



Hosanna Sunday

(Blessing of the Branches)

March 2013

HOSANNA SUNDAY BLESSING OF THE BRANCHES

The branches to be blessed are placed on a table within the sanctuary.

After the homily the Celebrant and ministers assemble around the table.

Diaconal Proclamation

STAND

Syriac: *korozooto*

Jesus Christ, our Lord, the Son of God.

Stretch forth your right hand
and bless these branches here
prepared for your people,
for the sake of your holy name.

We call out to you in prayer, O
Lord. Hear us.

Cel: O Lord of heavenly powers, the seraphim and cherubim, the angels and archangels, and all spiritual beings tremble before you. They cover their eyes before your majesty. They worship you with reverence and awe, and glorify you without ceasing. Here on earth you are praised by infants, children, and all the faithful with shouts of "Hosanna!" We implore you, O Lord, to pardon our faults in your grace and to forgive our offenses in your mercy. May we live according to your will, and find mercy and compassion in this world and in the next. O Lord our God, to you be glory, for ever.

Cong: Amen.

Cel: ☩ Peace be with you.

Cong: And with your spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads before the Lord.

The people bow their heads in repentance and sing:

All: Lord, have mercy. *Kyrie eleison.*
Lord, have mercy. *Kyrie eleison.*
Lord, have mercy. *Kyrie eleison.*

Cel: Lord God, you have shown us your plan of salvation. Now in your abundant mercy, bless ☩ these branches that they may bless those who carry them and take them. May they educate children, strengthen the young, and give dignity to the elderly. May churches, monasteries, convents, and homes be filled with their blessings. May they confirm the faithful in the true faith and in good works. Glory, honor, and adoration are due to you, to your Father, and to your Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Cong: Amen.

The Celebrant blesses the branches three times with the hand cross, saying:

Cel: May these branches be blessed and sanctified,
in the name of the Father ✠,
and of the Son ✠,
and of the Holy Spirit ✠.

Cong: Amen.

Prayer Before the Procession

Cel: Lord God, make us worthy to meet you in this procession on this solemn feast. Remove from us the ways of sin and clothe us with robes of virtue. Purify our hands that we may carry candles and branches leading us to holiness. Open our mouths that we may sing hymns and psalms. Lead us on the path to chastity and angelic purity in this holy procession and all the days of our lives. We praise and glorify you, now and for ever.

Cong: Amen.

Procession

The procession begins at the front of the church. It is led by the cross and two candles followed by the ministers and the Celebrant. Two or more persons should be chosen to distribute the branches to the people who join in the procession behind the Celebrant.

The procession circles the church three times, or, if possible, moves outdoors. During the procession, appropriate hymns are sung.

Concluding Prayer

Cel: O Christ our God, yesterday you revealed your divine nature by raising your friend Lazarus four days after he died. Today you reveal your human nature by humbly entering Jerusalem on a donkey's colt, accepting the praises of infants and children.

Bless all the faithful who celebrate this holy feast, purify their hearts and spirits, freeing them from jealousy, hypocrisy, hate, doubt, and all that is sinful. May we be innocent like the children who praised you on this day, and may we conclude this feast with heavenly joy and receive the blessings of these branches.

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. Deliver us from the trials of temptation that we do not have the strength to overcome, confirm us in the true faith, fill us with love for you and for each other, and ground us in hope by your divine blood which you have shed for our salvation. By your grace, and through the intercession of your holy and blessed Mother, guard and protect all Christians who celebrate this feast. Have mercy on the faithful departed who have gone to their rest, hoping in you, and may they dwell in your heavenly kingdom, rejoicing with you, for ever.

Cong: Amen.

The Divine Liturgy continues with the Creed on **page 748** of the *Book of Offering*

Hosanna Sunday

(Processional Hymn 1)

Come, O People, Come Rejoice

Syriac: *z'ooro*

1. Come, O people, come rejoice.
Let us worship Christ our Lord,
who is riding on a colt.
Sing "Hosanna" to our Lord!

2. All the children gathered there
fill Jerusalem with joy.
Holding branches, they proclaim:
Sing "Hosanna" to our Lord!

3. Let us join the cherubim
and the seraphim on high
as they praise the Holy One.
Sing "Hosanna" to our Lord!

4. Come, O faithful Church, rejoice:
"Holy, holy, holy Lord!
Son of David, Son of God!"
Sing "Hosanna" to our Lord!

Hosanna Sunday

(Processional Hymn 2)

Rise Up, O Jerusalem

Syriac: *aloho dgableh lodom*

Rise up, O Jerusalem,
with your joyful hymns of praise
to the Savior, Christ our Lord.
Sing "Hosanna, Hosanna!"

From the Sea of Galilee,
Christ the King, Emmanuel,
comes to save the world from sin.
Sing "Hosanna, Hosanna!"

Let us open wide our hearts,
as we greet the One who comes;
Son of David, Son of God.
Sing "Hosanna, Hosanna!"

Hosanna Sunday

(Processional Hymn 3)

Zion Heard and Was Troubled

Syriac: *areeko*

Zion heard and was troubled;
she was filled with great wonder.
Children praised the Lord
and sang "Hosanna!"
Jesus Christ, Son of David,
came as our Savior.
Cloaks and garments were laid down
as people praised him.
We give honor to Jesus,
Son and Lord of King David,
who fulfilled what was written,
humbly riding a donkey.
Blest be Christ who came
and gave the world life!

