

The Liturgy of Palm Sunday, unusually, has two Gospel readings: the Gospel of the Lord's Entry into Jerusalem, and the Gospel of the Lord's Passion and Death. The first Gospel is accompanied by the blessing of palm branches with which we process joyfully into Church singing '*Hosanna to the Son of David!*' The second involves us shouting with the fickle crowds of Jerusalem, '*Crucify Him! Crucify Him!*' We move from jubilation to the horror of the Cross, reflecting the first Holy Week.

Folding our palm branches/leaves/fronds into the form of a Palm Cross gives us an opportunity to reflect on this very human mystery in our own lives. At times we greet Jesus with joy and acclaim Him as our Lord. At others, falling into sin, we deny Him. For these sins Christ died for us, bearing the punishment and weight of them on His Cross. And then, as we contemplate the Palm Cross we have made, we hear those divine words of love: '*Father, forgive them!*' At Easter, we share in the joy of the freedom this love has brought—the freedom revealed in the Resurrection of Jesus.

Palm Leaf Cross Directions

Supplies: One palm leaf strip about 24-26" in length, 1/2" in width, tapering to the end.

