

# BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES

## A Palm Sunday or Advent Anthem\*

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied

Words by  
CHARLES COFFIN (1676-1749)  
Adapted by E.B.

Music by  
EUGENE BUTLER

Bright and festive (♩ = ca. 84-88)

ACCOMP.

4

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

*unis.*

The  
The  
*unis. f*

7

com ing of our King  
*Ad vent of our God* our pray'rs must now em -

\*For Advent, sing the optional text in italics.

10

ploy, and we must meet Him on His road with

13

songs of ho - ly joy!

*mf unis.*

The

16

ev - er - last - ing Son now comes, our King to be, Him -  
In - car - nate One to be,

*mf*

20 *mf*

Him-self a ser - vant's hu - man form put on to make His peo - ple

self a ser - vant's hu - man form put on to make His peo - ple

23 *f*

free!

26

29

Freely

*mf*

O daugh - ters of Zi - on, — rise, — rise — to meet your —

Freely

*mf*

(manuals)

32

King, — nor let a doubt - ful heart des - pise the

(Ped.)

35

peace He comes to — bring.

*rit.*

(A few sopranos)

*f* S.A. unis.

All

*f* unis.

*rit. e cresc.*

Tempo I

(38) *f* Ho - san - na! Ho -  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

glo - ry to the King \_\_\_\_\_ who comes to set us -  
 Son \_\_\_\_\_

Tempo I

*f*

41 *f* san - na! *With*  
 lu - ia! *(Sopranis.)*

free, With Fa - ther, Spir - it, ev - er one through -

44

out e - ter - ni - ty! Ho - san - na!  
Al - le - lu - ia!

47

*rit.* Ho - san - na! Bless - ed is He who comes!  
Al - le - lu - ia! *ff*

*rit.* *ff*

The image shows a musical score for a choral piece. It consists of four systems of music. The first system (measures 44-46) features vocal staves with lyrics 'out e - ter - ni - ty!' and 'Ho - san - na! Al - le - lu - ia!'. The second system (measures 47-49) features vocal staves with lyrics 'Ho - san - na! Bless - ed is He who comes!' and 'Al - le - lu - ia!'. The piano accompaniment is shown in grand staff notation. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score. Performance markings include 'rit.' (ritardando) and 'ff' (fortissimo).

**Blessed Is He Who Comes** is a Palm Sunday anthem with an optional text for Advent. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Psalm 118: 19-29, Isaiah 40: 1-11, John 12: 12-16, and Philippians 2: 5-11. One basic homiletical theme is Praising the Coming of the Savior King.

In rehearsal, strive for majestic four measure phrases. After the pitches are secure, the singers should practice the anthem unaccompanied, singing softly on a neutral syllable such as "loo" until proper balance and intonation are achieved. Allow the sanctuary acoustic to determine the proper tempo for the rich harmonies in m. 29-36. The more flowing legato of this section should contrast with the rather marked legato of the rest of the anthem.

**Eugene Butler** is Director of Choral Activities and Music Theory at Johnson County Community College and Director of Music and the Arts at Valley View United Methodist Church, both in Overland Park, Kansas. The recipient of a Master's Degree in Sacred Music from Union Theological Seminary in New York and a Doctorate in Composition from the University of Missouri at Kansas City, Dr. Butler has over 550 published compositions.

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