

Before you begin . . .

This devotional has been created for you to listen and read, thus fully experiencing the richness of chant throughout Lent—first, engaging with the sound, and second, engaging with the text.

We’ve included various features to help you navigate the material effectively. There are prompts on each page to either “Scan” or “Listen.” Scanning each QR code allows for a complimentary and easy connection to an audio recording of a particular chant. We want you to be absorbed by the sound.

- ❧ One chant is provided for Ash Wednesday and each of the three days that lead to the first Sunday of Lent.
- ❧ Beginning that first Sunday, one chant is provided for each Sunday of Lent, allowing one chant to carry the theme of meditation for Weeks 1 through 5. On weekdays, the reader should refer to that week’s chant through the QR code provided on that day.
- ❧ One chant is provided for each day of Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday and ending on Easter Sunday.
- ❧ One chant appears for Easter Monday and serves as the theme for the rest of Easter Week.

We hope this will open new doors on your faith journey and be an enlivening experience for you during these days of Lent and Easter.

Palm Sunday: Sunday of the Passion

Ant.
7.
H OSÁNNA * fi-li- o Da-vid : bene-dí-ctus qui ve-
nit in nó-mi-ne Dómi-ni. Rex Is- ra- ěl : Ho-sáнна
in excél-sis.



[Click Here to Listen](#)
to "Hosanna"

Hosanna

ENGLISH TRANSLATION:

Hosanna to the son of David.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

He is the King of Israel:

Hosanna in the highest.

Palm Sunday: Sunday of the Passion

READ MATTHEW 21:1–11

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

—Matthew 21:9

Today’s antiphon—the traditional procession antiphon for Palm Sunday—sounds a clear tone of triumph and solemnity. The flowing and uplifting movement of the chant itself expresses the mood of celebration, and the text, taken directly from the Gospel accounts, is a greeting filled with joy and hope (see also Ps. 118:19–26, from which this text is taken). It is addressed to the Son of David, heir to the throne, the King of Israel.

But, what kind of king is this? As he makes his way into the city, he is cheered by the crowd and, as would have been done for Israel’s kings of old, his path is spontaneously paved with palms, branches, and even clothing. But he is neither standing in a chariot nor mounted upon a warrior steed. He is riding on a donkey, a humble beast of burden. Anyone who knew the Scriptures, knew that this was a fulfillment of Zechariah’s prophetic oracle: *See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey* (Zech. 9:9). He is King, yes, but of what kingdom?

Palm Sunday processions are taking place all across the world today, including Jerusalem. Palm branches are being waved in commemoration of the Triumphal Entry, and in many cases this antiphon is being sung. And everywhere, in some way or another, this acclamation is being made: *Hosanna—God save!* What kind of King is hailed with such words?

Spend a few moments today envisioning yourself in the crowd in Jerusalem that day. What is it you are hoping for?

