

Always Bless the Lord Jesus

(By Rev. Anthony Menzel, April 10, 2022, Palm Sunday)

Today is Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Resurrection Sunday, which is commonly known as Easter.

On Palm Sunday, we commemorate the Lord Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem before his crucifixion, burial, and resurrection.

John 12:12-19

12 The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, **13** took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out:

“Hosanna!

‘Blessed *is* He who comes in the name of the Lord!’
The King of Israel!”

14 Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written:

15

“Fear not, daughter of Zion;
Behold, your King is coming,
Sitting on a donkey's colt.”

16 His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and *that* they had done these things to Him.

17 Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. **18** For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign. **19** The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, “You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!”

Partly because of the importance of praising the Lord Jesus on Palm Sunday, I felt led to share a message about praising the Lord today.

This message is “I will bless the Lord at all times” and it is based on...

Psalm 34:1

The Happiness of Those Who Trust in God

A Psalm of David when he pretended madness before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed.

I will bless the Lord at all times;
His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.

1 Samuel 21:1-15

Now David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech was afraid when he met David, and said to him, “Why *are* you alone, and no one is with you?”

2 So David said to Ahimelech the priest, “The king has ordered me on some business, and said to me, ‘Do not let anyone know anything about the business on which I send you, or what I have commanded you.’ And I have directed *my* young men to such and such a place. **3** Now therefore, what have you on hand? Give *me* five *loaves* of bread in my hand, or whatever can be found.”

4 And the priest answered David and said, “*There is* no [a]common bread on hand; but there is holy[b] bread, if the young men have at least kept themselves from women.”

5 Then David answered the priest, and said to him, “Truly, women *have been* kept from us about three days since I came out. And [c]the vessels of the young men are holy, and *the bread is* in effect common, even though it was consecrated in the vessel this day.”

6 So the priest gave him holy *bread*; for there was no bread there but the showbread which had been taken from before the Lord, in order to put hot bread *in its place* on the day when it was taken away.

7 Now a certain man of the servants of Saul *was* there that day, detained before the Lord. And his name *was* Doeg, an Edomite, the chief of the herdsmen who *belonged* to Saul.

8 And David said to Ahimelech, “Is there not here on hand a spear or a sword? For I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king’s business required haste.”

9 So the priest said, “The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, there it is, wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take *it*. For *there is* no other except that one here.”

And David said, “*There is* none like it; give it to me.”

David Flees to Gath

10 Then David arose and fled that day from before Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath. **11** And the servants of Achish said to him, “*Is* this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of him to one another in dances, saying:

‘Saul has slain his thousands,
And David his ten thousands’?”

12 Now David took these words [d]to heart, and was very much afraid of Achish the king of Gath. **13** So he changed his behavior before them, pretended [e]madness in their hands, [f]scratched on the doors of the gate, and let his saliva fall down on his beard. **14** Then Achish said to his servants, “Look, you see the man is insane. Why have you brought him to me? **15** Have I need of madmen, that you have brought this *fellow* to play the madman in my presence? Shall this *fellow* come into my house?”

It is true that there is a time for weeping and other difficult emotions:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

3

To everything *there is* a season,
A time for every purpose under heaven:

2

A time [a]to be born,
And a time to die;
A time to plant,
And a time to pluck *what is* planted;

3

A time to kill,
And a time to heal;
A time to break down,
And a time to build up;

4

A time to weep,
And a time to laugh;
A time to mourn,
And a time to dance;

5

A time to cast away stones,
And a time to gather stones;
A time to embrace,
And a time to refrain from embracing;

6

A time to gain,
And a time to lose;
A time to keep,
And a time to throw away;

7

A time to tear,
And a time to sew;
A time to keep silence,
And a time to speak;

8

A time to love,
And a time to hate;
A time of war,
And a time of peace.

However, when we walk with the Lord Jesus, we always have hope.

Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, having been justified by faith, [a]we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces [b]perseverance; 4 and perseverance, [c]character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Christ in Our Place

6 For when we were still without strength, [d]in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

That hope is rooted and grounded in having the promise of going to heaven when we die and spending eternity with the Lord Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen [b]asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who [c]sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are [d]asleep. **16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.

2 Corinthians 5:6-8

6 So *we are* always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. **7** For we walk by faith, not by sight. **8** We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

To have that eternal hope that will never be disappointed, we have to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Prayer of Salvation

So we will have a special time of praise...

No matter what you are going through, just praise the Lord Jesus that you are saved and going to heaven...

Also praise Him that you always have hope in Him...
Sooner or later things will be ok...

Psalm 30:4-5

Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His,
And give thanks at the remembrance of [b]His holy name.

5

For His anger *is but for* a moment,
His favor *is for* life;
Weeping may endure for a night,
But [c]joy *comes* in the morning.

Two other reasons to praise Him that I want to mention before we start praising Him:

Even though we are so small and God is King and Creator of the infinite universe, He adopts us as followers of Christ and makes us His children.

John 1:11-13

11 He came to His [c]own, and His [d]own did not receive Him. **12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the [e]right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: **13** who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

We talk to Him and be close to Him.

James 4:8-10

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. **9** Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

You are special to the King of the Universe, which makes you special.

Psalms 139:13-18

For You formed my inward parts;
You [f]covered me in my mother's womb.

14

I will praise You, for [g]I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your works,
And *that* my soul knows very well.

15

My [h]frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

16

Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.
And in Your book they all were written,
The days fashioned for me,
When *as yet there were* none of them.

17

How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!

18

If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
When I awake, I am still with You.