

PRAYER AT THE BLESSING OF PALMS

O Lord our God, who sits upon the Cherubim, You have reaffirmed Your power by sending Your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to save the world through His cross, burial, and resurrection. When He came into Jerusalem to suffer His voluntary passion, the people that sat in darkness and in the shadow of death took boughs of trees and branches of palms as signs of victory, thus foretelling His resurrection. Likewise, O Master, keep and preserve us who, in imitation of them, carry palms and branches in our hands on this eve of the feast. As we join the crowds and the children who sang Hosanna to You, may we, with hymns and spiritual songs, attain the life-giving resurrection on the third day.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

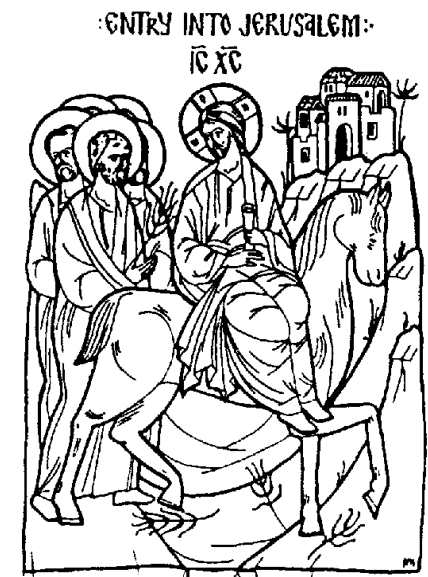
- ✧ Read the Scriptural references. Discuss the setting of the Feast and the significance of the people holding the palms.
- ✧ Hold the palms blessed at Church during the Divine Liturgy.
- ✧ Sing or read the Troparion of the Feast at your meals on Palm Sunday.
- ✧ Bring an extra palm to a shut-in or relative who was unable to attend the services.
- ✧ Arrange the palms behind an icon or cross in your home.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION,
PLEASE
CONTACT:



COME CELEBRATE THE FEAST: THE ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM





THE ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM CELEBRATED ON THE SUNDAY BEFORE PASCHA

From the first day of Holy Week, we must receive Jesus Christ and accept that His will is sovereign over us. The meaning of the Entrance, or Palm Sunday, lies in this welcome given to the Christ who comes to see us.

The crowd which acclaimed Jesus carried palms and branches. These branches were probably olive branches, the most common tree around Jerusalem. Palms and olives both have their symbolic meaning. The palm stands for victory and the olive for peace and anointing. So let us go before Jesus and pay homage to His power and to His tenderness, in offering both our victories (which are in fact His victories) over ourselves and over sin, and our inner peace (which is His peace).

The crowd shouted: “Hosanna! Blessed is he that comes in the Name of the Lord!” If I can say these words with complete sincerity and submission, if they mean that the impulse of my whole being goes toward the King, whom from henceforth I acknowledge, then in that instant I have turned away from my sins and have received Jesus Christ. May He be welcomed and blessed, He who comes to me.

THE ENTRANCE IN SCRIPTURE AND HYMNS

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Gospel: John 12:1-18

Vespers, “Lord I Call,” Sticheron 1

The grace of the Holy Spirit today has assembled us. Taking up Your cross we sing: Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

Vespers, “Lord I Call,” Sticheron 4

By Your command, O loving Lord, You have raised Lazarus Your friend from death! His flesh had been given over to corruption! He was in the power of death four days! By this You have foretold your Holy Resurrection for us! Today, You mount an untamed colt as Your chariot, foretelling the conversion of the Gentiles. Your beloved Israel offers You a hymn of praise from the mouths of innocent children, as they see You enter the holy city, O Christ, six days before the feast of Passover.

Divine Liturgy, Troparion, Tone 1

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Your passion, You confirmed the universal resurrection, O Christ our God! Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to You, O Vanquisher of Death: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

Divine Liturgy, Troparion, Tone 4

When we were buried with You in Baptism, O Christ God, we were made worthy of eternal life by Your Resurrection! Now we praise You and sing: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!

Divine Liturgy, Kontakion, Tone 6

Sitting on Your throne in heaven, carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God! Accept the praise of angels and songs of children, who sing: Blessed is He that comes to recall Adam!

