



Wednesday Prayer

Palm Sunday – Hosanna! Save us!

Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Mark 11:8-10

Although the word "Hosanna!" is only found a handful of times in the new testament, it is very familiar in our ears on Palm Sunday. It's part of the story of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem before the plot suddenly turns to his arrest, trial and crucifixion. "Hosanna" is often translated from the Hebrew as "Please save us", but it is actually written in the vocative case, which translates as a direct address, "Save us!". The first-century readers would have felt themselves drawn into the action and would have felt they were participants of that saving action. It's a subtle but important difference we can be mindful of as we sing our Hosanna's on Sunday morning, as we are drawn into the saving act of Christ and are now called to participate in it.

As Meg Corrigan pointed out in her comments on Trauma Informed Response in last week's devotion, trauma survivor's memories also live in their bodies. When something similar to the circumstances of their trauma occurs (a sight, a sound, a smell), it triggers "danger!" to their reptilian brain that controls all of our automatic responses, and an alarm goes off throughout their bodies just as if they are back in that traumatic circumstance. This typically causes their heart rate to rise, breath to quicken, muscles to tense as their body automatically physically prepares to fight off the danger. In order to calm, it's important for the survivor to remember that they are safe now, they are not in that dangerous situation, but with people who care, who will not hurt them, who will maintain healthy boundaries with them.

Following Christ means that we know and accept his saving love for ourselves, and also pulls us into participating in that salvation by reminding others – especially those who have been subjected to the trauma of sexual exploitation and trafficking – that they too, are safe. We create a safe space, a sanctuary, where there is trust, calm and opportunity for healing.

Loving and saving God, we raise our thanks and praise to you that you sent your Son as Savior to all. We shout "Hosanna!" and participate in this salvation and serve as your calming voice for all who need to hear it. Amen.

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[Link to Cherish All Children Lenten Prayers to Prevent Child Sexual Exploitation.](#)