

## **PROCESSION FOR PALM SUNDAY**

*Following the Prayer behind the Ambo, the Clergy proceed to the center of the Soleas where the Palms has been prepared for blessing .After singing the Exaposteilaria, the Blessing of the palms as follows:  
The Priest approaches the place where the palms are and says:*

**Priest:** Let us pray to the Lord

**Choir:**  
Lord have mercy

**Priest:**

**L**ord our God, enthroned above the Cherubim, You have stirred up Your power and send Your only –begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to redeem the World through His Cross, His burial and His Resurrection. When He came to Jerusalem to His voluntary Passion, the people, living in darkness and the shadow of death, taking up the symbol of victory, boughs of tree and palm branches, foretold the Resurrection. Master as we too imitating them, carry Palms and branches on this eve of the feast, watch over us. And as we offer You Hosanna, like those multitudes and the children, safeguard us, so that in hymns and spiritual songs we, too, may worthily witness the life giving Resurrection on the third day, in Christ Jesus our Lord, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holly, good and life giving Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.  
**A**men.

*When finished reading the prayer, the Priest sprinkles the Palms with Holy Water, three times saying:*

**T**hese palms are blessed by the Grace of the Holy Spirit, through the sprinkling with this Holy Water, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Then the palms are given to the people at the entrance door when they exit the Holy Church for Procession. If the procesiosion is to take place in the Church, only the children and clergy are going in procession with Palm leves. As the procession continues:*

**Choir:**  
(#185) Today, the Grace of the Holy Spirit has gathered us together, and we all take up Your Cross and declare: “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosana in the Highest”.

*At the North side of the church petitions are said for the living:*

**Priest:** Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your great mercy, we pray to You, hear us and have mercy.

**People:**  
Lord have mercy. (3)

**Priest:** Further we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

**People:**  
Lord have mercy. (3)

**Priest:** Again we pray for our Archbishop Isaiah, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**People:**

Lord have mercy. (3)

**Priest:** For You are a merciful and loving God, and to You we give glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of ages.

**People:** Amen.

*As the procession continues:*

**Choir:**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

(#187) Today Christ enters the Holy city, seated upon a foal and destroys the evil heritage of the gentiles, which has long been barren.

*At the West side of the church, petitions are said for the community:*

**Priest:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, we pray to You, hear us and have mercy.

**People:**

Lord have mercy. (3)

**Priest:** Further we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, forgiveness and remission of the sins of the servants of God, all pious and Orthodox Christians who dwell in this city, the parishioners, parish council, contributors, and benefactors of this holy church.

**People:**

Lord have mercy. (3)

**Priest:** Further we pray for those who bear offerings, those who do good works, in this holy and venerable church, those who labor, those who sing, and all here present who await Your great and abundant mercy.

**People:**

Lord have mercy. (3)

**Priest:** For you are a merciful and loving God, and to You we give glory, to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of ages.

**People:** Amen.

*As the procession continues:*

**Choir:**

(#185-English) Today, the Grace of the Holy Spirit has gathered us together, and we all take up Your Cross and declare: "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosana in the Highest".

*At the South side of the church, petitions are said for those who have reposed in the faith:*

**Priest:** Have mercy upon us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray to You, hear us and have mercy.

**People:**

Lord have mercy. (3)

**Priest:** Further we pray for the blessed memory and eternal repose of Your departed servants: emperors, patriarchs, hierarchs, priests, hieromonks, deacons, monks, nuns, and all departed faithful and Orthodox Christians here and everywhere who have been laid to pious rest: our fathers, forefathers, parents, brothers, sisters, spouses, children, relatives, and friends.

**People:**

May their memory be eternal. (3)

**Priest:** For You are the resurrection, the life, and the repose of Your departed servants, Christ our God, and to You we give glory, with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of ages.

**People:** Amen.

*As the procession continues:*

**Choir:**

Now and always, and forever and ever. Amen.

(#187) Today Christ enters the Holy city, seated upon a foal and destroys the evil heritage of the gentiles, which has long been barren.

*At the East side of the church (Entrance or front of the Altar), petitions are said for the world:*

**Priest:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, we pray to You, hear us and have mercy.

**People:**

Lord have mercy. (3)

**Priest:** Again we pray for our country, our President, all civil authorities and those in public service.

**People:**

Lord have mercy. (3)

**Priest:** Further we pray for the protection of this holy church, this city, and every city and town from violence and pestilence, famine and earthquake, flood and fire, from the sword and enemy invasion, civil strife, and sudden death; that our good and loving God will be merciful and gracious and open to our entreaties, to turn back all violence and evil that arises against us, and deliver us from His impending righteous chastisement and be merciful to us.

**People:**

Lord have mercy. (3)

**Priest:** Further we pray that the Lord our God will hear the voice of the prayer of us sinners and will have mercy on us.

**People:**

Lord have mercy. (3)

**Priest:** Hear us, O God, our Redeemer, the hope of all, at the ends of the earth or far away at sea, and show mercy; show mercy, O Master, towards our sins and have mercy on us. For You are a merciful and loving God, and to You we give glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of ages.

*People enter the Holy Church, or are waiting for dismissal prayers singing:*

**Choir:**

**(#185)** Today, the Grace of the Holy Spirit has gathered us together, and we all take up Your Cross and declare: "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosana in the Highest".