

*Hosanna to the
Son of David;
blessed is he who
comes in the name
of the Lord;
hosanna in the
highest.*

What is Palm Sunday without Palms?

Actually, there is a lot to Palm Sunday, also known as Passion Sunday. It begins Holy Week – the most important week of the year for Christians.

In the Passion Sunday liturgy, we unite the triumphal entry of Christ – the anointed one, the Son of David – into Jerusalem with the solemn proclamation of His Passion. Jesus, the anointed Son of David, enters Jerusalem to restore right relationship between God and His people.

At the beginning of the Liturgy, the celebrant reminds us that we “gather together to herald with the whole Church the beginning of the celebration of our Lord’s Paschal Mystery, that is to say, of his Passion

and Resurrection. For it was to accomplish this mystery that he entered his own city of Jerusalem. Therefore, with all faith and devotion, let us commemorate the Lord’s entry into the city for our salvation, following in his footsteps, so that, being made by his grace partakers of the Cross, we may have a share also in his Resurrection and in his life.” Therefore, on Palm Sunday, we should understand our participation in the procession of Jesus into Jerusalem as more important than the palms we hold. We are indeed welcoming our salvation!

Read: the Gospel of St. Matthew 21:1-11

When Jesus and the disciples drew near Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tethered, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them here to me. And if anyone should say anything to you, reply, ‘The master has need of them.’ Then he will send them at once.” This happened so that what had been spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled: *Say to daughter Zion, “Behold, your king comes to you, meek and riding on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.”* The disciples went and did as Jesus had ordered them. They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks over them, and he sat upon them. The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road. The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying: “Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest.” And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, “Who is this?” and the crowds replied, “This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Church teaches that palms, olive branches and other greens are all suitable for the Palm Sunday procession. Look around your yard. What green can you use? Hold them as you join in the Palm Sunday liturgy.

Keep your greens in your home throughout the coming year as a reminder of your faith in Jesus Christ, the messianic king, and in his Paschal Victory.

