

PALM SUNDAY

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PART ONE - Preparation

I. At the High Altar:

- A. The tabernacle is veiled in red.¹
- B. The cross is veiled in violet.
- C. At the epistle corner of the mensa is the missal, or O.H.S., on its stand open to the blessing of the palms.
- D. The altar may be adorned with palms or other shrubs.

II. In Plano: On the epistle side of the altar is a table covered with a linen cloth. On it the palms to be blessed covered with a red veil.

III. At the Credence:

- A. Credence one: All that is necessary for Solemn Mass covered with a violet veil.
- B. Credence two:
 1. The aspergillum and stoup.
 2. An ewer of water, basin, soap, and towel.
 3. The altar-cards.

IV. At the Sedilia: Violet Solemn Mass vestments for the sacred ministers.

V. On the Gospel side of the Sanctuary:

- A. Three unveiled lecterns--facing north--for the singing of the Passion.
- B. The processional cross, veiled in violet is in its base. A ribbon is attached to the front of the veil with which a palm will be fixed to the cross for the procession.

VI. In the Sacristy:

- A. Gospel side: Vestments for the subdeacon-crossbearer, to wit an amice, alb, cincture, and red tunicle.
- B. Back sacristy:
 1. **Celebrant**-Red cope and stole, amice, alb, white cincture.
 2. **Deacon**-Red dalmatic and stole, etc.
 3. **Subdeacon**-Red tunicle, etc.
 - N.B.** Maniples are not worn until Mass.
 4. Lighted thurible and boat.
 5. Vestments for the deacons of the Passion, to wit: amices, albs, cinctures, violet stoles, and book for the singing of the Passion.

PART TWO - The Ceremony

I. The Blessing of Palms:

A. The procession moves to the sanctuary in the usual order, McII walking to the thurifer's right. The thurifer carries the thurible and boat.

1. This is changed to violet by a sacristan during the procession.

B. The Asperges is omitted.

C. Upon genuflecting the sacred ministers ascend to the altar. The celebrant kisses the altar and goes to the book at the epistle side, the deacon standing to his right, the subdeacon to his left.

D. Meanwhile, McI removes the red veil from the palms giving it to AcI who puts it aside.

E. Meantime the choir sings the antiphon Hosanna.

F. McII stands near the table with the aspergilium and stoup.

G. The celebrant, with hands joined, sings the prayer of blessing. The deacon holds back the cope as the celebrant makes the sign of the cross.

H. Thereafter incense is imposed.

I. The celebrant then sprinkles the palms in silence.

J. McII may now return the aspergilium and stoup to credence two.

K. The celebrant then incenses the palms with three simple swings.

II. The Distribution of Palms:

A. McI puts aside palms for the celebrant, deacon, and subdeacon.

B. The celebrant, standing in the middle of the predella with the deacon to his right and the subdeacon to his left, distributes the palms in the usual manner to the clergy and servers.

C. The faithful receive palms at the communion rail.

D. After the distribution the celebrant washes his hands in plano on the epistle side, assisted by the acolytes.

IV. The Gospel:

A. The celebrant returns to the foot of the altar where he reverences with the deacon and subdeacon. He ascends and kisses the altar.

B. Meanwhile, the deacon receives the evangelarium from McII. He and the subdeacon then ascend. The deacon places the book on the altar.

C. Incense is imposed, and the Gospel movement is carried out in the usual manner. This is conducted by McII.

D. After the Gospel the subdeacon takes the book to the celebrant who kisses it saying Per evangelica dicta, etc.

E. The celebrant is not incensed, but goes at once to the middle of the predella where he is joined by the deacon and subdeacon.

V. The Procession:

A. Incense is imposed.

B. The procession is now formed.

C. At the signal of McI, the deacon--facing towards the nave--sings Procedamus in pace. The ministers descend, receive their palms from McI, and all genuflect. The order of the procession is as in the diagram below:

D. The procession leaves the church, turning to the right and proceeds for some distance. The church doors are then closed.

N.B. During the procession a sacristan prepares the altar for Mass.

E. Upon returning to the church all group themselves as in the diagram below:

F. Two or more cantors remained inside during the procession. When the procession is in place before the church doors the cantors inside facing the doors sing the first verse of the hymn Gloria, laus et honor.

G. The celebrant and those without repeat the same verse.

H. The cantors within sing the following verses (they may sing all of them or some only).

I. Those without after each verse repeat the Gloria, laus et honor.

J. When all is sung the subdeacon-crossbearer strikes the door three times with the lower end of the processional cross. The door is opened by those within.

K. The procession enters singing Ingrediente Domino.

N.B. If it is impossible that the procession to outside, the ceremony must be performed at the entrance to the sanctuary. If there are gates to the sanctuary, they are shut. If not, the subdeacon-crossbearer strikes the floor with the base of the cross. The opening of the door must be left to pious imagination.

L. If birettas are worn, those wearing them must uncover during the singing of Gloria, laus.

M. Upon entering the sanctuary the thurifer genuflects and goes to his place. The acolytes go to the credence and put down their candles. The subdeacon-crossbearer puts the cross in its base and goes to the sacristy to invest. He then stands at his place in the sanctuary vested in surplice.

N. The sacred ministers give up their palms, and ascend to the predella. The celebrant kisses the altar, and the three go to the book as at the beginning.

O. After the final prayer the ministers go per breviorum to the sedilia where they change from the red vestments to the violet ones.

VI. The Mass:

- A. The prayers at the foot of the altar are omitted.
- B. The celebrant remains at the book while the subdeacon sings the epistle. He and the deacon genuflect towards the book when the subdeacon sings ut in nomine Jesu, etc.
- C. McI assists the subdeacon with the epistle.
- D. During the epistle McII retires to the sacristy to assist the deacons of the Passion.

VII. The Passion:

A. When the chanting of the tract is finished McII leads out the deacons--each carrying a book with the opening to the left--in this order: the Chronista, followed by the Synagoga to the left, and the Christus.

B. The celebrant and sacred ministers stand on the predella.

C. The deacons come to the foot of the altar: The Chronista in the center, the Synagoga to the left, and the Christus to the right. They genuflect, kneel, and bowed recite Munda cor meum in a low tone. Then-- in the medium tone--they ask the blessing, saying Jube domne benedicere.

D. The celebrant, facing the deacons, blesses them, in the medium voice (Dominus sit in cordibus vestris, etc.).

E. They answer Amen, rise, genuflect and go to the lecterns on the gospel side, the Synagoga leading.

F. At the lecterns the Chronista stands in the middle with the Synagoga to his left and the Christus to his right. McII is at hand.

G. The deacons sign neither the books nor themselves, but begin singing immediately.

H. The celebrant stands at the epistle side of the predella facing the deacons. The deacon stands on the step to the celebrant's left, and the subdeacon stands in plano to the deacon's left.

I. After the words emissit spiritum the deacons kneel facing the lecterns. All rise on a signal from McI.

J. After the Passion the deacons are led before the altar by McII. They genuflect and retire to the sacristy.

K. The celebrant does not kiss the book at the end of the Passion; nor is Laus tibi Christe said.

VIII. The Continuation of Mass--The rest of Mass is as usual except that there is no last Gospel.

PART THREE - Rules for Choir

I. The Distribution of Palms:

- A. The bishop receives his palm standing.
- B. The clergy receive the palms two by two following the same procedure as when they receive communion.

II. The Procession:

- A. The clergy walk two by two behind the acolytes carrying their palms in the outside hand.
- B. Upon returning to the church all group themselves as in the diagram below:

C. The choir alternates the hymn Gloria laus et honor with the cantors.

D. Upon reentering the church the members of the clergy genuflect, bow to each other, and reassume their places in choir.

III. The Epistle - at the words ut in nomine Jesu those sitting remain seated and bow their heads. Those standing genuflect.

IV. The Passion - After the words emisit spiritum the choir will kneel. Upon a signal from the MC all will rise.

V. N.B. The last Gospel is omitted.

PART FOUR - Rules for Ushers

I. N.B. The procession with the palms will go through the circular court before the church and down the driveway connected to that court. Hence, there can be no cars parked in the court or the driveway.

II. The Distribution of Palms - After the ministers enter the church to bless the palms the prie-dieus are put in place for the faithful. These are removed after they have received their palms.

III. The Procession:

A. After the Gospel the doors must be opened for the procession.

B. After the procession exits the church the church doors are closed. They are reopened after the singing of the Gloria laus.