

**Worship Material**  
**Sunday 2nd April 2023**  
**Sing Hosanna**  
**Materials from Roots Bible Study**

**Begin with an opening prayer**

Heavenly Father, help us to recognise Jesus  
as the one who comes in your name,  
as the one who blesses and saves us.  
As we explore your Word this morning,  
may we offer true praise and adoration in our worship,  
may we be open to learn more about your ways,  
and may we resolve to walk the road with Jesus every day.  
**Amen.**

**Read Matthew 21.1-11**

**Bible Notes**

Two blind men joined the crowd walking with Jesus from Jericho. Calling out, ‘Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!’ and asking, ‘Lord, let our eyes be opened’, their sight was restored and they followed him to Jerusalem (20.29-34). He had made careful preparations to ride into the city as a bold prophetic sign, fulfilling ‘what had been spoken through the prophet’ in Isaiah 62.11 and Zechariah 9.9. The peaceful king of those awaiting God’s deliverance entered the Temple, where, in another bold prophetic sign, he drove out the merchants and cured the blind and lame (verses 12-17). This pilgrim, ‘who comes in the name of the Lord’ (Psalm 118.26), himself sings the festival psalms (113-118, the ‘Hallel’) with his disciples (Matthew 26.30, Mark 14.26). But the words are now about him, ‘the Son of David’ cheered by the crowd, ‘Hosanna’ (Psalm 118.25; translated in NRSV as ‘save us’). Like the blind men, the crowd’s eyes are opened to recognise Jesus. In celebratory mood, they contribute their precious cloaks (see 5.40 and 9.16), recalling an earlier time when ‘they all took their cloaks and spread them for him on the bare steps; and they blew the trumpet, and proclaimed, “Jehu is king”’ (2 Kings 9.13). David had banished the blind and the lame from the house of the Lord (2 Samuel 5.8), but this Son of David welcomes them into the ‘house of prayer’, where he heals them. And the children cry out in the Temple, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David’ (v.9).

**Reflection**

Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading. This idea may help.

How do you feel about Jesus making such a triumphal entry into Jerusalem? What do you think about the pomp and circumstance, the (as it would seem) courting of adoration? How

does this square up with the image of 'Gentle Jesus, meek and mild', which some of us were taught in the past? Which is the real Jesus? Perhaps we need a shift in perspective. Jesus' procession was not a show of power or military might that the Romans then, or any nation today, might wish to portray. The adoration of the crowd seems to have been spontaneous rather than incited. What was it about Jesus that invited this response? [What is it about him that we respond to and honour?]

### **A prayer of thanksgiving**

We praise you, Lord,  
that you travelled the road that led to your death,  
not with armies but gently, riding on a donkey.  
We thank you that, wherever you call us to travel,  
into whatever situation, we too can go gently.  
Surrounded by your love and your community,  
we go out today in your name, singing  
Hosanna in the highest heaven.

### **A prayer to conclude**

Go with us, good Lord, on our journey to the cross and beyond.  
Help us to pass on our enthusiasm to others.  
Keep us faithful to Jesus, our saviour and friend.  
Stir up our praise as we look forward to Easter Day.  
**Amen.**