

# Pontifical Palm Sunday

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## CHAPTER

# 1

## PALM SUNDAY

### PREPARATION

#### I. At the high altar:

1. Crucifix covered in a violet veil, six candles of bleached<sup>1</sup> wax, lighted.
2. Palm branches between the candlesticks.
3. Violet antependium.

#### II. On a special credence are the palms, covered with a violet cloth. This credence table is placed behind and to the gospel side<sup>2</sup> of the faldstool.

#### III. On the credence table:

1. Broad stole for the deacon.
2. Violet ribbon to fasten the palm on the processional cross.

#### IV. In the sacristy:

1. Violet vestments, with a cope for the Bishop instead of a chasuble.
2. Three violet stoles and maniples with cinctures, albs and amices for the chanters of the Passion.
3. Books for the chanters of the Passion.
4. Violet folded chasuble with cinctuers, alb

and amice for the (subdeacon) cross-bearer.

### BLESSING OF PALMS.

**1.** The procession enters as usual, but the bishop retains the miter and crosier and proceeds to the faldstool immediately after genuflecting, where he sits. The violet cover of the psalms is removed by an acolyte. Book and candle bearers come before the bishop, who reads the aniphon *Hosanna filio David*.

**2.** Deacon removes the miter, bishop rises and sings *Dominus vobiscum* and the oration *Deus, quim diligere* in the ferial time. Meanwhile the subdeacon goes to the credence, removes his folded chasuble. The bishop then sits and receives the miter from the deacon.

**3.** With the usual reverences, the subdeacon goes to the usual place where the Epistle is sung and sings the Lesson. Afterwards he kisses the bishop's hand and puts on his folded chasuble. When the subdeacon leaves the bishop the book and candle bearers kneel before the bishop and he reads the Lesson, Gradual and Gospel. The choir sings the Gradual.

**4.** The deacon takes off the folded chasuble at the sedilia, puts on the broad stole and brings the Book of Gospels to the altar. He kisses the bishop's ring, says the *Munda cor* and sings the Gospel, all the cere-

<sup>1</sup>Rev. Joseph Wuest. *Matters Liturgical. Collectio Rerum Liturgicarum*. Rev. by Rev. William T. Barry. Trans. by Rev. Thos. W. Mullaney. 10th ed. New York and Cincinnati: Fredrick Pustet Company, Inc., 1947, 154 d, p. 258.

<sup>2</sup>An ordinary performing this ceremony would have the table to his left, between the altar and his throne; Rt. Rev. Aurelius Stehle. *Manual of Episcopal Ceremonies*. 4th ed. Latrobe, Pa.: The Archabbey Press, 1948, footnote 2, p. 166. a priest would have the palms either on the in the center before the altar or on the floor to the epistle side Rev. Laurence J. O'Connell. *Holy Week in Large and Small Churches*. Milwaukee: The Bruce Publishing Company, 1947, footnote 5, p. 11. of the altar. The exact position of the palms should be dictated by whatever is more convenient.

monies prescribed for a Solemn Pontifical Mass being observed.

5. The deacon and subdeacon return to the sedilia and remove maniples, and the deacon resumes the folded chasuble.

6. After the assistant priest has incensed the bishop, the book and candle bearers come to the throne, and the deacon removes the miter. The bishop rises and with joined hands sings *Dominus vobiscum*, the oration *Auge fidem*, and *manibus junctis* the Preface. The choir sings the *Sanctus* in the ferial tone and the bishop recites it with his assistants. He sings *Dominus vobiscum* and (*manibus junctis*) the five prayers from the Missal.

7. At the oration *Benedic, quæsumus Domine*, the thurifer and the acolyte with the aspersorium come to the right of the faldstool. After the prayer the bishop, standing<sup>3</sup>, imposes incense with the usual blessing, and sprinkles and incenses the palms. He then sings *Dominus vobiscum* and the oration *Deus, qui Filium* in the ferial tone.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF PALMS.

8. The Bishop sits and receives his gold miter. The bishop receives a palm from the *dignior* of the clergy (assistant priest), who kisses the palm and then the hand of the bishop. The bishop hands and palm to the deacon, who receives it with the prescribed reverence. The linen gremiale is imposed. The *dignior* and the clergy, according to rank, receive palms.<sup>4</sup> Meanwhile the choir sings *Pueri Hebræorum*. After the distribution, the bishop washes his hands and the linen gremiale is removed. A priest vested in violet stole distributes palms to the people.

9. Acolytes come to either side of the faldstool and stand with their candlesticks. Miter removed, the bishop rises, and sings *Dominus vobiscum* and the last oration *Omnípotens sempitérne Deus* from the missal, held by the book-bearer. The bishop sits, receives the miter imposes incense and receives his palm.

#### PROCESSION

10. The subdeacon takes the processional cross from the cross-bearer and all line up for the procession, carrying palms in their outside hands. The bishop, deacon and assisting priest stand at the foot of the altar, MC1 signals all to genuflect and the church bells are pealed until the liturgical procession has exited the church. The chanters sing all or some of the antiphons in the Missal, according to the length of the

procession. On the return about four of the chanters enter the church and close the door.

11. The thurifer remains outside and stands to the right if AC1. The cross-bearer stands between the acolytes and turns the crucifix towards the people<sup>5</sup>. The clergy separate into two divisions and form a circle with the bishop in the middle and all face the church. The chanters within the church turn toward the door and sing *Glória laus* which the others outside the church repeat. The verses are sung in the same alternating manner, and either all or some of the verses are sung.

12. When the chanters have finished the subdeacon turns the crucifix and with the base of the cross knocks on the door, which is opened immediately. The procession enters the church and *Ingrédiēte Dómino* is sung by the chanters.

13. The bishop genuflects at the center, inline with the faldstool, and goes to the faldstool with his ministers. The cope is removed and the bishop vests in chasuble. Once the subdeacon has returned all three go to the foot of the altar and Mass begins.

#### DIFFERENCES IN THE MASS.

14. When the subdeacon sings *Ut in nómine Jesu... inférnórum*, all kneel in their places. The bishop retains his miter and kneels before the faldstool.

15. After the subdeacon has kissed the bishop's hand and received the blessing, the bishop reads the Epistle, the Gradual, the Tract to the Passion exclusive.<sup>6</sup> Meanwhile, MC2 puts the missal upon the altar at the epistle side, opened to the Passion.

#### READING OF THE PASSION.

16. Once the bishop has finished the Tract he receives the crosier. The bishop stands and with his ministers goes to the foot of the altar. Miter and crosier away, the bishop and his ministers reverence the cross, ascend and go to the epistle corner, where the bishop reads the Passion up to the *Altera autem die*. At *Emísit spíritum* all kneel at their places. When the bishop is about to begin the Passion, MC2 signals all to take up their palms.

17. Upon completing the Passion the bishop goes to the faldstool, receives the miter, and says the *Munda cor meum*. Meanwhile MC2 gives the Book of Gospels to the subdeacon, who kneels before the bishop as before. The bishop reads the *Altera autem die*.

<sup>3</sup>Martinucci says that he can sit.

<sup>4</sup>The manner of receiving the palm is to kiss first the palm and then the hand (ring) of the one presenting the palm.

<sup>5</sup>Stehle, *Manual of Episcopal Ceremonies*, 147, p. 170.

<sup>6</sup>S.R.D. n. 3059, ad III.

18. The Gospel movement is as usual, but with the following differences. The deacon removes his folded chasuble and puts on the broad stole before receiving the Book of Gospels. The acolytes assist without candles, but have their hands folded. The bishop does not hold the crosier but his palm.

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

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