

## Devotion for Monday in Holy Week

### Psalm 24

**The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it; for He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.**

Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?

**He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.**

He will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God his Savior.

**Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up you ancient doors that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.**

Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors that the king of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?

**The Lord Almighty—He is the King of glory.**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen*

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 8:1-9:28 *Plagues two to six.*

New Testament Reading: Matthew 21:1-46 *Jesus enters Jerusalem*

### Devotion: Palm Sunday

Jesus received a welcome fit for a king when He entered Jerusalem. And indeed it was a welcome for a king. In accordance with the words the angel said to Mary before he was conceived, Jesus was receiving the eternal kingdom promised to His ancestor David. Through the prophet Zechariah, God said David's greater Son would enter the city as Jesus did, "humble and mounted on a donkey." Jesus went directly to the temple, His Father's house, where as a child He questioned the teachers of the Israel and amazed them with His understanding. The children of Jerusalem greeted Him crying, "Hosanna to the Son of David." As sweet as this sound was to Jesus' ears, it was like finger nails being drawn across a chalk board to the keepers of the temple. They demanded Jesus silence the children. Jesus would have none of it. He received the children's praises and blessed them saying, "*Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise.*" Jesus blessed the children and received their praise, because there is nothing more precious than the faith of a child.

As if to underscore that point, by the end of the week another crowd of adults called for His condemnation and demanded His death. They would not receive Him as King. They shouted, "We have no king but Caesar...Crucify him...Let His blood be on our heads and on the heads of our children." The faith of adults is often fickle. Doubts so easily unsettle our minds. There is no faith like the faith of a child. As we remember Palm Sunday long ago, we also remember that there is nothing greater than being called children of God for the sake of Christ Jesus our king. We remember the faith of the children of Jerusalem— so trusting and pure— and we pray that God would also bless us with such a faith; give it growth and sustain it to life everlasting.

### Hymn: Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (Public Domain)

Hosanna, loud hosanna,  
The little children sang;  
Through pillared court and temple,  
The lovely anthem rang.  
To Jesus, who had blessed them,  
Close folded to His breast;  
The children sang their praises,  
The simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed,  
'Mid an exultant crowd;  
The victory palm branch waving,  
And chanting clear and loud.  
The Lord of men and angels,  
Rode on in lowly state;  
Nor scorned the little children,  
Should on His bidding wait.

"Hosanna in the highest!"  
That ancient song we sing;  
For Christ is our Redeemer,  
The Lord of heaven, our King.  
O may we ever praise Him  
With heart and life and voice;  
And in His holy presence  
Eternally rejoice!

God bless us with your Holy Spirit that we may always share the faith of the children of Jerusalem; and with them sing the praise of Jesus our King, in time through faith and for eternity, in His resurrection to life everlasting. Amen

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **The Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

#### **Catechism for Lent: The Sacrament of the Altar**

“Now what is the Sacrament of the Altar?” Answer, “It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in and under the forms of bread and wine, which we Christians are commanded by Christ’s Word to eat and to drink.”

We say that though the Sacrament is bread and wine, it is not mere bread and wine, such as are ordinarily served at the table (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). But this is bread and wine included in, and connected with, God’s Word.

It is the Word, I say, that makes and sets this Sacrament apart. So it is not mere bread and wine, but is, and is called, Christ’s body and blood (1 Corinthians 11:23-27).

It is not the word or ordinance of a prince or emperor. But it is the Word of the grand Majesty, at whose feet all creatures should fall and affirm it is as He says, and accept it with all reverence, fear, and humility (Isaiah 45:23; Philippians 2:10).

Large Catechism V8-11