

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP AT 11

Sunday March 25, 2018 (PALM SUNDAY)

These notes are posted to help you take a few minutes to prepare for worship through reading the scripture and thinking about the songs!

SCRIPTURE:

Read Luke 19:28-40. This is the event Christians celebrate on Palm Sunday. The people lined the highway, praising God, waving palm branches, and throwing their cloaks in front of the colt as it passed before them. "Long live the King" was the meaning of their joyful shouts, because they knew Jesus was intentionally fulfilling the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9 "Your King is coming! He is the Righteous One, the Victor! Yet he is lowly, riding on a donkey's colt!" To announce that he was indeed the Messiah, Jesus chose a time when all Israel would be gathered at Jerusalem, a place where huge crowds could see him, and a way of proclaiming his mission that was unmistakable. The people went wild. Now they were sure their liberation was at hand. The Pharisees thought the crowd's words were sacrilegious and blasphemous. They didn't want someone upsetting their power and authority, and they didn't want a revolt that would bring the Roman army down on them. So they asked Jesus to keep his people quiet. But Jesus said that if the people were quiet, even the stones would shout with joy. Why? Not because Jesus was setting up a powerful political kingdom, but because he was establishing God's eternal Kingdom, a cause for the greatest celebration of all.

SONGS:

Glory to God

Isaiah 43:7 *Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for my glory...for we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as our way.* Everything in our lives gives glory to God. It strikes the very core of why we were made. This song we sing today is "already in us" we just have to sing it out! The world gives glory to many things other than God and puts us in the center focus. 2 Samuel 7:22 says: How great you are, O Sovereign Lord! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you.

Here are the lyrics: Before the world was made, Before you spoke it to be , You were the King of Kings, Yeah you were, yeah you were, And now You're reigning still, Enthroned above all things, Angels and saints cry out , We join them as we sing: Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God Forever. Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God Forever

Creator God You gave me breath, So I could praise Your great and matchless name, All my days, all my days, So let my whole life be a blazing offering, A life that shouts and sings, The greatness of our King. Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God Forever, Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God Forever

Take my life, and let it be, All for You and for Your glory, Take my life and let it be Yours. Take my life and let it be All for You and for Your glory, Take my life and let it be Yours

Blessed Be Your Name

Musically inclined or not, have you ever pictured yourself singing with the angelic choir? You may not be able to carry a tune now, but if you're a believer, your voice will blend one day with countless millions of others in a glad "Hallelujah!" Hallelujah come from HALLEL (Praise) and JAH (referring to Yahweh/Jehovah). The HALLEL is a collection of songs from Psalms 113-118 sung at great Jewish festivals—Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles. Jesus himself joined in (Mark 14:26). Psalm 113: 2-4 reads: *Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised! The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens!* Today's song "Blessed Be Your Name" helps us join with our praise. We could ask ourselves: Are we praising him continually, by every action of our lives as well as with our vocal chords? Are we praise him in prayer? Are we praising him in front of our

children as well as in private moments of meditation? It's time for the angelic choir rehearsal to begin! He's coming soon!

Hosanna

This song begins with the traditional Palm Sunday cry of praise "Hosanna". The bridge has an amazing set of prayers beginning with confession: ***Heal my heart and make it clean; Open my eyes to the things I see; Show me how to love like You have loved me; Break my heart for what breaks Yours; Everything I am for Your kingdom cause; As I walk from earth into eternity.*** Take some time to reflect on each one of these prayers before you sing this song in worship on Sunday!

Make a Joyful Noise

Read Psalm 98:4-9 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord! Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

All of nature joins with us in a cacophony of sound and motion. Let the sea resoundō let the rivers clap their handsō let the mountains sing together for joy. What inspires this explosion of joy? The Lord is coming? And when we think of all that will mean, we should be inspired to mix all the rich colors+of praise available to us and pour out our own new song+to the Lord.

***SEE YOU IN WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY!
BRING A FRIEND!***