

Hymn of the Week

Palm Sunday

All Glory, Laud and Honour

Words: St Theodulph of Orleans (750-821)

Tune: St Theodulph – Melchior Teschner (1584-1635)

Our hymn this week, which sadly we will not be singing on Sunday, is probably one of the oldest still in use and marks the arrival of Palm Sunday and our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, heralding the momentous events of Holy Week.

Theodulph the writer was born in Florence and brought to France by Emperor Charlemagne where he was consecrated Bishop of Orleans in 785. Unfortunately, Theodulph fell foul of Charlemagne's son Emperor Louis who cast him into prison in Angers, the original Latin Text "*Gloria, laus et honor tibi sit, rex Christe redemptor*" was almost certainly written during that imprisonment the length of which might be indicated by the fact that there were 39 verses in the original. It is claimed that Theodulph sang the hymn from his prison cell as the emperor passed by in a Palm Sunday Procession so impressing Louis that he granted Theodulph his freedom; the veracity of this assertion is highly questionable although the hymn was definitely used for lengthy Palm Sunday processions.

What is certain is that the Latin text was translated and shortened by John Mason Neale the Victorian High Church Anglican priest who, through a mixture of ill health and prejudice consequent upon his support of the Oxford Movement, did not hold a clerical office but was recognized as one of the great translators and hymn writers of this day. The longer version of Neale's text is frequently used today in churches which employ a procession on Palm Sunday.

The tune, originally named "Valet will ich dir geben" was written by the Polish Melchior Teschner who moved to Saxony as a child and was an accomplished musician before becoming Pastor of Oberpraitschen, Posen. The tune was later re-harmonised by J S Bach and figures in his St. John Passion.

The hymn is sung here in a slightly unusual, but I think quite beautiful arrangement by a 100 Voice assorted Choir & Orchestra at the 200 year old St Andrew's Church The Kirk Chennai India (Madras)

<https://youtu.be/teZStNXh-dk?list=RDteZStNXh-dk>