



Rock Creek Baptist Church
Mar 25, 2018

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Palms in One Hand...Nails in the
Other: Psalm 118, John 12

Come, let us process to the altar with
our sacrifice...

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Psalm 118:1-29

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let Israel say: "His love endures forever." Let the house of Aaron say: "His love endures forever." Let those who fear the Lord say: "His love endures forever." When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord; he brought me into a spacious place. The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? The Lord is with me; he is my helper. I look in triumph on my enemies. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in humans. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I cut them down. They surrounded me on every side, but in the name of the Lord I cut them down. They swarmed around me like bees, but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns; in the name of the Lord I cut them down. I was pushed back and about to fall, but the Lord helped me. The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: "The Lord's right hand has done mighty things! The Lord's right hand is lifted high; the Lord's right hand has done mighty things!" I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done. The Lord has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death. Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter. I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation. The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad. Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you. The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

In today's story of Palm Sunday:

Jesus is going into Jerusalem and will eventually be crucified there. And He knows this.

The people who are captives to Rome are celebrating Passover: a celebration of when God saved His people from captivity in Egypt.

John 12:12-15

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: "Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

This time, the spotless sacrificial lamb is Jesus, and it is His blood that ensures our judgement will "pass over" us. He takes on the "plague" the sickness of sin.

Jesus is not surprised by the sudden shift in the crowd from praise to murder



For the Jews, palms represented God residing with His people in victory. They were on the walls of the temple. When the palm branches come out it means that God is victorious and resides or "tabernacles" with man. The festival of Tabernacles celebrates this with the "lulav" three branches (palm, willow, myrtle, bound together.)

It was as big a deal to them as Christmas is to us. When Jesus comes to town they celebrate a fall holiday out of season, and grab whatever branches they can get their hands on to go and greet Him. In essence "I don't care what the calendar says, we are celebrating RIGHT NOW!"

Save Us of Psalm 118 = Hosanna of John 12

Psalms 118:27

God is the LORD, And He has given us light; Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.

It is amazing that God puts up with the crowd, the disciples, even you and I when He knows we will betray Him with our sins. But He died for us while we were yet enemies.

Romans 5:10

For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

John 12:16

At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

There is nothing in your past that God was unprepared for, He went to the cross for it before it ever happened. Forgive yourself, don't let self defeat stop you from the foot of the cross.

Realize that even if it was only you who sinned, Jesus would have gone to the cross for you.

Realize it's not just everyone else's sins that nailed Jesus to the cross, it's yours and mine

We bear the fault, but Christ bore the punishment, so that we might hold redemption.