is good news for that. The enemy that Jesus was riding in to face, is our great enemy, sin and death. Sin separates us from a relationship with God and puts us on a path to an eternity of that same separation. Try as we might, we cannot overcome sin on our own. Jesus rode into battle, armed with righteousness that we could never attain. A perfect, sinless man, God in flesh, and he took our punishment for us. He rose again from the grave victorious and invites us to follow him, receive the righteousness that he earned for us and to repent of sinful ways to walk in his ways. We can look at the cross and trust that His way is best for us. That we can trust his commands. We can look to the cross and see that he loves us and has our best and his glory in mind.

Is your cry “Hosanna” today?

- Is there brokenness in your marriage that you have sought to fix according to your rules and expectations. He has a purpose and design for that, and can bring healing. There is salvation in him. Hosanna!
- Are you anxious for your kids, and their future? Thinking you can never live up and be the parent they need? In Christ is perfect love and direction. Everything is in His hands. There is salvation in him. Hosanna!
- Are there uncertainties in your work and finances that keep you from walking in peace? He offers security and hope in every situation. He has won the greatest battle. Filled our deepest need. There is salvation in him. Hosanna!
- Is your life riddled with anxiety that plagues you day and night? Are you desperate for your mind to find rest? He says “come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.” There is salvation in him. Hosanna!
- Do you feel trapped by sin that seems to be ruining your life and harming those around you? Addictions? Selfishness? Pride? He breaks the chains of sin. His blood bought our way out of slavery to sin and freed us to walk in his ways. He is the greatest comfort and escape and hope and turns our shame into shouts of freedom. He gives beauty for ashes and turns our mourning into dancing. There is salvation in him. Hosanna!

On the night that Jesus was arrested, before going out to the garden, he gathered with his disciples in the upper room of a house to observe Passover. Jesus, being Jewish, would have observed this important meal his whole life. This meal looks back on God’s salvation for his people in Egypt with the blood of a lamb. Jesus introduced a new meal right after, a meal that we will take together in just a few moments. The Lord’s supper. Wine represented his blood that would be spilled, and bread that represented his body

that would be broken. Like Passover, it celebrates salvation through the blood of a lamb. Jesus was the greater lamb to be sacrificed for the sins of the world. Matthew tells us that they wrapped up their time together by singing a hymn. Most scholars agree that the hymn they sang was Psalm 118, the last part of the hallel. Imagine the moment, the atmosphere, when Jesus, the lamb of God, the stone that the builders rejected, the point of the Psalm, stood and began to lift up the words:

### **Psalm 118:22-29**

- 22** The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.
- 23** This is the LORD's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24** This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- 25** Save us, we pray, O LORD!  
O LORD, we pray, give us success!
- 26** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!  
We bless you from the house of the LORD.
- 27** The LORD is God,  
and he has made his light to shine upon us.  
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,  
up to the horns of the altar!
- 28** You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
you are my God; I will extol you.
- 29** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever!

In a few hours, he would become that sacrifice, bound to the altar of the cross. The shouts of HOSANNA! The plea for help "save us, we pray, O LORD" would be answered. Why? Because his steadfast love endures forever.

In a few moments the worship team is going to lead us in that same plea for rescue. We will sing those powerful words "hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest"..."Save us, we pray, O LORD!"

There are people here today that feel conquered, that feel broken, that feel lost and desperate. Let that be your cry this morning. "O LORD, Save me, I pray!"

There are people who have tasted the love of Jesus, but are weighed down with anxiety about the unknown. Let that be your cry this morning. "O LORD, Save me, I pray!"

There are Christ followers here who have taken your eyes off of Jesus and become bound by sin. Don't stay there. He went to the cross for you. He loves you. Let that be your cry this morning. "O LORD, Save me, I pray!"

We typically end the sermon with giving you 4 ways that we can reflect and respond in service. I am going to start with the last one first.

- **Pray**
  - Pray in your seats, Come down and pray at the altar, If you'd like someone to pray with you, we have prayer teams stationed at the back of the room. Pray through song. If the Lord is prompting you to make a desperate plea for help this morning, don't push it down. You will be received by Jesus with grace
- **Taking Communion**
  - In a moment, we will partake in communion together as a sacred act of worship. Please follow the instructions when we get to that time of our service.
- **Pursue Baptism**
  - "If you've responded in faith to Christ today and desire to follow Him in baptism, we'd love to walk with you. Please fill out a connect card or visit our connect desk after the service for more information on taking this step."
- **Give**
  - As an act of worship, we invite you to respond through giving. You'll see a slide on the screen(s) with three ways to give: [online giving, offering boxes, or text-to-give]. Please follow the instructions on the slide to contribute as God leads you."
- **Return to PRAYER**

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**Community Group Discussion:**

- As a group, read through Psalm 118, take time, as a group, to identify all of the ways this Psalm points to Jesus as our Saviour King.
- Psalm 118:25 is the original "Hosanna," a desperate plea for Jesus to save and help us. What are some of the areas of your life where you need to cry "Hosanna" to God in?
- As people share, take time to pray for them.