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## PASSION SUNDAY: PLACING OF BRANCHES IN THE HOME

The branches that are blessed and brought home on Passion (Palm) Sunday are placed near the cross and Scriptures. They remind us that Lent is the slow coming of spring to the earth, the renewal of life. They are like the great “Hosanna” with which we hail the crucified and risen Lord.

After dinner or at another time on Palm Sunday, the household gathers where the palms have been placed with the cross and Scriptures.

*All make the sign of the cross. The leader begins:*

Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

*All respond:*

Hosanna in the highest!

*The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the prayer:*

We have come to the last days of Lent. Today we heard the reading of the Passion. That story will remain with us as we leave Lent behind on Holy Thursday and enter into the Three Days when we celebrate the mystery of Christ passing through suffering and death to life at God's right hand.

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*Then the Scripture is read:*

Listen to the words of the apostle Paul to the Corinthians:

[We are] always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being given up to death for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

2 Corinthians 4:10-11

*The reader concludes:*

The Word of the Lord.

*All respond:*

Thanks be to God.

*After a time of silence, members of the household join in prayers of intercession, or the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus may be prayed. After the Lord's Prayer, the leader begins:*

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, God of Israel,  
so rich in love and mercy.  
Let these branches every remind us of Christ's triumph.  
May we who bear them rejoice in his cross  
and sing your praise for ever and ever.  
R/. Amen.

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CATHOLIC HOUSEHOLD BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS

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*Together all take the palms to the place where they will be kept through the coming year. An appropriate hymn may be sung.*

*The leader says:*

Let us bless the Lord.

*All respond, making the sign of the cross:*

Thanks be to God.

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