



All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Text: St. Theodulph of Orléans (c. 750—821)

Tune: Melchoir Teschner (1584—1635)

One hymn almost universally known for Palm Sunday is “All Glory, Laud, and Honor.” This processional hymn for Palm Sunday is one with a rich history and deep text which is a blessing for this great day at the start of Holy Week.



St. Theodulph of Orléans

St. Theodulph of Orléans was born in Cisalpine Gaul and in 781 was made abbot of a monastery at Florence, when he was invited to the court of Charlemagne when he returned from Italy. Because of Charlemagne’s great favor for Theodulph, he was sent to the Abbey of Fleury and in 793 was made the Bishop of Orléans, succeeding Guitbert. He was known as a strict ruler, but also one who was very gracious, as he established several schools for the instruction of the people of

Orléans. When Charlemagne died in 814, Theodulph’s favor remained high with Charlemagne’s son and successor, Louis de Debonnaire (also known as Louis the Pious), who also kept Theodulph in his court. Theodulph was sent to accompany Pope Stephen on his journey from Rome to Rheims for the coronation of the Emperor. However, two years later, Theodulph was suspected of helping in the revolt of Bernard, King of Italy, against Louis de Debonnaire. Though he professed his innocence, he was deprived of all help and was imprisoned at Angers, where he died.

However, Theodulph’s hymn, *Gloria, laus et honor* (“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”), has an interesting legend surrounding its writing. It is supposed that in his prison cell, Theodulph composed

a long poem for the procession of the people on Palm Sunday. It so happened that on Palm Sunday of the year 821, Emperor Louis the Pious and his parade passed by the prison on their way to Palm Sunday Mass and heard Theodulph singing joyfully the hymn he had composed for the day. When the emperor asked for the name of the singer and was told that it was Bishop Theodulph, he declared, “The Bishop is no traitor!” and ordered his release and his restoration to his Office. Though this legend cannot be confirmed, it presents the greatness of this hymn, which has survived for well over 1,000 years and is known through almost all English-speaking Christian denominations and is likely sung in almost every church this day.

This hymn, and numerous other Greek and Latin hymns, was translated by the Rev. John Mason Neale (1818-1866). Neale was an incredibly gifted student with a great interest in religious matters. He was ordained a Deacon in 1841 and an Anglican Priest in 1842. Though Neale suffered from poor health, he was greatly loved by many for his charity, which was seen in the founding of several orphanages and other organizations which helped the poor. Because of his grasp of Classical Languages and command of the English language, he was a top rank translator and has produced some of the greatest translations available.



J. M. Neale

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor” is used by many as the Processional Hymn for Palm Sunday because it recounts Our Lord’s Triumphal Entry. The refrain ascribes to Our Lord the same praise given Him by the children and great crowds of people accompanying Him that day. We present this hymn and our prayers to Him just as the “people of the Hebrews with palms before Thee went.” However, just as all of Holy Week is observed with Easter in view, this hymn also captures Easter as in stanza four we raise our melody to Christ, “now high exalted.” Finally, we ask Christ to accept our prayers as He accepts all good. We sing our Hosannas this day, our petitions of praise and mercy, to Our Lord who begins His journey to the Cross for our salvation.