

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 - joyce to - day with all your heart, O daugh - ter Zi - on.
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.
En - ter - ing Je - ru - sa - lem, the Re - deem - er of the world.



Ze - cha - ri - ah pro - phe - sies, Ze - pha - ni - ah joins with him
Now we sing in glo - rious praise, and pro - claim his ho - y Name,



to pro - claim the Mas - - - ter, the Mas - ter.
“Ho - san - na in the high - - - est,” for - ev - er.

Melody and Slavonic text: traditional

English translation: Cantors Nicholas Kalvin, Michael Zaretsky, Jerry Jumba, and Fr Alexis Mihalik, alt.

While the following sticheron is sung, the celebrant censes the palms and branches crosswise.

Tone 6 samohlasen



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,



Ho - san - - - na in the high - est.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response:



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:



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:



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



1. The peo - ple in great throngs had gath - ered
2. That day the streets were filled with peo - ple;
3. Christ en - tered in this ho - ly ci - ty,
4. Come forth and greet the King of Glo - ry.



to greet our Lord in Je - ru - sa - lem.
with palms and branch es in their hands.
an - oth - er proph - e - cy to ful - fill.
He hum - bly comes in - to our midst to - day.



They called him King and cried Ho - san - na,
They waved them high and cried Ho - san - na,
We know that now their cries Ho - san - na,
Pro - claim him King and cry Ho - san - na;



O Son of Da - vid, King of Is - ra - el,
O Son of Da - vid, King of Is - ra - el,
would change to Cru - ci - fy, a - way with him,
an - nounce his king - dom which is here to stay;



O Son of Da - vid, King of Is - ra - el.
O Son of Da - vid, King of Is - ra - el.
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an - nounce his king - dom which is here to stay.

Source: Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate
English by Cantor George Sabol