**Palm Sunday**

**Easter around the world: Bulgaria – throw, rather than hide, eggs; Italy – use olive, not palm branches, on Palm Sunday; Ireland – dance in streets on Easter Sunday; Czech Republic – serve plum brandy on Easter Monday; Egypt -- Easter service Saturday night until 4 a.m. Sunday. *(***[***www.easterbunnys.net***](http://www.easterbunnys.net/)***)***

**One Sunday our priest announced he was passing out miniature crosses made of palm leaves. “Put this cross in the room where your family argues most,” he advised. “When you look at it, the cross will remind you that God is watching.” As I was leaving church, the woman in front of me walked up to the priest, shook his hand, and said, “I’ll take five.” (Aaron Rupp, in Reader’s Digest)**

**Plants, like animals, can exist as male and female -- a fact detected in the late sixteenth century by the Italian botanist Prospero Alpini when he studied the date palm. It was sexual differences among plants that Carolus Linnaeus used a century and a half later as the basis for his classification of the plant kingdom. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts)**

**It's been around for a while in many versions, but I still get a kick out of Ben Haden's story of a group of four-year-olds who were gathered in a Sunday School class in Chattanooga. The teacher looked at the class and asked this question: “Does anyone know what today is?" A little four-year-old girl held up her hand and said, “Yes, today is Palm Sunday."  The teacher exclaimed, “That's fantastic, that's wonderful. Now, does anyone know what next Sunday is?” The same little girl held up her hand and said, “Yes, next Sunday is Easter Sunday." Once again the teacher said, “That's fantastic. Now, does anyone know what makes next Sunday Easter?” The same little girl responded and said, “Yes, next Sunday is Easter because Jesus rose from the grave," and before the teacher could congratulate her, she kept on talking and said, “but if he sees his shadow . . . he has to go back in for seven weeks.” *(Duncan/Akers, in Amusing Grace)***

**My six-year-old son came home from our Palm Sunday service proudly carrying his palm. My husband and I quizzed him on his Sunday School lesson for the day. He told us enthusiastically, “Jesus came to Jerusalem on a donkey. And the happy people waved their palm branches and sang, ‘Ho, Suzanna.’” *(Mary Berntson, in The Lutheran)***

**It was Palm Sunday, and the mother’s three-year-old son had to stay home from church and Sunday school with strep throat. When the rest of the family returned home carrying palm branches, the little boy asked what they were for. His mother explained, “People hold them over Jesus’ head as He walked by.” “Wouldn’t you know it,” the boy fumed. “The one Sunday I don’t go, and Jesus shows up.” (Pulpit Helps)**

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