PALM SUNDAY
Blessing of Palms

Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Byzantine Catholic Seminary
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
February 2019
Blessing of Palms

During the censing, the faithful sing this hymn:

Re-joice to-day with all your heart, O daughter Zion.
Ho-san-na in the high-est, He who comes is bless-ed:

Here is your King com-ing to you, as He sits up-on a colt.
Enter-ing Je-ru-sa-lem, the Re-deem-er of the world.

Ze-cha-ri-ah pro-phet-sies, Ze-phani-ah joins with him
Now we sing in glo-rious praise, and pro-claim his ho-ly Name,

“Ho-san-na in the high-est,” for-ev-er.

To-day the grace of the Holy Spirit has gathered us to-geth-er and tak-ing
up your Cross, we all say: Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Lord our God, seated upon the Cherubim, you raised up your power and sent your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to save the world through his cross, burial, and resurrection. Today He enters Jerusalem for his voluntary passion. The people sitting in the darkness and shadow of death took the symbols of victory, the boughs of trees and branches of palms, foretelling his resurrection. Now, O Master, on this prefestive day, in imitation of them, we carry palms and branches in our hands, and like that crowd and the children we shout “Hosanna,” so that in hymns and songs and spiritual odes, we also might be made worthy of the life-giving third-day resurrection in Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and forever.

Response: Amen.

Then the celebrant sprinkles the palms and branches with holy water saying:

Celebrant: These palms and branches are blessed and sanctified by the grace of the Most Holy Spirit through the sprinkling of this holy water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Response: Amen.
The palms and branches are then distributed, and the following hymn is sung:

1. The people in great throngs had gathered to greet our Lord in Jerusalem.
2. That day the streets were filled with people; with palms and branches in their hands, another prophecy to fulfill.
3. Christ entered in this holy city, He humbly comes into our midst today.
4. Come forth and greet the King of Glory. They called him King and cried Hosanna.

O Son of David, King of Israel, would change to Crucify, a way with him,
an-ounce his kingdom which is here to stay;

O Son of David, King of Israel. would change to Crucify, a way with him.
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Source: Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate
English by Cantor George Sabol