

THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULETIN VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST

Jerusalem was buzzing with excitement that first Palm Sunday. Word from Bethany concerning the miraculous raising of Lazarus from his grave of four days had already reached the ears of the townspeople. Eagerly they awaited the arrival of Jesus, and when He entered the city, seated on a donkey like the rulers of antiquity, their enthusiasm and excitement could not be contained. Palms and branches were spread out in His path. Cries of ‘Hosanna in the Highest’ echoed in the warm Spring air. The King had come!

However, public sentiment in Jerusalem would quickly change. Within days, shouts of “Crucify Him” replace their words of praise. The branches used for adulation were replaced by the “Tree of the Cross.” The Jews were not ready to follow and support a leader Who would proclaim that *“His Kingdom was not of this world!”*

As Orthodox Christians, it is essential that we recognize Christ for what He truly is:
THE SON OF GOD, WHO HAS COME TO SAVE THE WORLD. This is why we worship Him and acknowledge His blessedness.

The Troparion for this Feast Day profoundly describes the anticipataion we experience as we prepare for Pascha: *“O Christ God, You confirmed the Resurrection of all before the time of Your passion by raising Lazarus from the dead. Therefore, we as the children of Israel carry the symbols of victory and cry out to You, the Conqueror of Death: “Hosanna in the Highest.” Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*