

## BEFORE MASS ON PALM SUNDAY: THE BLESSING OF PALMS & THE PROCESSION

In the blessing of the palms we have an ancient type of the liturgical "synaxes," or gatherings, for the recitation of the Divine Office, the instruction of the faithful, and prayer, which were not followed by the celebration of Mass. This type of synaxis, taken from the Jewish rite used in the synagogues of the Dispersion, formed part of the Christian ritual from the time of the Apostles.

The great ceremonies of Holy Week took place in the ancient pontifical residence in the Lateran Palace. After the palms were blessed, they were carried to the chapel of St. Sylvester and distributed. The Mass was sung in the Basilica of the Savior.

*(The celebrant in red cope blesses the palms (or branches of other trees). The branches, unless they are being held by the faithful in their hands, are at hand atop a table covered with a white cloth. The table is positioned in a convenient place of the presbytery, such that it remains in view of the people. With all things duly arranged, the celebrant, with deacon and subdeacon, or with servers, having made a reverence to the altar, stands behind the table facing the people. Meanwhile, the following is sung:)*

### THE BLESSING OF PALMS

#### Antiphon (Matthew 21: 9)

Hosanna Fílio David: benedíctus qui venit in Nómine Dómini.

O Rex Israë! Hosanna in excélsis.

**Priest:** Dóminus vobíscum.

*(All respond:)*

**All:** Et cum spiritu tuo.

**P:** Orémus. Béne~~x~~dic, quæsumus, Dómine, hos palmárum ramos: et præsta, ut quod pópulus tuus in tui veneratióne hodiérna die corporáliter agit, hoc spirituáliter summa devotióne perficiat, de hoste victóriam reportádo, et opus misericórdiæ summóperè diligéndo. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

**All:** Amen.

*(The palms are sprinkled & incensed. Then, as they are then distributed, the choir sings the following:)*

#### Antiphon 1

Púeri Hebræórum, portántes ramos olivárum, obviavérunt Dómino, clamántes, et dicéntes: Hosanna in excélsis.

#### Psalm 23: 1-2, 7-10

Dómini est terra et plenitúdo ejus, orbis terrárum et univérsi qui hábitant in eo.

Quia ipse super mária fundávit eum et super flúmina præparávit eum.

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Attóllite portas, príncipes, vestras: et elevámini, portæ æternáles: et introibit rex glóriæ.

Quis est iste rex glóriæ? Dóminus fortis et potens: Dóminus potens in prælió.

Púeri Hebræórum, portántes ramos olivárum, obviavérunt Dómino, clamántes, et dicéntes: Hosanna in excélsis.

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Glória Patri, et Fílio, et Spíritui Sancto. Sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen.

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Púeri Hebræórum, portántes ramos olivárum, obviavérunt Dómino, clamántes, et dicéntes: Hosanna in excélsis.

#### Antiphon 2

Púeri Hebræórum, vestiménta prosternébant in via, et clamábant dicéntes: Hosanna Fílio David: benedíctus qui venit in nómine Dómini.

#### Psalm 46

Omnes gentes pláudite máribus: jubiláte Deo in voce exultatiónis.

Quóniam Dóminus excélsus, terríbilis, rex magnus super omnem terram.

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Subjécit pópulos nobis: et gentes sub pédibus nóstris. Elégit nobis hereditátem: spéciem Jacob quam diléxit.

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Ascéndit Deus in júbilo: et Dóminus in voce tubæ. Psállite Deo nostro, psállite: psállite regi nostro, psállite.

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Quóniam rex omnis terræ Deus: psállite sapiénter. Regnábit Deus super gentes: Deus sedit super sedem sanctam suam.

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Príncipes populórum congregáti sunt cum Deo Abraham: quóniam Dei fortes terræ veheménter elevati sunt.

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*(When the palms have been distributed, the Deacon puts the Gospel book on the altar and the Priest puts incense into the thurible. The GOSPEL is sung by the Deacon:)*

#### GOSPEL Matthew 21: 1-9

SEQUÉNTIA sancti Evangélii secúndum Matthæum:

In illo tempore: Cum appropinquáset Jesus Jerosólymis, et venisset Bétphage ad montem Olivéti: tunc misit duos discipulos suos, dicens eis:

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dictum est per prophétam, dicentem:  
Dícite filiæ Sion: Ecce Rex tuus venit  
tibi mansuétus, sedens super ásinam,  
et pullum, filium subjugális. Eúntes  
autem discípuli, fecérunt sicut  
præcépít illis Jesus. Et adduxérunt  
ásinam, et pullum: et imposuérunt  
super eos vestiménta sua, et eum  
désuper sedére fecérunt. Plúrima  
autem turba stravérunt vestiménta sua  
in via: álii autem cædebant ramos de  
arboribus, et sternébant in via: turbæ  
autem, quæ præcedébant, et quæ  
sequebántur, clamábant, dicéntes:  
Hosánna Fílio David: benedíctus, qui  
venit in nómine  
Dómini.

*(The thurible is prepared with incense  
for the procession.)*

## THE PROCESSION

**P:** Procedámus in pace.

**All:** In Nómine Christi. Amen.

### Antiphon 1

Occúrrunt turbæ cum flóribus et palmis  
Redemptóri óbviam: et victóri  
triumphánti digna dant obséquia: Fílium  
Dei ore gentes prædicant: et in laudem  
Christi voces tonant per núbila:  
Hosánna!

### Antiphon 2

Cum Ángelis et púeris fidéles  
inveniántur, triumphatóri mortis  
damántes: Hosánna in excélsis.

### Antiphon 3

Turba multa, quæ convénerat ad diem  
festum, clamábat Dómino: Benedíctus,  
qui venit in nómine Dómini: Hosánna in  
excélsis.

### Antiphon 4

Cœpérunt omnes turbæ  
descendéntium gaudéntes laudáre  
Deum voce magna, super ómnibus  
quas víderant virtútibus, dicéntes:  
Benedíctus qui venit Rex in nómine  
Dómini; pax in terra, et glória in  
excélsis.

## Hymnus ad Christum Regem

### Choir:

Glória, laus et honor tibi sit,  
Rex Christe Redémptor,  
Cui pueríle decus  
prompsit Hosánna pium.

### All:

Glória, laus et honor tibi sit,  
Rex Christe Redémptor,  
Cui pueríle decus  
prompsit Hosánna pium.

### Choir:

Israël es tu Rex,  
Davídis et inclíta proles,  
Nómine qui in Dómini,  
Rex benedícte, venis.

### All:

Glória, laus et honor tibi sit,  
Rex Christe Redémptor,  
Cui pueríle decus  
prompsit Hosánna pium.

### Choir:

Cœtus in excélsis te laudat  
cælicus omnis,  
Et mortális homo,  
et cuncta creáta simul.

### All:

Glória, laus et honor tibi sit,  
Rex Christe Redémptor,  
Cui pueríle decus  
prompsit Hosánna pium.

### Choir:

Plebs Hebræa tibi  
cum palmis óbvia venit;  
Cum prece, voto, hymnis,  
ádsumus ecce tibi.

### All:

Glória, laus et honor tibi sit,  
Rex Christe Redémptor,  
Cui pueríle decus  
prompsit Hosánna pium.

### Choir:

Hi tibi passúro  
solvébant múnia laudis;  
Nos tibi regnánti  
pángimus ecce melos.

### All:

Glória, laus et honor tibi sit,  
Rex Christe Redémptor,  
Cui pueríle decus  
prompsit Hosánna pium.

### Choir:

Hi placuére tibi,  
pláceat devótio nostra:  
Rex bone, Rex clemens,  
cui bona cuncta placent.

### All:

Glória, laus et honor tibi sit,  
Rex Christe Redémptor,  
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pláceat devótio nostra:  
Rex bone, Rex clemens,  
cui bona cuncta placent.

### All:

Glória, laus et honor tibi sit,  
Rex Christe Redémptor,  
Cui pueríle decus  
prompsit Hosánna pium.

this was done that it might be fulfilled  
which was spoken by the prophet,  
saying: Tell ye the daughter of Sion:  
Behold thy King cometh to thee meek,  
and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the  
foal of her that is used to the yoke. And  
the disciples going did as Jesus  
commanded them. And they brought  
the ass and the colt, and laid their  
garments upon them, and made Him sit  
thereon. And a very great multitude  
spread their garments in the way, and  
others cut boughs from the trees, and  
strewed them in the way, and the  
multitudes that went before and that  
followed cried, saying: Hosanna to the  
Son of David; Blessed is He that  
cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Let us go forth in peace.

In the Name of Christ. Amen.

Let us go forth in peace.

In the Name of Christ. Amen.

The multitude goeth forth to meet our  
Redeemer with flowers and palms, and  
payeth the homage due to a triumphant  
Conqueror: the Gentiles proclaim the  
Son of God; and their voices thunder  
through the skies in praise of Christ:  
Hosanna!

Let the faithful join with the Angels and  
children singing to the Conqueror of  
death: Hosanna in the highest!

A great multitude that was met together  
at the festival cried out to the Lord:  
Blessed is He that cometh in the Name  
of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest!

Near the descent the whole multitude  
began with joy to praise God with a  
loud voice for all the mighty works they  
had seen, saying: Blessed be the King  
who cometh in the name of the Lord;  
peace on earth and glory on high.

Glory, praise and honor to Thee,  
O King Christ, the Redeemer:  
to Whom children poured their glad and  
sweet hosanna's song.

Glory, praise and honor to Thee,  
O King Christ, the Redeemer:  
to Whom children poured their glad and  
sweet hosanna's song.

Thou art the King of Israel,  
David's glorious descendant,  
Thou Who comes in the name of the  
Lord, O blessed King.

Glory, praise and honor to Thee,  
O King Christ, the Redeemer:  
to Whom children poured their glad and  
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Glory, praise and honor to Thee,  
O King Christ, the Redeemer:  
to Whom children poured their glad and  
sweet hosanna's song.

All the heavenly host praises  
Thee on high,  
likewise mortal man,  
and the entire creation.

Glory, praise and honor to Thee,  
O King Christ, the Redeemer:  
to Whom children poured their glad and  
sweet hosanna's song.

Glory, praise and honor to Thee,  
O King Christ, the Redeemer:  
to Whom children poured their glad and  
sweet hosanna's song.

The Hebrew People came forth  
with palms to greet Thee:  
With prayers, vows, and hymns,  
Behold, we now come to Thee.

Glory, praise and honor to Thee,  
O King Christ, the Redeemer:  
to Whom children poured their glad and  
sweet hosanna's song.

They crowned Thee with praise  
on Thy way to Thy suffering;  
Behold, we compose songs to Thee,  
now in Thy reigning.

Glory, praise and honor to Thee,  
O King Christ, the Redeemer:  
to Whom children poured their glad and  
sweet hosanna's song.

They were then pleasing to Thee,  
may our devotion now also please,  
O gracious King, O clement King,  
to Whom all good things are pleasing.

Glory, praise and honor to Thee,  
O King Christ, the Redeemer:  
to Whom children poured their glad and  
sweet hosanna's song.

All praise Thy name highly and say:  
Blessed is He who cometh in the name  
of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem: \* praise  
thy God, O Sion.  
Because He hath strengthened the  
bolts of thy gates: \* He hath blessed  
thy children within thee.

Who hath placed peace in thy borders:  
\* and filleth thee with the fat of corn.  
Who sendeth forth His speech to the  
earth: \* His word runneth swiftly.

Who giveth snow like wool: \* scattereth  
mists like ashes.

He sendeth His crystal like morsels: \*  
Who shall stand before the face of His  
cold?

He shall send His Word and shall  
melt them: \* His wind shall blow and  
the waters shall run.

Who declareth His word to Jacob: \* His  
justice and His judgements to Israel.

He hath not done in like manner to  
every nation: \* and His judgements He  
hath not made manifest to them.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the  
beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

All praise Thy name highly and say:  
Blessed is He who cometh in the name  
of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

We are strewn with the shining palms  
before the Lord as He approacheth; let  
us all run to meet Him with hymns and  
songs, glorify Him and say: Blessed be  
the Lord!

Hail, our King, O Son of David, O  
world's Redeemer, whom prophets did  
foretell as the Saviour to come of the  
house of Israel. For the Father sent  
Thee into the world as victim for  
salvation; from the beginning of the  
world all the saints awaited Thee:  
Hosanna now to the Son of David!  
Blessed be He who cometh in the  
name of the Lord. Hosanna in the  
highest.

As our Lord entered the holy city, the  
Hebrew children, declaring the  
resurrection of life with palm branches,  
cried out: "Hosanna in the highest."  
When the people heard that Jesus was  
coming to Jerusalem, they went forth to  
meet Him: With palm branches they  
cried out: "Hosanna in the highest."

The Lord be with you.  
And with your spirit.  
Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, our King and  
Redeemer, in Whose honor we have  
borne these palms and gone on  
praising Thee with song and solemnity:  
mercifully grant that whithersoever  
these palms are taken, there the grace  
of Thy blessing may descend, and may  
every wickedness and trickery, of the  
demons be frustrated, and may Thy  
right hand protect those it hath  
redeemed. Who lives and reigns  
forever and ever.  
Amen.

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