

## Hosanna in the Highest Heaven

When I was in high school, my best friends were twins. People who did not know them had trouble telling them apart, but one liked running and the other music. One was extroverted and liked to be outside; the other liked staying at home reading a book.

The words "Hallelujah" and "Hosanna" appear to be similar. "Hallelujah" means to praise, with the Hebrew root words adding a nuance of doing so wildly and with complete abandon. Doesn't that sound like Palm Sunday? However, "Hosanna" comes from Hebrew words that mean, in essence, "Please save us." The suffix "na" indicates intense emotion. Save us. Please. *Please*.

The people at the time of Jesus lived in occupied territory, with limited rights and freedoms. Today we face wars around the globe, gun violence, poverty, natural disasters, as well as our personal challenges and tragedies. You may be ready to praise with reckless abandon. Or you may be longing for change.

Who can help us? What could be more effective than to take our problems to the highest level, the top manager, the Creator of all?

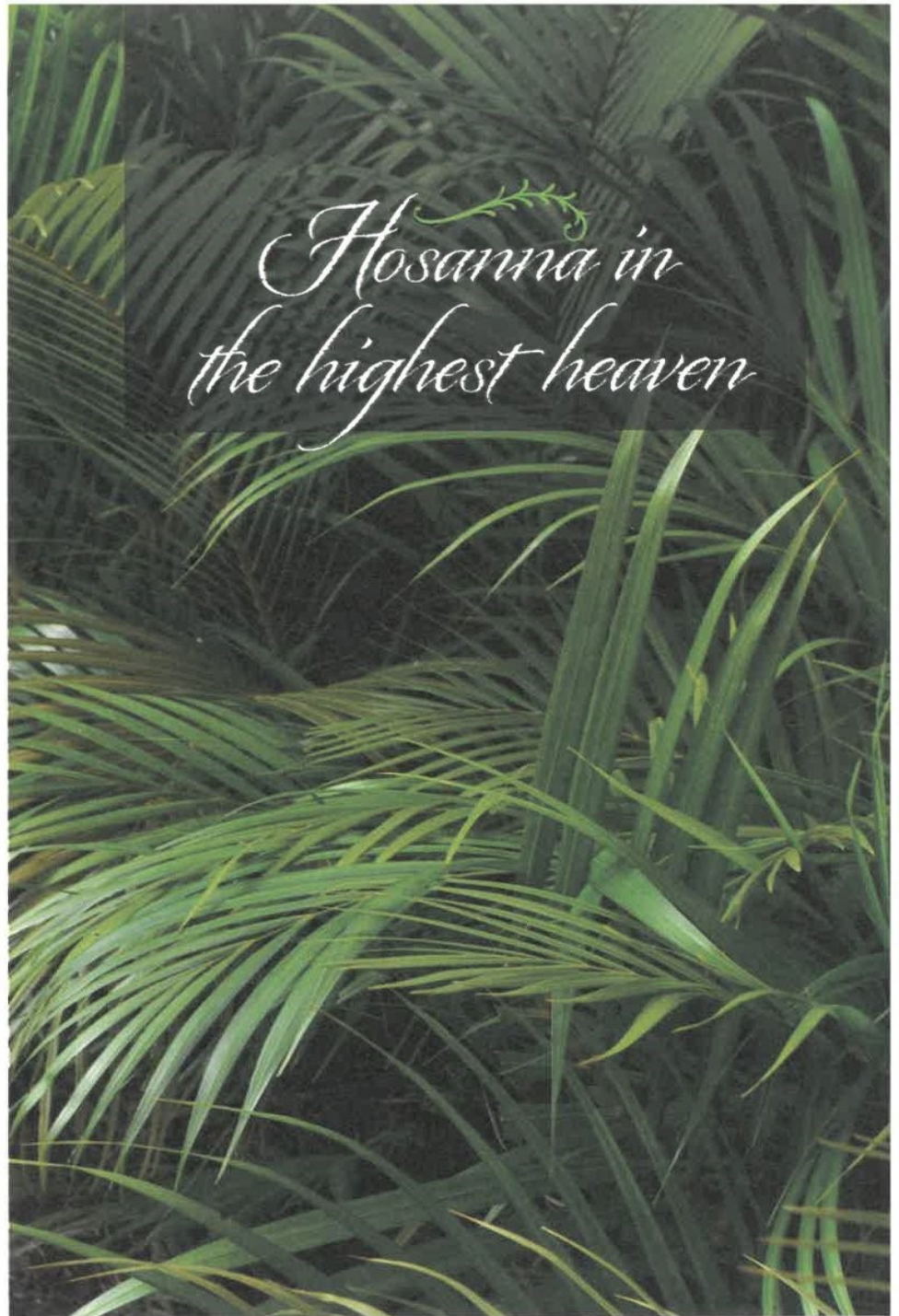
Sometimes words change meaning: "wicked" means "very" in Massachusetts, as in the phrase "wicked good." "Sick" in slang means "great" rather than "ill." We can let "hosanna" keep its acquired meaning of praise. Or we can beseech God to save us now.

Which will be your "hosanna" this year?

—Jan Fischer Bachman  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

"Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! *Hosanna in the highest heaven!*" (Mark 11:10, *NRSVue*). Today's Bible readings from the lectionary: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16.

March 24, 2024, Palm Sunday. Photo © Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford. Used by permission.  
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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland

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**MORNING WORSHIP**

**10:45 AM**

March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Kathy Kelsey, Worship Leader

**PRELUDE** "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" (Paxton)

**OPENING SCRIPTURE** Mark 11:1-8 NT 47

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this: 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' "They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields.

**MORNING ANTHEM** "Ride On! Ride On! (Yannerella)  
Temple Choir

**\*UNISON SCRIPTURE READING**

**All: "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"**

**\*HYMN #238** "Hosanna, loud hosanna"  
[Verse 1]

*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.*

[Verse 2]

*From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,  
the victor palm-branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.  
The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,  
nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.*

[Verse 3]

*"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,  
for Christ is our redeemer, the Lord of heav'n our king.  
Oh, may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,  
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Pastor: Who comes this way?*

**Congregation: I wonder who is he?**

*Kathy: They say he is the Christ.*

*Pastor: That means Messiah,*

**Congregation: That means the Anointed One, the Savior, the...**

**All: King**

*Kathy: Who comes this way?*

**Congregation: Is it really him? I want him to beat the Romans and save  
us from poverty and hunger.**

*Pastor: Is he victorious? Is he powerful? Is he scary?*

*Kathy: Where is he from Greece? Rome? Jerusalem? Hagerstown?*

**Congregation: They say he comes from Bethlehem and grew up in  
Nazareth and Galilee.**

*Pastor: "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?"*

**Congregation: Who comes this way?**

*Kathy: Who is he? Why are we cheering him on? Is he good or bad? He  
must be rich to get such praise.*

*Pastor: Stop waving that branch in my face! Move away! Let me see around this  
parade. Put me on your shoulders. I need a higher glimpse of him. I just want  
to see his face and then I will know who he is, let me see...*

**Congregation: Wait!**

*Kathy: Wait!*

**Congregation: It is only a man.**

*Kathy: And he is just on a donkey, no conquering steed.*

*Pastor: It is only a man, what is so great about him?*

**Congregation: Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest!**

*Kathy: Hosanna means "save us" and "we pray"*

*Pastor: But who is this man that will save us?*

**All: Who comes this way?**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

Jesus, you have walked this road with us many times. Guide our steps and keep us close. Inspire our worship with your loving presence and work in our lives, that your Spirit may flow through our lives as we seek to help others walk the journey with you. Amen.

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN**

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

**Call to Giving**

Give thanks to God, who is faithful and good. Give thanks by sharing your tithes and offerings this day.

We joyfully give as one body, both gathered in his house of worship and gathered through virtual technology. We give by placing our offerings in the plate, mailing to or dropping off at the church, or using Paypal. Together, as we give, we declare our dedication to Jesus and our obedience to serve him.

<b>Offertory</b>	“Holy Week Meditation”	(Smith)
<b>*Doxology</b>	“Praise God from whom”	

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Let us pray. We thank you, Christ Jesus, for your steadfast faithfulness and your humble leadership in our world. Bless the gifts we return to you now, that they may guide others to follow you and walk humbly in your ways. Amen.

**SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES**

*Please remember our worship is also on Facebook Live and our website.  
Please do not share any personal information you do not want to be made public.  
An usher will hold the microphone for you while you share.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

<b>MESSAGE</b>	“Look Who’s Coming!”	Pastor Twyla Rowe
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<b>*HYMN #239</b>	“Ride on, ride on in majesty”
	[Verse 1]

*Ride on, ride on in majesty, as all the crowds “Hosanna!” cry, through waving branches slowly ride, O Savior, to be crucified.*

[Verse 2]  
*Ride on, ride on in majesty, in lowly pomp ride on to die. O Christ, your triumph now begin with captured death and conquered sin!*

[Verse 3]  
*Ride on, ride on in majesty - the angel armies of the sky look down with sad and wond’ring eyes to see th’ approaching sacrifice.*

[Verse 4]  
*Ride on, ride on in majesty, in lowly pomp ride on to die. Bow your meek head to mortal pain, then take, O God, thy pow’r and reign.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

*After the Benediction, you may be seated.  
Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.*

<b>*POSTLUDE</b>	“The Gates of Jerusalem”	(Paxton)
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*(Call to Worship written by Pastor Shannon Keeney at First United Methodist Church in Littleton, NH; and other worship resources by Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024 (p. 73, 75, 76). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.)*

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\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship  
Thank you for joining us in worship today.  
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