

**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!l: Hosanna in excélsis.

**Priest:** Dóminus vobíscum.

*(All respond:)*

**All:** Et cum spiritu tuo.

**P:** Orémus. Béneꝛdic, 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 summópere 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.

**Antiphon 1**

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

Attóllite portas, príncipes, vestras: et elevámini, portæ æternáles: et introíbit 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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Púeri Hebræórum, portántes ramos olivárum, obviavérunt Dómino, clamántes, et dicéntes: Hosanna in excélsis.

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

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 mánibus: jubiláte Deo in voce exultatiónis.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*(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 Evangé!lii secúndum Matthæum:

In illo tempore: Cum appropinquásset Jesus Jerosólymis, et veníset Bethphage ad montem Olivéti: tunc misit duos discipulos suos, dicens eis:

Ite in castéllum, quod contra vos est, et statim inveniétis ásinam alligátam, et pullum cum ea: sólvite, et addúcite mihi: et si quis vobis áliquíd dixerit, dícite, quia Dóminus his opus habet, et conféstim dimíttet eos. Hoc autem totum factum est, ut adimplerétur quod

The Hebrew children bearing olive branches, went forth to meet the Lord, crying out, and saying, Hosanna in the highest.

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof: the world and all they that dwell therein.

For He hath founded it upon the seas: and hath prepared it upon the rivers.

The Hebrew children bearing olive branches, went forth to meet the Lord, crying out, and saying: "Hosanna in the highest."

Lift up your gates, O ye princes, and be ye lifted up, O eternal gates: and the King of Glory shall enter in.

Who is this King of Glory? The Lord who is strong and mighty: the Lord mighty in battle.

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Who is this King of Glory? The Lord who is strong and mighty: the Lord mighty in battle.

The Hebrew children bearing olive branches, went forth to meet the Lord, crying out, and saying: "Hosanna in the highest."

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.

The Hebrew children bearing olive branches, went forth to meet the Lord, crying out, and saying: "Hosanna in the highest."

The Hebrew children spread their garments in the way, and cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David: blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

O clap your hands, all ye nations: shout unto God with the voice of joy. For the Lord is high, terrible: a great king over all the earth.

The Hebrew children spread their garments in the way, and cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David: blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

He hath subdued the people under us: and the nations under our feet. He hath chosen for us His inheritance: the beauty of Jacob which He hath loved.

The Hebrew children spread their garments in the way, and cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David: blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

God is ascended with jubilee: and the Lord with the sound of trumpet. Sing praises to our God, sing ye: sing praises to our king, sing ye.

The Hebrew children spread their garments in the way, and cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David: blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

For God is the king of all the earth: sing ye wisely. God shall reign over the nations: God sitteth on His holy throne.

The Hebrew children spread their garments in the way, and cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David: blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

The princes of the people are gathered together: with the God of Abraham. For the strong gods of the earth: are exceedingly exalted.

The Hebrew children spread their garments in the way, and cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David: blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

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.

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The continuation of the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

At that time, when Jesus drew nigh to Jerusalem, and was come to Bethphage, unto Mount Olivet, then He sent two disciples, saying to them: "Go ye into the village that is over against you, and immediately you shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her; loose them and bring them to Me; and if any man shall say anything to you, say ye that the Lord hath need of them; and forthwith he will let them go." Now all

