

Palm Sunday
John 12:12-19

The sermon for Palm Sunday is from the Gospel of St John 12:12-19. The sermon is entitled, "Hosanna"

Grace Mercy and Peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

405/605/5/118

Do these numbers sound familiar?

Or on days when it is more congested....

405/605/105 /710/ 5

Do these numbers sound familiar?

That's right,

These are the highways that I must take to return home every week. And though at times it may be difficult, the great motivator is what is waiting for me at the end of the road....its usually eliott yelling from the door of the house, Dad! You're Home!

Yes, as I walk towards the house, I always smile and say, It's good to be home.

Today on this Palm Sunday, we read in our processional reading about another Road, not the 405, or the 605, no....we read about the Royal Highway, the Kingly road that our Lord strove for us.

And as our Lord made His way into Jerusalem, the crowds took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord"

For on this road, the palms would indicate an anticipation that our Lord would deliver Victory to His people, and in the same way, the word Hosanna, which means, save us now, this was their expectation, for they needed saving.....

But the question is....what did they need saving from?

From their perspective, the crowds had heard about Lazarus being raised from the dead, and of course, they quickly had thought, if Jesus could raise Lazarus from the dead, what more could He accomplish? The possibilities were endless. We need a military leader, we need a bread king, we need a ruler who will protect and preserve us, and with all that Jesus had done so far, this was their reason for their cries, Hosanna Hosanna! Lord save us now.

Again, the question is, what did they need saving from?

Meanwhile the pharisees, so caught up in their own holiness, their own self-righteousness, so busy trying to trap Jesus, they too were blind to the fact of why they needed Jesus to save them....stuck in their smug hearts, their focus was not Jesus

riding in on this royal highway to save sinners, no, their concern was ultimately themselves....

Hosanna Hosanna!

Save us now

Little did anyone know what this saving was to be....

And for us this day, the question is...

Why do we need the word of Hosanna?

Why do we need saving?

It is on this Palm Sunday that we look at the reason why our Savior made His way into the World.....the reason why our Lord made Himself nothing, taking the form of of a servant, humbling himself by becoming obedient to the point of death....even death upon the Cross....

Because we need saving....

We need a Savior that will save us from our **sin**.

Sin...

It is not something you and I can remedy.

It is not simply doing more good than bad.

It is not something we can erase or somehow it will vanish over a course of time.

No. Sin is not something we can overcome ourselves.

for the consequence of original sin spread to all of humanity, and thus you and I were born in the condemning state of sin.

Now surely, man believes that their own goodness merits their way to God.

Surely man, believes that somehow in their morality, surely this will pave the way to God, but friends,

Surely man believes that the temporal comforts will save them.....

yet,

Hosanna indicates, we need saving because we cannot save ourselves.

Surely we believe this yet....

When was the last time we trusted in the subtlety of our own self righteousness?

When was the last we trusted in the savior of our bellies, of our material possessions, of the temporal securities this world offers us?

And this is the devil's playbook. The great deception that somehow we do not need the Savior, but that we need a different hosanna, the hosanna of the belly, the hosanna from the vast array of idols before us....the hosanna that is ultimately of self....

So who is your Savior. Is it your self-righteousness? Is it your merits that saves your conscience, is it your works that saves your confidence in front of God.

So who is your Savior, Is it your belly, the earthly and temporal riches, the securities that it all has to offer? Are these things the very things that save you?

When was the last time the word stood behind these false saviors?

And thus we repent.

Confessing the very sins that trust in the little gods, the very idols that are before us.

This is why we need to be saved. For though we know what we ought to do, we do the very thing that we hate, the curse of sin and death to which assail us day and night, the very curse that we cannot circumvent, or overcome nor remedy,

And thus there are no other words, but in faith, on this Palm Sunday we cry out, Hosanna Hosanna,

Lord Save us.

Hosanna!

Lord Save us from our Sin....

Hosanna!

Lord Save us from Death

Hosanna!

Lord save us and rescue us from eternal condemnation.

And thus by His Grace, our Lord took upon the road. Not just any road. Not the 405 or the 605 or the 118, no.... Not a road that would welcome him home with a celebration.....no....but what awaited Him were the Words,

Crucify Him, Crucify Him!

Yes, the criminals beside him deserved such words, yet our Lord did not not....He was innocent, without spot or blemish, though He did not deserve to be stricken, smitten and afflicted, our Lord saw this road and willfully trod down it for you.....

Think about that.....

For you, our Lord saw this road...full of treachery, full of pain and suffering, the crown of thorns, his own blood that would be shed, the utter humiliation as the onlookers would scoff him as He was lifted High upon the Tree.....anyone else would have taken a detour, anyone else would have never taken another step forward on Palm Sunday,

But this is not anyone else, no...it is Christ... Our Savior did not divert from this path, He did not avoid what was to come, no, our Lord made Himself nothing, our Lord was obedient unto death, even death on a cross.....for you....

Yes, to be your Hosanna, to save you from the jaws of hell, to rescue you from sin death and the devil, for you and I cannot do such things, nor does this world deliver these as well,

No....this palm sunday, it is Christ who sees the road that lies ahead, the fiery wrath of God, yet our Lord would proceed.....

This is your Hosanna.

It is the blood of Christ that was shed for you.

It is the sacrifice to which our Lord stood faithfully to His death for you....

It is the atonement, that by His crucifixion, you are reconciled to God.....

This is your Hosanna....

For our Lord paid your ransom, not with silver or gold but with His precious blood to lavish you with the eternal bounty, the gracious treasure, that is, to eternal life, forgiveness and salvation.

Indeed, you need to be saved.

And there our Lord is to save you.

There our Lord is to forgive you of all your sins.

There our Lord is....to deflate and defeat the grave to give you everlasting life.....

This is your Hosanna.

Not only His death, but also His resurrection where the battle is won.

This is your Hosanna.

The Water and the Word in Holy Baptism where God robes you in His righteousness.

This is your Hosanna.

The body and blood of which you partake at this altar, given and shed for your the forgiveness of your sins.

This is your Hosanna.

So take heart my friends...

For...on this Road, our Lord Trod...

On this Road, our Lord accomplished.

On this Road, our Lord conquered.

And on this Road, the Hosannas truly rang,

Indeed, Lord Save us....

And He has....for you.

Amen.

The peace of God which surpasses all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

