

**Triumphal entry - eternal praise - glorious deliverance!**

On Sunday 9 April 2017, billions of believers within the world-wide church will celebrate Palm Sunday. They will call it the first day of Holy Week, the final days of Lent, remembering and celebrating the King who came in the Name of the Lord of hosts.

On Palm Sunday we will commemorate the Saviour's triumphal entry into Jerusalem only days before his arrest and crucifixion – recorded in all four Gospels in the New Testament, indicating the importance this event already had in the early church during the time when the four gospels were written.

Jesus and his disciples returned to Bethany and Bethphage, slightly east of the Mount of Olives. He sent two of them ahead to a nearby village to fetch a donkey and, after the disciples placed clothes on the animal's back, Jesus mounted it and rode into the city.

"This took place," says Matthew (21:4-5), "to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" And: "Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road" (Matthew 21:8, quoting Zechariah 9:9-10).

And Luke tells us: "His disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, Blessed is (hosanna to) the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Luke 19:37-38).

The Old Testament background to this day is found in Zechariah 9:9-10: "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. And he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth."

The One who has salvation is he who entered Jerusalem on a donkey, as a royal yet peaceful announcement of our reconciliation with God, accomplished on a cross and perfected by a victorious resurrection, inspiring our praise and astonishment about his glorious deliverance of his people who are entering his eternal Kingdom.

As we read in Luke 19: 41 - 42: *As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes.*

Oh, if we would only see what will bring us peace and who he is who will set us free, we will all come on Sunday to sing our hosanna's to the King. This King of kings and Lord of lords came to become a sacrifice of love, deliverance and redemption for us.

May the peace march of the first Palm Sunday inspire us to proclaim Christ's sovereign power and saving grace!

*All glory, laud, and honour  
to you, Redeemer, King,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.*

*You are the King of Israel,  
and David's royal son,  
who in the Lord's Name comest,  
the King and Blessed One.*