

# Palm Sunday 2024

(Psalm 118:19-29)

**This is the beginning day of Holy Week – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thur., Good Fr., Easter am**  
**What are you doing to prepare your heart for what God has for you this week?**

**Read John 12:12-19** On the next day, when the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, <sup>13</sup> they took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and *began* shouting, “**Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, indeed, the King of Israel!**” Palm branches=*victory wave*; Judas Maccabeus/Greek army  
*\*Like waving flags at World Cup soccer game: Patriotic, victory wave-*\*Cry to rise up/overthrow  
-What was happening this **Mon. am** in Jerusalem? Context? =*A week of remembrance/anticipat*  
The Jews coming from all over Israel – for Passover worship/feast/sacrifice. *Singing Psalms*  
**-God had delivered them once from Egypt; =‘Egyptian Hallel’** now... singing for rescue  
again from Rome/oppres. =Singing about God’s future deliverance & **the Messiah to come:**  
*\*Where did the Jews get this phrase from: “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord?”*  
-Hallel Psalms (113-118): Psalm of Praise – sung for three Jerusalem festivals/holidays:  
*Passover; Pentecost* (Sinai 50 dys later: Celebrate giving of LAW); *Booths* (God’s prov 40y/wilderness)  
–All Jewish families required to come to Jerusalem (*worship, temple tax, offered sacrifices*)

**Read Psalm 118:19-29** (*the most quoted Ps. in the N.T./14x*) =Messianic Psalm (Song of praise & thanksgiving for all of God’s works/provision =**MESSIAH & it’s a PRAYER in anticip**)  
Open the gates of righteousness to me; I will enter through them, I will give thanks to the Lord. <sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the Lord; The righteous will enter through it.  
<sup>21</sup> I will give thanks to You, for You have answered me, And You have become my salvation.  
<sup>22</sup> A stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.  
<sup>23</sup> This came about from the Lord; It is marvelous in our eyes.  
<sup>24</sup> This is the day which the Lord has made; Let’s rejoice and be glad in it.  
<sup>25</sup> Please, O Lord, do save us; [Hosanna] Please, O Lord, do send prosperity!  
<sup>26</sup> Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; We have blessed you from the house of the Lord. <sup>27</sup> The Lord is God, and He has given us light; Bind the festival sacrifice to the horns of the altar with cords. <sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I give thanks to You; *You are* my God, I exalt You. <sup>29</sup> Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; For His mercy is everlasting!

## **What is a helpful reminder to us this Palm Sunday Morning?**

**The Israelites would sing these familiar songs to remind themselves, to remind their hearts what was true – in the midst of their suffering, discouragement, & oppression.**

*This was a song of thanksgiving for God’s saving goodness (now & in the future) -even this am*

**1. If you are unsure where to go to find peace with God**, the Bible reminds us that Jesus alone is the gate, the door into Heaven, the way to the presence of the Father. Jesus is the way to salvation. John 10:9 “*I am the gate/door; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.*”

**=Messianic Psalm: Inference to the Messiah being the way to Heaven/God’s presence:**

**Vs. 19:** Open the gates of righteousness to me; I will enter through them, I will give thanks to the Lord. <sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the Lord; The righteous will enter through it.

**2. If you feel like God does not hear your prayers,** remember God does answer prayer: Many times as we pray for God to deliver us from crises or challenging circumstances (with people, relationships, pain, or loss) -***what God wants more for us*** (rather than just alleviating the painful situation from us), God wants to use that painful situation to draw us (push us) into His arms, that we would actually gain more of His presence.

**Vs. 21:** *I will give thanks to You, for You have answered me, And You have become my salvation.* (God not only answers prayers; He is THE answer to our prayers -He is our greatest need! He IS our salvation!! His presence is the prize of life).

**3. If you feel rejected this morning,** worthless, unworthy, discounted, overlooked: So did Jesus. (Like useless rubble, He was tossed aside, thrown on the unusable pile). The Father took what was rejected by the world, the religious elite, His own people, and God made Jesus the cornerstone, the very foundation of our salvation, our hope, our very acceptance.

**Vs. 22:** *A stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.* Just as God supernaturally used Christ's death and resurrection to secure the salvation of the elect, to be the Savior of the world – a man beaten, spat upon, given up on, traded for a zealot & criminal in Barabbas, stripped, mocked, whipped, crucified = **He was rejected**. Thrown on the heap of garbage/refuse & God took what was rejected by mankind and used Christ's rejection to give grace to His rejectors, His mockers, His sinful & spiteful crucifiers. US. AND, in our rejection and unworthiness, God reaches down in grace and grafts us into Jesus – to make us righteous and to give us Christ's righteousness. So that all those who are in Him, IN CHRIST, are heirs with Christ, loved, forgiven, cleansed, made righteous, adopted, made holy, & given New Life. **Vs. 23:** *This came about from the Lord; It is marvelous in our eyes.*

**4. If you feel like God has ignored you, and that you are on your own,** remember that you are living today in day which God has sovereignly created and providentially cares for every detail in which the activities of this day will occur -both good and bad. God is in control of everything, and as we wait and watch God work His will and His way in our lives, we will be blown away by His care for us, His grace toward us, and His everlasting love for us:

**Vs. 24:** *This is the day which the Lord has made* [created]; *this* is day in which He did it! He brought our salvation (future hope of the future Messiah). *Let's rejoice and be glad in it.* **-God has not ignored you.** He has never forgotten you. He is at work even in this moment to draw your heart to His; to soften your hardened/cynical heart to show you His splendor and grace, and how He wants to change your life. *-Are you open to see with new eyes? Ask the Lord today to show you His hand, what He's up to in your life. Ask God to show you His hand of mercy upon – that He has allowed you to live up until today for a reason, a reason to be changed for eternity -a reason to change your life, transform your heart, and shine His grace on you and through you!*

**5. If you have forgotten your first love this morning,** and feel numb to the Lord and His presence – remember it is God *who* saves; it is God alone who gives life and we are nothing without Him – we are nothing without His presence in every part of our life. Jesus gently reminds us of this truth: John 15:5 *"I am the vine, you are the branches; the one who remains in Me, and I in him <sup>1</sup>bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."* We cannot save ourselves. We cannot make ourselves want to worship God. We cannot be righteous, or

holy, or pleasing to the Lord on our own. We can't be good enough or lovely enough, or faithful enough. We are sunk in our own power! We can't love God enough or think rightly enough of the Lord. Without His presence within us -we are void, empty, and useless to do anything that will better our world. As we strive for independence, selfishness, self-reliance, and individuality – Jesus reminds us that apart from Him, we have nothing; we are nothing. The psalmist reminds to call upon the Lord to help us; to rescue us; to save us from ourselves, from our sin, from our depraved hearts. **Vs. 25: Please, O Lord, do save us;** [Hosanna] -Yasa (to save); Jesus' name: Yeshua: God is salvation! **Please, O Lord, do send prosperity** [Heb. =divine success] -success only as God breaks through our hard hearts, our sin-tainted souls. And how does that occur? Only through the Lord's help -the sending of His Messiah – Jesus! And what is the right response to this saving help, this divine spiritual success? **Vs. 26: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; We have blessed you from the house of the Lord.** <sup>27</sup> **The Lord is God, and He has given us light;** [shined upon us] what light???? (Hope, truth, deliverance) – God has shone forth **LIGHT** upon the lost, needy, and spiritually oppressed: **He sent Jesus** – John 8:12 **"I am the light of the world and those who accept me will experience life-giving light"**

**But what is this Psalm referring to?** Singing for deliverance. Singing about God's provision for salvation. Praying for God's Messiah – thanking God in advance for sending His deliverer to Israel. And where are they going as they are singing and praying this song? To the Temple. And to do what? **Vs. 27: Bind the festival sacrifice to the horns of the altar with cords.**

CEV: **The LORD is our God, and he has given us light! Start the celebration! March with palm branches all the way to the altar.** Do you see the plain imagery here? On this Palm Monday morning, with palms in hand, singing about their hope in God, hope for salvation, for rescue, and they are on their way to the altar to make sacrifices for their sin – and yet God has provided Jesus. And they extol Him as their King and Messiah. They worship Him and shout Hosanna – God save us by this man Jesus! And where is Jesus headed that week? Not rescue them from Rome, but He is also headed to the altar for sacrifice. He will become the very sacrifice on the cross in order to save ALL of ISRAEL, to save all of the world through His righteous atonement -through His covering our sins with His sinless blood. God be praised! **Salvation comes through the Altar of sacrifice;** At the altar we are forgiven, redeem, reconciled -The Jews in the First Century, they missed it. DON'T YOU Miss it!!! Remind your self this morning what is true, what is eternal, what is eternally Good. JESUS – Jesus is the Prize!!!!

**What is our right response to Jesus saving us? For God sending His very Own son to be our Messiah/Savior/Lord/King???? Vs. 28: You are my God, and I give thanks to You; You are my God, I exalt You.** <sup>29</sup> **Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; For His mercy is everlasting.**

### APPLICATION:

- We need to often remind our heart what is most true about ourselves: God has *loved* us so much that He gave everything for us – in the Person of Jesus. How does that change how you see yourself? How does that change how you treat your family? Your neighbor? Enemy?
- What do you need to do to prepare your heart to hear from God this week?
- What has God reminded you about His Perfect presence, provision, & His power in your life?
- What do you need to do to NOT be like those in the first century who did not understand nor respond to the GIFT of Jesus as Messiah and Savior to their hearts?