



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

**"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"
"Hosanna in the Highest!" (Mt. 21:9)**

CHECK-LIST & ORDER OF SERVICE FOR PALM SUNDAY

Order of Service	Requirements	Animator
	Backdrop	
	Outside requirements	
	Altar decoration	
	Vestments Cope	
Introduction	Commentary Sheet	
Greetings	Missal	
Invitation	Missal	
Prayer for blessing of Palms	Prayer (Missal)	
Blessing of the Palms	Sprinkler	
Gospel	Thurible and incense	
Invitation for Procession with brief Instructions	Instruction Sheet	
Procession	Volunteers	
Chants	Choir	
	Upon reaching altar celebrant puts the cope aside and puts on the chausible	
Collect (Let us pray)	Missal	
Introduction to Readings	Commentary Sheet	
1 st Reading	Lectionary	
Responsorial Psalm	Lectionary	
2 nd Reading	Lectionary	
Gospel Acclamation	Lectionary	
Introduction to the Passion	Commentary sheet	
Passion	Lectionary/Book of the Gospels/ Passion Booklets	
Homily		
Apostles' Creed	Missal	
Prayer of the Faithful		
Liturgy of the Eucharist		
Offertory		
Holy Communion	Follow instructions of the ushers	
Prayer after Communion & Blessing	Missal	
Holy <i>Triduum</i> Instructions	Sheet	

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Instructions

On this day the Church recalls the entrance of Christ the Lord into Jerusalem to accomplish the Paschal Mystery. Accordingly, the memorial of this entrance of the Lord takes place at all Masses, by means of procession or the Solemn Entrance before the principal Mass. At an appropriate hour, a gathering takes place at a smaller Church or other suitable place other than inside the Church to which the procession will go. The faithful hold branches in their hands. Wearing the red sacred vestments as for Mass, the priest approaches the place where the people are gathered. Instead of the chasuble the priest may wear a cope, which he leaves aside after the procession to the Church. While the priest approaches the appointed place the antiphon Hosanna or other appropriate chant is sung. Today's liturgical service begins with the blessing of palms and procession to the Church.

Altar servers will lead the procession carrying the cross and the candles. If incense is used, the thurifer goes first with the thurible, followed by cross-bearer between two altar servers with lighted candles, then the priest with ministers, and finally the congregation carrying the palm branches.

As soon as the priest reaches the altar he venerates it, he may also incense it. Then he immediately begins with the opening prayer, which concludes the procession. Mass then continues in the usual way. (First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading)

INTRODUCTION *(Lector or one of the Ministers)*

Palm Sunday reminds us about the solemn entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. In many places in the Gospel, Jesus has told his Disciples, let us go to Jerusalem. It was his vision and mission and he was clear of His mission which will be culminated at Mount Calvary. Man who is born to live embraces death in a miraculous way. The man who once said, "Give your burden and I will carry your burden" is now stepping towards death with happiness. As the waves of the sea touch the shore in the same way Christ's look touches the hearts of the people. He teaches us today that there is no salvation without pain.

At the birth of Jesus the angels of the Lord enchanted the glory of His coming. Today, the Savior of the world is being handed over to the den of robbers. God the Father rescued the people of Israel who were slaves in Egypt. God sent Moses, Prophets and Kings in order to lead them on the right path. Yet their hearts were away from God because they had sinned against him through their immoral life, discrimination and worship of the pagan gods and goddesses. These things led them to go away from God.

In this situation, God the Father sent His Only Begotten Son, Jesus who was obedient to His words and did the will of the Father; that in pain is the victory of life. He is being welcomed by people spreading their clothes on the floor and chanting Hosanna, Hosanna to the Most High who is to come. Now let us also sing Hosanna and welcome Jesus.

Hymn

The priest says in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Then he greets the people and invites people to participate actively and consciously in the celebration of this day.

Dear brethren, since the beginning of Lent until now, we have prepared our hearts by penance and charitable works. Today we gather together to herald with the whole Church the beginning of the celebration of our Lord's Paschal Mystery that is to say of his Passion and Resurrection.

For it was to accomplish this mystery, that he entered his own city of Jerusalem. Therefore with all faith and devotion following in his footsteps so that being made by his grace partakers of the cross we also may have a share in His resurrection and in His life

(After the address, the priest says the prayers with hands extended).

Let us pray *(Hands extended)*

Almighty ever living God, sanctify + these branches with your blessing that we who follow Christ the king in exultation may reach the eternal Jerusalem through him who lives and reigns forever and ever.

R. Amen.

He sprinkles the branches with Holy Water without saying anything.

Then a deacon or if there is no Deacon, a priest proclaims in the usual way the Gospel. If appropriate, incense may be used.

Gospel Reading:

(As per liturgical year) Year A Matthew-21:1-11/ Year B Mark -11:1-10/ Year C Luke -19:28-40

A brief Homily may be given. Then, to begin the procession, an invitation may be given by a priest or a deacon or a lay minister in these or similar words.

Dear brothers and sisters, like the crowds who acclaimed Jesus in Jerusalem, let us go forth in peace.

The procession to the Church where the Mass will be celebrated then sets off in the usual way. If the incense is used, the thurible goes first, then an acolyte or another minister, carrying a cross decorated with palm branches according to the local custom, between two ministers with lighted candles. Then follow the Deacon carrying the Book of the Gospels (if not deacon then a lector with book of the Gospels slightly elevated), the Priest with the ministers and after them all the faithful carrying the branches. As the Procession moves forward suitable chants in honour of Christ the King are sung.

Censer bearer

Cross bearer (Cross decorated with palm branches)

Two lighted candles

Deacon, lector or one of the ministers with the Book of the Gospels slightly elevated

Concelebrants

Celebrant

Faithful with palm branches in hand

Chant during the procession - Psalm 23, psalm 46 or Hymn to Christ the king

When the Priest arrives at the altar, he venerates it and if appropriate incenses it. Then he goes to the chair where he puts aside the cope and puts on the chasuble. Omitting the other Introductory Rites of the Mass he says the Collect of the Mass and then continues the Mass in the usual way.

Collect (Let us pray, Silence, then Collect)

Introduction for the Readings

Dear brothers and sisters, today's readings invite us to meditate on the meekness of Jesus Christ. Jesus humbled himself even unto death on the Cross. The first reading of today is taken from the Prophet Isaiah is the cry of the Psalmist it tells us about the painful agony of God. In the Responsorial Psalm, My God, My God why have you forsaken me? In the second reading, St. Paul tells us that Jesus humbled himself even unto death on the Cross but God raised him up.

First Reading - Isaiah 50: 4-7

Responsorial Psalm (21)

Second Reading – Philippians 2: 6-11

Acclamation: Phil. 2: 8 - 9

A Priest proclaims in usual way the Gospel concerning the Lord's entrance. We will hear the long reading of Gospel narrating the passion and death of Jesus Christ. Let us with meditative mind, listen to the passion of our Lord.

The passion narrative occupies a special place. It should be sung or read in the traditional way, that is by three persons who take part of Christ, the narrator and the people. The passion is proclaimed by deacons or priests, or by lay readers, in the latter case the part of Christ should be reserved to the priest.

The narrative of the Lord's Passion is read without candles and without incense, with no greeting or the sign of the cross on the book. It is read by a Deacon or if there is no Deacon, by a Priest. It may be read by readers, with the part of Christ, if possible reserved to a Priest.

Deacons but not others ask for the blessing of the Priest before singing / Reading the Passion, as at other times before the Gospel.

Passion

LITURGICAL CATECHESIS

1. **Hosanna:** Hosanna means 'save' or 'give salvation'. This acclamation of the people along with “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord” is used in the Mass in the 'Holy, Holy, Holy' that introduces into the memorial of the Lord's Passover. According to the Gospel (Mt. 21:15) the children were shouting aloud: “Hosanna to the Son of David.”
2. **Palm:** Palm is an ancient symbol of victory, which was carried, in the triumphant processions by Romans and Jews. Palm is a sign and symbol that we walk with Jesus through thick and thin, through sickness and joyful times, through triumph and fall, glory and agony. When we sign ourselves with the cross it is a sign that we are willing to take our share of Christ's Passion.
3. **Procession:** We are all invited to gather outside the Church. The palms are blessed and the procession into the Church begins. The Church building stands for the New Jerusalem, and the priest representing Christ makes a triumphant entry into it.
4. **Bringing Home Palms:** It has been our custom to carry the branches home and place them on the altar or near the sacred images. They are blessed objects; please keep them in a respectful place. If possible please return them to the Church a week prior to Ash Wednesday to prepare ashes.
5. **Red Colour:** Today you will notice the liturgical colour red: the priest wears red chasuble, altars will be decorated with red colours, the tabernacle veil will be red etc. Red colour symbolizes the passion.

Instructions

Inform the people in time to bring to the service a small palm branch in hand.

Let the people gather in front of the Church and not inside.

Distribute in time the various roles to the ministers.

Once the people have assembled tell them to keep silence and then proceed with the service.

Let an elder member of the community carry the cross at the head of the procession and two altar servers with lighted candles walk at his side.

Arrange the people for the procession as you think best, but let it be orderly. Instruct the people not to talk and walk respectfully.

Do not sing hymns other than those in praise of our Lord; choose them before hand, practice them in time and announce it clearly.