

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Before the reforms following the Second Vatican Council, **Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday** were two separate Sundays in the Roman liturgical calendar.

Before Vatican II

1. Passion Sunday

- Celebrated on the **5th Sunday of Lent**.
- It marked the beginning of **Passiontide**, a more intense period of Lent focused on Christ's suffering.
- In many churches, crosses and statues were veiled beginning that day.
- The Gospel was usually taken from **John 8:46–59** (Jesus' confrontation in the Temple).

2. Palm Sunday

- Celebrated on the **6th Sunday of Lent**, the Sunday immediately before Easter.
- The liturgy included the **blessing and procession of palms** commemorating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.
- The **Passion of Christ** was also proclaimed at Mass (traditionally from **Matthew** in the pre-1969 missal).

After the Liturgical Reform (1969)

Following the Council, the Church revised the calendar and the structure of the liturgy:

- The **5th Sunday of Lent** kept its place, but the title "**Passion Sunday**" was removed.
- The final Sunday of Lent became "**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.**"

This reform intentionally **combined the themes** so that the same liturgy includes:

- the **triumphal entry into Jerusalem** at the beginning of Mass, and
- the **proclamation of the Passion** during the Liturgy of the Word.

The pastoral reason was simple: many Catholics attend **only one Mass during Holy Week**, so the Church wanted to ensure that everyone would hear the full proclamation of Christ's Passion before Easter.

SUMMARY:

Before Vatican II

Passion Sunday

Palm Sunday

When

5th Sunday of Lent

6th Sunday of Lent

Focus

Beginning of Passiontide

Palms procession + Passion Gospel

After Vatican II

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

When

Final Sunday of Lent

Focus

Entry into Jerusalem **and** the Passion

With the reforms of Vatican II, the Church intentionally places both "**Hosanna**" and the **Passion in the** same liturgy so the faithful experience the full movement toward Easter.