

March 29, 2026

Victory Day

Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29; Matthew 21:1–11

*“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Lord, save us!”
(Psalm 118:24-25)*

“Hosanna...Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”(Matthew 21:9)

Hosannah! Today, we celebrate the triumphal entry of our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, marking it as a day of victory. **The day that changes everything.** Every nation has its “victory days”—moments when the tide turns, when hope rises, when people realize that the long night is finally giving way to morning. But Scripture invites us into a deeper kind of victory, one not won by armies or political triumphs, but by the faithful love of God breaking into human history.

Psalm 118, a victory psalm, and Matthew 21, which describes a victory procession, together illustrate a victory that comes through God’s love, timing, and methods. This victory appears different from what people expected, yet it aligns perfectly with what we needed. I refer to this as Victory Day—the day Jesus entered Jerusalem and silently proclaimed, “The true King has arrived,” marking the beginning of Victory Day for the world.

Victory begins with God’s unwavering love. “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever.” (Psalm 118:1). The psalm opens not with human achievements but with God’s divine qualities. True victory starts not from our actions but from who God is.

- God’s love is steadfast—unchanging, unshakable, and unbreakable.
- God’s love endures—it outlasts enemies, fear, sin, and death.
- God’s love is eternal—not seasonal, conditional, or fragile.

Before the gates open, before the procession begins, and before the shouts of “Hosanna,” the psalmist reminds us of a fundamental truth: God’s love is the foundation of every victory. This is why Israel proclaims, “His love endures forever.” It is also why the Church can affirm this truth, and why you can proclaim it. Victory does not begin with our strength; it starts with God’s love.

Victory opens the gates of righteousness. “Open to me the gates of righteousness” (Psalm 118:19). In the psalm, the worshiper approaches the temple, asking for the gates to be opened. In Matthew, Jesus approaches Jerusalem, and the gates are opened for Him. The psalmist enters the gates to give thanks. Jesus enters the gates to become our righteousness.

The people shout “Hosanna!”—which means Save us now! They wave branches, lay down cloaks, and welcome a King who comes not with war horses but with humility. The gates of Jerusalem open for Jesus. But through Jesus, the gates of righteousness open for us. **This is the heart of the gospel:** The King who deserves the gates opened them for those who don’t.

Victory comes through the rejected stone: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.” — Psalm 118:22. This verse is later quoted in Matthew’s Gospel regarding Jesus.

Even on Palm Sunday, the theme of rejection is evident. The crowds celebrate Him, yet the leaders reject Him. The city welcomes Him, but the cross awaits Him. Victory Day is not simply the day the crowds cheer. Instead, it is the day when the rejected One becomes the foundation of salvation. **Jesus wins not by evading rejection, but by transforming it. He changes the world's "No" into God's "Yes." He turns the cross into a throne, and death into a doorway.** The rejected stone becomes the cornerstone, the crucified King rises as the Lord, and the suffering servant evolves into the victorious Savior.

Victory is a gift we receive, not just a battle we win. As the psalmist states, “This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes” (Psalm 118:23). The psalmist emphasizes that victory is not a result of human achievement, but rather a result of divine intervention. The Gospel of Matthew illustrates this beautifully. Jesus makes His entrance into Jerusalem with intentional humility:

- He rides on a donkey, not a stallion.
- He uses a borrowed colt, not a royal chariot.
- The crowd spreads cloaks and branches before Him, not banners and armor.

This isn't a military parade; it's a procession of salvation. The people shout, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” They seek rescue and welcome a King who saves not with force, but through grace. Victory Day is not about what we conquer, but about what Christ has conquered for us.

Victory leads us into a life filled with praise. The psalm concludes with thanksgiving: “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.” The procession culminates in praise with the exclamation, “Hosanna in the highest heaven!” **The Christian life starts with worship. When Jesus enters our lives, He brings:**

- Victory over sin
- Victory over fear
- Victory over shame
- Victory over death
- Victory over the powers that try to define us

Victory Day is not limited to Palm Sunday; it is every day that Christ reigns in our hearts. The King has come, the gates are open, and the victory is secured. The people of God respond with praise. **Victory Day isn't just a date on the calendar; it represents the life of every believer who recognizes that Jesus Christ is King.** It's not about winning in the world's way; it's about living in the victory that Jesus has already secured.

So today, we join the crowd, the psalmist, and the Church throughout history and declare:

“Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord! *Lord, save us.*”