

A photograph of several long, green palm fronds lying horizontally across a rough, textured stone surface. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the stone and the vibrant green of the leaves. The fronds are slightly out of focus, creating a sense of depth.

*Hosanna*  
**Palm Sunday**

*Blessing of the Palms*



*Dear friends in Christ,* during Lent we have been preparing for our Lord's arrival. On this day our Jesus entered into the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph. The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise, but the path before him led to self giving, suffering and death.



Today we greet Jesus as our King, although we know His crown is made of thorns and His throne a wooden cross. We follow Him this week from the shouts of Hosanna to the glory of the resurrection by the dark road of suffering and death, knowing that as we are united with him in his suffering on the cross we also share with him in the resurrection.



Almighty and Loving God, it is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through Christ Jesus our Savior. The Hebrews acclaimed Jesus as the Messiah and King with palm branches in their hands, crying "Hosanna in the highest". We ask You, O Lord, to bless these branches and make them holy.



May we also, carrying them forth from this place be blessed as we share our "Hosanna" and "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." May we continue to proclaim Jesus as our Messiah and King and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life. Amen.