



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
DIOCESE OF
HONOLULU



WHY IS THE DAY CALLED PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF CHRIST?

On this Sunday, we prepare for the mysteries that we will contemplate during Holy Week or the Paschal Triduum. The readings reveal how each event of the Passion of Christ had been announced by the prophets in the Scriptures and by Christ himself, thus confirming that he was the One “who was to come.”



WHY HAVE A PROCESSION OF SONG WHILE HOLDING PALM BRANCHES?

Palms were symbols of life among the nomadic tribes, who, when crossing the desert, rejoiced at seeing the palm tree as it indicated an oasis with life-giving water was near. Palms have long been a sign of victory, success and glory.

Holding blessed palms, we

re-enact the crowd who greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. "The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying: 'Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest.'" (Matthew 21:9)

WHAT, THEN, IS THE CONNECTION TO CHRIST'S PASSION?

While still holding our palms during the Liturgy of the Word, we participate in the narrative of Christ's passion and the horror of His suffering given freely for our salvation. We believe that Christ's true victory comes from the cross.

WHAT FOLLOWS PALM SUNDAY?

The Church enters into the solemnity of Holy Week. The Easter Triduum – from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday – is chronologically three days, but is liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery.

The single celebration of the Triduum marks the end of the Lenten season, and leads to the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at the Easter Vigil. We know that sorrow will turn to great joy in the glory of His resurrection. Good has triumphed over evil and life has triumphed over death.

PALM SUNDAY READINGS

The readings and reflection for the day are available at www.usccb.org/readings





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