

Lutheran Church of the Master  
580 Kuhn Road, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188  
Curt Gerald, Interim Pastor  
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Palm Sunday

GOT PALMS?

WHY?

TODAY, THE PALMS REMIND US OF “OUR” PAST ...  
THE “OUR” REFERS TO OUR FAMILY’S PAST ... OUR  
CHRISTIAN FAMILY’S PAST ... TO A SPECIFIC DAY  
THAT WE HOLD SACRED ...

### John 12:12-15

<sup>2</sup>The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

"Hosanna!<sup>[a]</sup>"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"<sup>[b]</sup>

"Blessed is the King of Israel!" <sup>14</sup>Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written,

<sup>15</sup>"Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion;  
see, your king is coming,

### The History of Palm Sunday

First known as the Pascha (Passover) ... Palm Sunday originated in the Jerusalem Church, around the late fourth century. The ceremony consisted of prayers, hymns, and sermons recited by the clergy while the people moved among various holy sites throughout the city. At the last site, where Christ [ascended](#) into heaven, the clergy would read from the gospels concerning the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. In the early evening they would return to the city reciting: "Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord." The children would carry palm and olive branches as the people returned through the city to the church, where they would hold evening services.

By the fifth century, the Palm Sunday celebration had spread as far as Constantinople. Changes made in the sixth and seventh centuries resulted in two new Palm Sunday traditions - the ritual blessing of the palms, and a morning procession instead of an evening one. Adopted by the Western Church in the eighth century, the celebration received the name "Dominica in Palmis," or "Palm Sunday".

### **The Meaning of Palm Sunday**

Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. The gospels record the arrival of Jesus riding into the city on a donkey, while the crowds spread their cloaks and palm branches on the street and shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David" and "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" to honor him as their long-awaited Messiah and King.

The significance of Jesus riding a donkey and having his way paved with palm branches is a fulfillment of a prophecy spoken by the prophet Zechariah (Zechariah 9:9). In biblical times, the regional custom called for kings and nobles arriving in procession to ride on the back of a donkey. The donkey (or domesticated ass) was a symbol of peace; those who rode upon them proclaimed peaceful intentions. The laying of palm branches indicated that the king or dignitary was arriving in victory or triumph.

### **Palm Sunday in Modern Times**

Today, Palm Sunday traditions are much the same as they have been since the tenth century. The ceremony begins with the blessing of the palms. The procession follows, then Mass is celebrated, wherein the Passion and the Benediction are sung. Afterwards, many people take the palms home and place them in houses, barns, and fields.

In some countries, palms are placed on the graves of the departed. In colder northern climates, where palm trees are not found, branches of yew, willow, and sallow trees are used. The palms blessed in the ceremony are burned at the end of the day. The ashes are then preserved for next year's [Ash Wednesday](#) celebration.

In the simplest of terms, Palm Sunday is an occasion for reflecting on the final week of Jesus' life. It is a time for Christians to prepare their hearts for the agony of His Passion and the joy of His Resurrection.

Written by: [David Katski](#)

<http://www.faithclipart.com/guide/Christian-Holidays/what-is-palm-sunday.html>

## **GOT PALMS?**

## **WHY?**

**TODAY, THE PALMS ALSO REMIND US OF "OUR" FUTURE ... THE "OUR" REFERS TO OUR FAMILY'S FUTURE ... OUR CHRISTIAN FAMILY'S FUTURE ... TO A SPECIFIC DAY THAT WE HOLD SACRED ...**

## Revelation 7:9-12 - The Great Multitude in White Robes

<sup>9</sup>After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>And they cried out in a loud voice:

"Salvation belongs to our God,  
who sits on the throne,

and to the Lamb." <sup>11</sup>All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

<sup>12</sup>saying:

"Amen!

Praise and glory  
and wisdom and thanks and honor  
and power and strength  
be to our God for ever and ever.

Amen!"

## GOT PALMS?

## WHY?

TODAY, THE PALMS REMIND US THAT WE LIVE BETWEEN "OUR" PAST AND OUR FUTURE ... AND THAT MAKES EACH DAY OF LIFE A SPECIFIC DAY THAT WE HOLD SACRED ... FOR WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF GOD, AND GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR US FOR EACH DAY OF OUR LIVES SINCE THAT DAY IN THE PAST WHEN JESUS ENTERED IN JERUSALEM UNTIL THAT DAY IN THE FUTURE WHEN WE SHALL BE GATHERED IN AND WITH THAT GREAT MULTITUDE ...

AND THAT PURPOSE IS, I WOULD SUGGEST, WHAT PAT CONCLUDED HER SERMON WITH LAST SUNDAY ... DO YOU REMEMBER ... WHEN SHE WAS TALKING

ABOUT THE SPEAKER AND HER 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE GRADUATION A FEW YEARS AGO ... WHO SAID THAT WE CAN EITHER BE THERMOMETERS OR THERMOSTATS?

JESUS DIDN'T COME TO MEASURE THE TEMPERATURE ... HE KNEW WHAT IT WAS ... HE CAME TO CHANGE THINGS ... BECAUSE HE KNEW WHAT IT COULD BE!

AND YOU AND I ARE THE AGENTS BY WHICH JESUS HAS NO LESS TASK IN MIND THAN ... TO LITERALLY ... CHANGE THE WORLD!

THIS IS A DAY TO REMEMBER ... AND FOR SOME THAT MIGHT MEAN TRACING THE STEPS ... AND A YEAR AGO I WAS THERE ... WALKING DOWN THE ROAD FROM THE MOUNT OF OLIVES TO THE EAST GATE OF JERUSALEM ...IT IS ONE OF THE FEW THINGS IN THE HOLY LAND WHERE A PILGRIM CAN TRULY SING "I WALKED TODAY WHERE JESUS WALKED."

BUT THIS IS ALSO A DAY TO DO MORE THAN TO REMEMBER ... IT IS ALSO A DAY TO LOOK FORWARD ... BECAUSE NO ONE LIVING HAS YET WALKED WHERE JESUS WALKS TODAY ... THOUGH WE HAVE A SENSE THAT THE MULTITUDE IS STARTING TO FORM AS THOSE WHO HAVE DIED BEFORE US KEEP JOINING THE GROUP ... BUT THERE IS PLENTY OF

ROOM FOR YOU AND FOR ME ... AND THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF ROOM FOR ALL WHO FOLLOW AFTER US ...

SO TODAY AND THIS WEEK WE NOT ONLY REMEMBER IT BUT WE ALSO RE-PRESENT IT ... THROUGH THE WEEK CALLED HOLY ... AND ESPECIALLY THROUGH THE THREE DAYS: MAUNDY THURSDAY ... THE TOWEL, THE MEAL, THE PRAYERS, THE BETRAYAL, THE ARREST, THE TRIAL, THE CONFUSION OF THE EVENING.

GOOD FRIDAY ... A DAY WE OFTEN CONFUSE WHEN THE CHURCH LOOKED TO BLAME SOMEONE ... AND TRIED TO ANSWER THE QUESTION "WHO DID THIS TO JESUS" AND WE TRIED TO BLAME SOMEONE ELSE ... WHEN WE FORGOT THAT IT WAS NOT SOMEONE ELSE THAT DID THIS TO JESUS ... BUT IT WAS ME ... AND IT WAS YOU ... AND IT WAS US ...

AND THAT REALLY, THE CROSS IS GOD AT WORK, NOT JESUS ABANDONED. GOD ENTERED INTO HUMAN HISTORY WITH A REDEMPTIVE PURPOSE ... THIS IS WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR YOU.

HOLY SATURDAY ... A DAY OF SILENCE ... LIKE THE MOMENTS OF REFLECTION AFTER YOU'VE HEARD SOMETHING GREAT ... INTERRUPTED BY A GREAT COMMOTION ...

AND THEN WE COME TO NEXT SUNDAY ... TO A MESSAGE THAT IS SO GREAT THAT THE SUNDAY IS REALLY A WEEK OF SUNDAYS ... SO FOR SEVEN WEEKS WE WILL KEEP SAYING THOSE WORDS THAT ARE TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE ... CHRIST IS RISEN ... CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED.

AND THAT IS WHAT EVERY SUNDAY IS ABOUT. SUNDAYS AREN'T ABOUT ME OR MY NEEDS ... THEY AREN'T ABOUT YOU OR YOUR NEEDS ... THEY ARE ALWAYS ABOUT GOD AND GOD'S DEEDS.

IN CHRIST THE SON, GOD THE FATHER HAS SET US FREE ... AND A FEW WEEKS FROM NOW WE WILL BE REMINDED THAT GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT, ENABLES US TO LIVE IN THAT FREEDOM UNTIL THAT DAY WHEN WE SHALL STAND WITH PALMS IN OUR HANDS AND JOIN WITH THE MULTITUDE GREATER THAN ANYONE CAN NUMBER AND SAY:

*Praise and glory  
and wisdom and thanks and honor  
and power and strength  
be to our God for ever and ever.  
Amen!"*