

A RECIPE from ByziMom.com

Willow Treats



Lazarus was a very well-known man in Bethany, and there must have been many guests at the funeral and many mourners with his sisters at the cemetery garden when Jesus came there to perform this miracle. What a spectacle it must have been! How often does someone see a man, especially one who had been dead for four days, wake up and come back to life? I'm sure they all RAN home (at top speed...I know I would if I saw someone come out of a tomb!) And I'm sure they told absolutely everyone they met about what Jesus had just done. People were so impressed by this miracle, that they all resolved that Jesus should be their king. They would meet Him as He entered the city for Passover! They began setting to work, organizing their friends to line the streets to meet Him, and collecting palm branches and olive branches to wave at Him.

We will go to Divine Liturgy and hear the Gospel account of the Entrance into Jerusalem. We will be given blessed palms and willow branches to carry and wave during the

Liturgy in celebration of the feast! We will march in procession with them in honor of those who marched along with Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem that day! Did you know that our ancestors in the Carpathian Mountains of Eastern Europe lived in a climate that is much colder than it was in Jerusalem? There are no palm trees there, nor olive trees for that matter. At this time of the year, spring is only just starting to show any signs at all and the only living thing outdoors may be a pussywillow tree that is just starting to flower. This is why our people bless and carry willow branches, and not palms on Palm Sunday.

Here are some pussy-willows that you can eat. They are easy and fun to make. You can make up a bunch for your family, or even double the recipe and make a whole basket of them to share!

Ingredients

- A container of pretzel rods
- A large bag of chocolate chips, melted and spooned into a tall jar
- A bag of mini marshmallows (White ones are best, but the multi-colored ones are a pretty alternative)

Preparation

Melt the chocolate and pour or spoon it into a tall jar.

Dip each pretzel rod into the chocolate, leaving the end for holding, and set it onto a baking tray that has been lined with parchment, or wax paper.

Arrange the mini-marshmallows by setting them in the chocolate to look like the catkins of a pussy-willow.

Allow them to dry and set completely.

Tip

Once they are completely dry, you can arrange them in a nice basket to take to Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday and share with your friends afterward!