

The Blessing of Willows, Palms or other Branches

Leader: Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

O Lord our God, Who sit upon the Cherubim, and Who restored the might of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, that through His cross and burial and resurrection He might save the world; Who, also, when today He entered Jerusalem to embark upon His voluntary passion, was met by the people who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, bearing the symbols of victory, boughs of trees and branches of palms, emblematic of the Resurrection: keep and preserve us also who on this pre-festal day in imitation of them bear in our hands palms and boughs. And like those nations and children who cried to You: 'Hosanna!' may we likewise with hymn and spiritual song be made worthy of the life-giving resurrection through Christ Jesus, our Lord, with Whom You are blessed together with Your all-holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever.

All: Amen.

Leader: Peace be with all!

All: And with your spirit.

Leader: Bow your heads to the Lord.

All: To You, O Lord!

O Lord God, Ruler of the universe! During times of the righteous and just Noah, You revealed the ark to be a prefigurement of the Church, foretelling the coming of the most Holy Spirit through the dove that brought the olive branch. This prefigurement was fulfilled by the Jewish children who greeted You with olive and palm branches, giving You praise, and shouting: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord! Therefore, just as You blessed the greeting people bearing branches, so too, O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, bless and sanctify these boughs and willow branches, so that all, who receive them, may receive through them protection of their souls and bodies; may they be a medicine for our salvation and a sacrament of Your grace. Every place, where they will be placed, may those, who dwell there, receive Your blessing. Having driven away all hostile powers, may Your right hand protect those, whom You have redeemed with Your most precious blood; so that we may all sing together: Hosanna, blessed is He who judges justly with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever.

All: Amen.

The leader sprinkles the willow branches with blessed water, saying:

Today, we unite ourselves with our church ministers and ask that these willow branches be blessed by the sprinkling of this holy water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.