



The Mar Thoma Church
Diocese of North America & Europe
Christian Education Forum

Lenten Meditations

HOSANNA!

Mark. 11: 1-11

This passage documents the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Up to this point in Jesus' life, Jesus had ministered in several different regions. Jesus did not leave things to the last minute. He had planned for His ministry well in advance. He prepared for this day and He knew what was going to happen. So, being already familiar with Jerusalem and some people there, He arranged well in advance for a donkey, using a password for its release.

"Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord". Mark 11:19

Prophets has distinguished methods for getting their message heard. When the words failed to move the people, they did something dramatic. Like the common phrase 'Seeing is believing'. In the culture of Jewish day, a King would ride in to town on a horse for the people to know that he is ready for war and he is a warrior King. However a King who rode into town on a donkey symbolized that it is the time for peace. On this day Jesus chose a donkey, to show that He is the King of Peace. The people in Jerusalem were awaiting such a King. However, most of them thought that the King would be an earthly warrior king that would protect Jerusalem from her enemies. However, Jesus came as a King of peace. When Jesus rode into the City, the crowd did exactly the same when Jehu was anointed as the King (2Ki. 9:13). They spread their garments and tree branches on the road to show that they accepted Jesus as their King. They shouted a quotation from Psalm (Ps.118:26) "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord". They further shouted "Hosanna".

The word "Hosanna" means "Save us now". In reality they were asking their King of Peace to save them from their enemies. It's a significant act that demonstrates their understanding of who Jesus really was.

Today, we celebrate that same occasion in a day known as "Palm Sunday", "Passion Sunday" or "Hosanna Sunday". Since the message is short, the explanation for these words is inappropriate at this time. As we go forth in to this Holy week, let us remember most of all that the one, who came to take our place, has already made a place for us in Heaven. Our King of Peace is here to 'Save us'. Hosanna in the highest!

Today is the day for our decision. Now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of Salvation.

Prayer: Merciful and heavenly Father, you came into this world, suffered and died for our sins, to save us from the bondage of Satan. At the time of remembering your suffering, show us the way that we will be able to lead a Holy life and wait for your second coming.

Dr. George Abraham