



PALM SUNDAY

Ritual at Home: Palm Sunday Procession

One of the most memorable parts of the Palm Sunday Mass is the Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem, when we are invited to wave palm branches. Either before participating in Mass online, or at another convenient time for your household, have your own Palm Sunday Procession.

- **Make the setting special** by using a table cloth (red is the official color for the liturgy) and set some candles out, if possible. Place your family Bible on the table, if you have one, opened up to the Gospel reading of the day ([Matthew 26:14-27:66](#)). Get the whole family involved in the preparations.
 - Have everyone in your family wear **red**.
 - **Kids love processions and parades.** Usually we raise up palm branches at the beginning of Palm Sunday Mass, but let your kids go outside and gather up fallen branches if there are any around or allow them to rummage around the house for any pole-like or stick-like object that can be used to wave like a banner (ex: brooms, drumsticks, etc.). Let them attach scarves, bandanas, or ribbons as decoration.
1. We usually begin Mass on Palm Sunday outside of the normal gathering space (usually in the parish hall or outside) and process in after the reading. **So, if possible, consider doing that as a family.** Pick a spot to begin, just outside or in a separate room, with everyone holding palms (or items to symbolize the palms).
 2. Begin with the Sign of the Cross.
 3. Invite everyone to raise their branches high, offer the following prayer:

Lord, make our faith stronger and listen to our prayers. Today we honor Christ our King by carrying these branches. May we honor you every day by living always in him, for he is Lord forever and ever. Amen.
 4. **Invite someone to proclaim the Gospel:**

(This text is based on the translation used in the Lectionary for Masses with Children and is easier for young people to understand.)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus and his disciples entered the walled city of Jerusalem.

Jesus said to two of his disciples: "Go ahead of us to the next village. There will be a young donkey there who has never been ridden. Untie the donkey and bring it here. If anyone asks why you are doing that, tell them, "The Lord needs it."

The two disciples went ahead of the others and found the donkey, just as Jesus said. Its owners asked: "Why are you doing that?" They answered, "The Lord needs it."

They untied it, took it to Jesus, and helped him get on. And as he rode along, the people spread clothes on the road in front of him.

Jesus rode on the donkey while the disciples followed close by on the parade route. The large crowd shouted,

"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna! Praise God in heaven!" "Hosanna! Blessed is the Son of David!"

A Pharisee standing nearby was disgusted at what was taking place. He said, "Jesus! Tell the crowd to be quiet." But Jesus answered, "Even if they were to be quiet, the rocks and stones would sing out!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

5. **Finally, if you are able, play the song: [Hosanna, by Michael Avolicino](#),** as family members process around the house waiving their palm branches (or equivalent).