

***Hosanna in the highest!" Mark 11:10***

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*“Hosanna to the Son of David!  
'Blessed is He who comes in the name  
of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!”*  
Matthew 21:9

This expression of praise was proclaimed by the multitude who cried out during the triumphal entry of Christ, into the city of Jerusalem. The word "Hosanna" is a word whose origin is Aramaic: Hosheanna, from which the Greek word "ὡσαννά Hosanna" was used by the evangelists in the Gospels.

It is a cry that expresses a call for divine help of salvation. It is used as a prayer of praise and worship, which is stated in the book of Psalms *“Save now, I pray, O LORD” (Psalm 118:25)*. With this praise, the multitudes of the victorious church cry out with a loud voice, saying *“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” (Revelations 7:10)*.

**1 - Recognition of the divinity of the Lord Jesus:**

The multitude shouted *“Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel” (John 12 13)* proclaiming: “He is indeed the king of Israel, and they have called him especially theirs, accepting His lordship” - Saint Cyril of Alexandria (Commentary on the Gospel of John, chapter twelve).

This is confirmed by the outrage of the Jews', since this expression is not to be said to human beings. But rather it is praise, prayer and supplication only for God. It is a Messianic concept as a form of seeking salvation: *“Preserve my life, for I am holy; You are my God; Save Your servant who trusts in You” (Psalm 86:2)*. For thus says the LORD: *“Sing with gladness for Jacob, And shout among the chief of the nations; Proclaim, give praise, and say, 'O LORD, save Your people, The remnant of Israel” (Jer31 :7)*.

## **2 - Confessing that He is the only Saviour:**

When there was a famine in Samaria, a woman cried out to the king of Israel: *“Help, my lord, O king!”* And he said, *“If the LORD does not help you, where can I find help for you? From the threshing floor or from the winepress?”* (2 Kings 6:26,27), Because *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved”* (Act4 :12).

St. Clement of Alexandria comments: *“Who is he? Learn in short, it is the word of truth, the word of incorruptibility, which renews man by restoring him to the truth. He is the spur that induces salvation. He is the destroyer of destruction, and the chaser of death. He builds God's temple in people, taking them to God as His dwelling. Patients need a Savior... All humanity needs Jesus”* (educator 2:9).

## **3 - Christ has radically changed the concept of salvation from the prevailing thought which was material salvation accompanied by material kingship:**

With this misconception of salvation, the mother of Zebedee's sons asked for: *“Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom”* (Matthew 20:21)

Although the Apostle Peter acknowledged the divinity of Christ (Matthew 16:16), he rejected Jesus' words that He should suffer, be rejected, and then be killed. Peter rebuked Him, saying: *“Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!”* But He turned and said to Peter, *“Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men”* (Matthew 16:22, 23), and with this earthly mindset His disciple asked Him: *“Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”* (Acts 1:6)

With the same mindset, the chief priests and scribes during the crucifixion mocked him, saying: *“He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him”* (Matthew 27 :42)

Following the miracle of feeding the multitudes, they sought to make Christ a king: *“they were about to come and take Him by force to make*

*Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone” (John 6:15)*

Because of their material misconception of kingship, Jesus answered them and said, *“Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled” (John 6:26).*

**His kingdom is spiritual:**

“He who flees from the kingship is the king, but He is not a king of the people, but He is the one who gives the people the kingship, for He who is born eternal of the Father reigns with the Father” - St. Augustine (Homily 25 on the Gospel of John)

The earthly kingdom is limited in time and place, while the kingdom of Christ is eternal. This is how the prophet Daniel described this kingdom: *“Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed” (Daniel 7:14)*

The archangel evangelizing to the Virgin saying: *“And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end” (Luke 1:33)* While the kings of the world do not last forever.

As we pray in the Creed, the kingdom of Christ extends like shining light with divine teachings forever. The power of the earthly king is limited, while the power of Christ is absolute and eternal, for He is the one who on the cross showed by weakness what is greater than power.