

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 excelsis.

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 excelsis.

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 excelsis.

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.

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

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 excelsis.

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 excelsus, terribilis, 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 hereditatióne: 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 sedit 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 Evangélii 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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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

dictum est per prophétam, dicentem: Dícite filiæ Sion: Ecce Rex tuus venit tibi mansuétus, sedens super ásinam, et pullum, filium subjugális. Eúntes autem discípuli, fecerunt sicut præcépit illis Jesus. Et adduxerunt ásinam, et pullum: et imposuerunt super eos vestiménta sua, et eum désuper sedére fecerunt. Plúrima autem turba straverunt vestiménta sua in via: álii autem cædebant ramos de arbóribus, 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

Cœperunt 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,
Davídus et ínclita proles,
Nómine qui in Dómini,
Rex benedícite, 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,
Cui pueríle decus
prompsit Hosánna pium.

Antiphon 5

Omnes colláudant nomen tuum, et dicunt: Benedíctus qui venit in nómine Dómini: Hosánna in excélsis.

Psalm 147

1. Lauda, Jerúsalem, Dóminum: * lauda Deum tuum, Sion.

2. Quóniam confortávit seras portárum tuárum: * benedixit filiis tuis in te.

3. Qui pósuit fines tuos pacem: * et ádipe fruménti sátiat te.

4. Qui emíttit elóquium suum terræ: * velóciter currit sermo ejus.

5. Qui dat nivem sicut lanam: * nébulam sicut cínere spargit.

6. Mittit crystállum suam sicut buccéllas: * ante faciém frígoris ejus quis sustinébit?

7. Emíttet verbum suum, et liquefaciet ea: * flabit spíritus ejus, et fluent aquæ.

8. Qui annúntiat verbum suum Jacob: * justítias, et júdicia sua Israël.

9. Non fecit táliter omni natióni: * et júdicia sua non manifestávit eis.

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

Omnes colláudant nomen tuum, et dicunt: Benedíctus qui venit in nómine Dómini: Hosánna in excélsis.

Antiphon 6

Fulgéntibus palmis prostérnimur adveniénti Dómino: huic omnes occurrámus cum hymnis et cánticis, glorificántes et dicéntes: Benedíctus Dóminus.

Antiphon 7

Ave, Rex noster, Fili David, Redémptor mundi, quem prophétæ prædixerunt Salvatórem dómui Israël esse ventúrum. Te enim ad salutárem víctimam Pater misit in mundum, quem expectábat omnis in mundum, quem exspectábat nunc: Hosánna Fílio David. Benedictus qui venit in nómine Dómini. Hosánna in excélsis.

Choir:

Ingrediénte Dómino in sanctam civitátem, Hebræórum púeri resurrectiónem vitæ pronuntiántes, Cum ramis palmárum: Hosánna, clamábant, in excélsis. Cum audisset pópulus, quod Jesus veníret Jerosólymam, exiérunt óbviam ei. Cum ramis palmárum: Hosánna, clamábant, in excélsis.

(When the Celebrant reaches the altar, he turns to the people and sings:)

P: Dóminus vobíscum.

All: Et cum spíritu tuo.

P: Orémus.

Dómine Jesu Christe, Rex ac Redémptor noster, in cujus honórem, hos ramos gestántes, solémnes laudes decantávimus: concéde propítius; ut, quocúmque hi rami deportáti fuerint, ibi tuæ benedictionis grátia descéndat, et, quavis dæmonum iniquitáte vel illusióne profligáta, dextera tua prótegat, quos ligáta: Qui vivis et regnas in sæcula saeculórum.

All: Amen.

(The priest now vests in violet for the Mass, which begins with the Introit.)

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.

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 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.

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 wind shall blow and melt the waters: * 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! Belssed 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.