

April 5, 2009

Palm Sunday

The Blessing, Distribution, and Procession of Palms

(Congregation remains standing, throughout)

The Blessing

(Congregation, in unison)

Antiphon *(St. Matthew 21. 9)*

Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. O King of Israel: Hosanna in the highest.

V. The Lord be with you

R. *And with thy spirit.*

Let us pray.

Bless, O Lord, we pray Thee, these branches of palm; and grant that as Thy people outwardly with their bodies do worship Thee, so inwardly in their souls they may serve Thee with pure devotion, that they may be victorious over the assaults of the enemy, and cleave steadfastly unto all good works; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Palms are sprinkled with holy water)

The Distribution

(Congregation kneels at the Altar rail to receive the palms)

Psalm 24: 1-2 and 7-10; and Psalm 47

(Congregation, in unison, while palms are being distributed)

The earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is; / the compass of the world, and they that dwell therein.
For he hath founded it upon the seas, / and established it upon the floods.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; / and the King of glory shall come in.
Who is the King of glory? / it is the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle.
Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; / and the King of glory shall come in.
Who is the King of glory? / even the Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

O clap your hands together, all ye peoples; / O sing unto God with the voice of melody.
For the Lord Most High is to be feared; / he is a great King over all the earth.
He subdued the peoples under us, / and the nations under our feet.
He chose our heritage for us, / even the glorious land of Jacob, whom he loved.
God is gone up with a merry noise, / the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.
O sing praises, sing praises unto our God; / O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.
For God is the King of all the earth: / sing ye praises with understanding.
God reigneth over the nations: / God sitteth upon his holy throne.
The princes of the peoples are gathered together, / with the people of the God of Abraham;
For the rulers of the earth belong unto God; / he is very highly exalted.

The Holy Gospel
(St. Matthew 21: 1)

(Congregation holds palms)

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

When they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the Mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, saying unto them, "Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me. And if any man say aught unto you, ye shall say, 'The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them'." All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Prophet, saying, 'Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass'. And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them; and brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set Him thereon. And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way. And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, 'Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest'.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Procession

V. Let us go forth in peace.

R. + In the Name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn - All glory, laud, and honour (ST. THEODULPH)

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Hymn - Ride on! ride on in majesty (WINCHESTER NEW)

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(Congregation joins in the procession, carrying their palms, and following the Celebrant)

(Upon arrival back at the Altar, the Celebrant says)

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, our King and Redeemer, in whose honour we have borne these boughs, and sung hymns of solemn praise; mercifully grant that wheresoever these boughs shall be taken, there the grace of Thy blessing may come down upon us, and that the wickedness and crafts of all evil spirits being brought to nought, the defence of Thy right hand may be over them whom Thou hast redeemed: Who livest and reignest with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

(As this prayer states, the blessed palm crosses are the visible signs of the prayer of Christ's Church which calls down the blessing of God upon all places where they are put - in our homes, cars, gardens, on graves of loved ones. Treat them reverently. From The Liturgy of Holy Week by Bishop Peter D. Wilkinson, OSG)

(The Holy Eucharist then begins - please refer to the leaflet)