

PRAYERS on PALM SUNDAY

We do not have to use willow branches or palms on Palm Sunday. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, people used palms because that's what was readily available. In Russia, our ancestors used willow branches because they were readily available. Therefore, you can use any green branches or palms or willow branches or whatever green plant is readily available for you. Gather together with your family or those who are living with you. Pray, watching the live-stream of Sunday Liturgy or pray on your own using the Daily Prayers. Both are available on our website www.singac.com.

After the Liturgy, pray the troparion of Palm Sunday:

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Your Passion,
You confirmed the universal Resurrection, O Christ God.
Like the children with the palms of victory,
we cry out to You, O Vanquisher of death,
“Hosanna in the Highest!
Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord!”

The head of the household reads the Gospel lesson of the Feast:

SIX DAYS BEFORE THE PASSOVER, Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for Him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with Him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples (the one who was about to betray Him), said, “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it. Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought

it so that she might keep it for the day of My burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have Me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival [*of Passover*] heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord - the King of Israel!" (*Psalm 118:26*). Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written, "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" (*Isaiah 40:9, Zechariah 9:9*).

Jesus' disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of Him and had been done to Him. So the crowd that had been with Him began to testify that He had called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead. It was also because they heard that Jesus had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet Him.

Pray the Kontakion of Palm Sunday:

Sitting on Your throne in heaven,
carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God.
Accept the praise of angels and the songs of children who sing,
"Blessed is He Who comes to recall Adam."

And say the prayer of blessing over the green branches that you have:

Let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

O Lord our God, Who sit upon the Cherubim, You have reaffirmed Your power and sent out Your Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to save the world through His Cross, Burial, and Resurrection. When He had come to Jerusalem for His voluntary Passion, the people that sat in darkness and the shadow of death took, as tokens of victory, boughs of trees and branches of palms, in this way foretelling His Resurrection: Yourself, O Master, protect and preserve us also, who, following their example, carry in our hands palms and branches, and like the crowds and the children cry aloud to You, “Hosanna!” With hymns and spiritual songs count us worthy to attain the life-giving Resurrection on the third day. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your Most Holy, Good, and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.