

# PALM SUNDAY

*The Rev. Canon John Peterson*

*"...the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice...saying, Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest."  
(Luke 19:37-38)*

If we were in Jerusalem today there is no question where we would be at 2:30 this afternoon. We and four or five thousand other faithful would be joining the Latin Patriarch in Beth Phage on the Mount of Olives for the Palm Sunday procession. When the procession begins at Beth Phage, we will walk past the Princess Basma Center before we start our walk down the Mount of Olives to St. Anne's Church in the Old City. During the procession all of us would be shouting, "Hosanna, Blessed is the King who comes in the Name of the Lord".

I'm preaching on Palm Sunday. How can I connect the Gospel lesson with the ministry of the Jerusalem Princess Basma Center?





Walking past the Princess Basma Center is always a good reminder for those of us who are waving the olive branches and chanting today "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord". On that first Palm Sunday the people who were shouting "Blessed is the King" were the disenfranchised, the day laborers, the poor, the sick and the infirm. They were the ones who wanted Jesus as their King. The crowd who shouted at Jesus' trial on Good Friday was made up of Pontius Pilate and the Roman political authority, and the Temple's hierarchy of high priests.

As we go through this Holy Week we need to ask ourselves, with which "crowd" am I going to associate, the Palm Sunday "crowd" or the Good Friday "crowd"? When we pass the Princess Basma Center on Palm Sunday we are challenged. There is no question which crowd Jesus would challenge us to join this Holy Week.

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