

# Sermon Handout

## Hosanna in the Highest

### Psalm 118:14-29

#### I. Key Passages in the Psalm

- a. vv. 1-13 – Trusting God in times of oppression
- b. vv. 14-18 – Rejoicing in God’s power (“God is my salvation”)
- c. vv. 19-20 – Entering the gates of righteousness
- d. v. 21 – God hears us; becomes our salvation *cf* Ps 20:1-9
- e. v. 22 – Christ, the chief cornerstone  
Mt 21:42; Mk 12:10-11; Lk 20:17; Acts 4:11; I Pet 2:6-7; Eph 2:20
- f. v. 24 – This is the day God has made, let us rejoice
- g. v. 25 – “save” = all God’s favors, blessings, deliverance  
parallel: “send prosperity” = “give us all your blessings” Ps 122:1-5
- h. v. 27 – “cords” = palm fronds, all the way to the altar *cf.* vv. 19-20

#### II. Jesus’ Triumphal Entry

- a. Included in all four Gospels Mt 21; Mk 11; Lk 19; Jn 12
- b. Recitation/enactment of Ps 118 at the festivals, standard procedure
- c. Ref to “Son of David” Mt 21:9 is from Zech 9:9 (riding a donkey)
- d. “Hosanna in the Highest” *see* Ps 118:14 “has become my salvation”  
“in the highest” a ref. to Heaven *cf.* Lk 2:14 (angelic announcement)
- e. Possibly the crowd didn’t know the depth of their actions/words  
But the Pharisees did! Lk 19:39 (“Stop them!”)

#### III. How the Early Church Responded To These Matters

- a. Matthew, Mark, Luke, Paul & Peter expounded v. 22  
It became a “cornerstone” of the preaching that Jesus is the Christ
- b. The threefold praise (Mt 21:9) used for the liturgy of the Table
- c. The Day the Lord Has Made – a day for rejoicing Acts 4:10-12
  - i. Particularly a celebration of Christ’s resurrection
  - ii. Speaks of a day of feasting & rejoicing *cf.* Eccl 10:19
  - iii. The Eucharist is the pinnacle occasion for rejoicing

#### IV. Lessons for the Church

- a. Salvation is not merely a “thing” God gives us; he gives himself!  
“Christ in you, the hope of glory” Col 1:27
- b. On all days we rejoice in the Lord, but especially on the Lord’s Day
- c. Palm Sunday not just for reenactments; but to celebrate the King