

Palm/Passion Sunday
March 20, 2016
Faith Lutheran Church



The Cry of The Whole Congregation

A Palm/Passion Sunday Narrative Drama
by Walter Wangerin, Jr.

“The following drama takes place on the Sunday of the Passion. Its purpose is to allow us as worshipers suddenly to discover (pitifully, intensely, truly to discover) our own rootedness in the drama which is Christ's, so that the Passion Story may no longer be mere story for observance, analysis, learning or history; so that it embraces us, names us and becomes our own story indeed: the shape of our being.

Therefore, all senses are enlisted: sight, sound, the rhythm of both, music and motion, and the feel of each worshiper's voice in our throat and our emotions in our breasts. This drama has no audience. All are actors. None objective. All subjective, or else the objects of the driving love of God.”

Welcome to the Palm/Passion Sunday White Breakfast:

Please gather in the entrance (if you are unable to stand please be seated)

Welcome & Greeting Pastor Anne

1. THE ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

Narrator: When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, ‘Go into the village opposite. There you will find tied a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, “Why are you untying it?” just say this: “The Lord needs it.” So those who were sent, departed and found it as he had told them.

People: **As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them “Why are you untying the colt?”**

Peter: They said, “The Lord has need of it.” Then they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their garments on the colt, they set Jesus upon it.

Narrator: As he rode along, the people spread their cloaks on the road. As he was drawing near, at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and to praise God with aloud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen.

Processional Song “Pave The Way”

Jesus is coming, pave the way with branches;
Jesus is coming, Ho-sa-nah.
Jesus is coming pave the way with branches
Jesus is coming, Ho-sa-nah.

Ho-sa-nah. Jesus is coming
Ho-sa-nah.to the Prince of Peace.
Ho-sa-nah. Jesus is coming
Ho-sa-nah.to the Prince of Peace.

(as you are processing, please find a place to sit and be seated)

Pharisee: Some of the Pharisees in the multitude cried to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples! They’re calling you the Christ. Tell them to shut up!”

Narrator: He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent the very stones themselves would cry out”

Narrator: As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, “Would that even today you knew the things that make for peace! But now they are hid from your eyes. Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a bank about you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.’

Praise Song: “All Glory Laud and Honor” ELW 344vs. 1,3,4

REFRAIN: All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

1. You are the king of Israel and David’s royal Son,
Now in the Lord’s name coming, our King and Blessed One. **R**
3. The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. **R**
4. To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. **R**

2. THE PREPARATION OF THE LAST SUPPER

Narrator: Now, the feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people.

Judas: Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

Narrator: Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, ‘Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it.’

People: They asked him, ‘Where do you want us to make preparations for it and what are we to do?’

Narrator: ‘Listen,’ he said to them, ‘when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters and say to the owner of the house, “The Teacher asks you, ‘Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ” He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there.’ So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When the hour had come, he took his place at the table and the disciples with him. He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I shall not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

He took bread and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise he took a cup after supper, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. I tell you that from now on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

Song: “Let us Break Bread Together” ELW 471

1. Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees. **R**

REFRAIN: When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord,
have mercy on me.

2. Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees. **R**

3. Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees. **R**

Narrator: Now behold the hand of him who betrays me is with meat the table. For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!"

People: Then they began to question, "Who, Lord? Who is to betray you? Is it I? Is it I?"

Narrator: He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. Oh, it would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

Judas: Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Is it I, Master?"

Narrator: Jesus said to him, "You have said so."
(A moment of silence as Judas walks away)

Peter: Simon Peter was indignant. "But not I!" he said. And he declared, "Though they all fall away from you, I will never leave you."

Narrator: "Peter, truly I say to you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

Peter: Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will never deny you!"

People: And all of the disciples said the same, over and over again.

3. THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

People: *“Go to Dark Gethsemane”* ELW 347 (vs. 1)

**Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter’s power;
Your redeemer’s conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour;
Turn not from his griefs away; Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.**

Narrator: He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he came to the place he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

People: **Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us, deliver us.**

Narrator: Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, “Father, if thou art willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done.”

People: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come; Your will be done. Your will be done.
Your will be done.**

Narrator: When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, because of grief, and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

People: **Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, even the evil within ourselves.**

Judas: While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss Him.

Narrator: But Jesus said to him, “Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?”

Judas: At once he came up to Jesus and said, ‘Greetings, Rabbi!’ and kissed him.

People: **When the disciples saw what would follow, they said, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?”**

Peter: Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

Narrator: But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him.

People: **Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Narrator: Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, “Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me, But this is your hour and the power of darkness.” Then they seized him.

4. THE JUDGMENT

People: *Go to Dark Gethsemane (vs. 2) ELW 347*

**Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.**

Narrator: Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the High Priest's house.

Peter: Peter followed at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.

People: Then a maid, seeing him sitting in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him."

Peter: But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him."

People: A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, 'You also are one of them.'

Peter: But Peter said, "Man, I am not."

People: An hour later another insisted, saying, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean."

Peter: But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!"

Narrator: At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cockcrowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter.

Peter: Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and he wept bitterly.

People: *"Jesus I Will Ponder Now" ELW 345 (vs.1,2)*

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now on your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see your great dis - tress, an - guish, and af - flic - tion,
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone make me see your pas - sion,
4 Let me view your pain and loss with re - pen - tant griev - ing,



let your Spir - it now en - dow me for med - i - ta - tion.
bonds and blows and wretch - ed - ness and your cru - ci - fix - ion;
but its cause to me make known and its ter - mi - na - tion.
nor pre - pare a - gain your cross by un - ho - ly liv - ing.



Grant that I in love and faith may the im - age cher - ish
make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails, did wound you,
For I al - so and my sin wrought your deep af - flic - tion;
May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Sav - ior,



of your suf - f'ring, pain, and death, that I may not per - ish.
how you died for those, O God, who with thorns had crowned you.
this the shame - ful cause has been of your cru - ci - fix - ion.
that I may in heav'n a - bove sing your praise for - ev - er.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.
Music: JESU KREUZ, LEIDEN UND PEIN, Melchior Vulpinus, 1570–1615

Narrator: Now the men who were holding Jesus mocked him and beat him;
They also blindfolded him and kept asking him:

People: “Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?”

Narrator: They kept heaping many other insults on him and reviling him. When the day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council.

People: They said, **“If you are the Christ, tell us.”**

Narrator: He replied, “If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God-”

People: All of them asked, **“Are you then the Son of God?”**

Narrator: And he said to them, “You say that I am.”

People: Then they said **“Blasphemy! What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips. Blasphemy! Oh, blasphemy!”**

5. DAWN FRIDAY: JESUS BEFORE PILATE

Narrator: Then the whole company of them arose, and brought Jesus before Pontius Pilate.

People: They began to curse him, saying, **“We found this man perverting our nation, and forbidding us to pay taxes to Caesar, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, the King!”**

Pilate: Then Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Narrator: He answered him, "You say so."

Pilate: Then Pilate said to the Chief Priests and the multitudes, "I find no crime in this man."

People: **But they were insistent, saying, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."**

Pilate: When Pilate heard that he was a Galilean, of Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod.

Narrator: Where he was vehemently accused and treated with contempt, mocked, and clothed in an elegant robe; and then sent back again to Pilate.

Pilate: Pilate said to the rulers of the people, "You have brought me this man, a man who was perverting the people; and here I have examined this man in your presence and have not found him guilty of any charges you've brought against him. Neither has Herod for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing deserving death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

People: **But they all cried out together, "Away with this man! Away! Away! Release to us Barabbas."**

Narrator: Barabbas!---a man who had been thrown into prison, for insurrection and for murder.

Pilate: Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them once more.

People: **But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”**

Pilate: Why? What evil has he done? I’ve found no crime in him deserving death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.

People: **But they were urgent, demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified.**

Narrator: And their voices prevailed.

Pilate: So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and handed Jesus over to their will.

6. FRIDAY MORNING: CRUCIFIXION

People: ***“Go to Dark Gethsemane” ELW 347 (vs. 3)***
**Calvary’s mournful mountain climb. There adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time, God’s own sacrifice complete.
“It is finished!” hear him cry. Learn of Jesus Christ to die.**

Narrator: And he handed Jesus over to their will.

All Men: As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

All Women: A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him.

Jesus: But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weepforme, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, thedaysare coming when they will say, “Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.” Then they will begin to say to the mountains, “Fall on us”; and to the hills, “Cover us.” For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?” *(pause)*

Solo: “**Were You There?**”
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when theycrucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Narrator: Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to deathwith him. When they came to the place, which is called the Skull, there they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one onhisleft.

Solo: “Were you there?”
Where you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Where you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble-
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Narrator: Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they know notwhat they do.”

All Women: Forgive us our trespasses.

All Men: And they cast lots to divide his garments.

All Women: Forgive us our trespasses.

All Men: And the people stood by, watching. But the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!

All Women: Forgive us our trespasses.

All Men: The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, ‘If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!’ .

All Women: There was an inscription over him: ‘This is the king of the Jews.’”

All Men: Forgive us our trespasses. Forgive us, O Lord, our trespasses!

Judas: One of the criminals who was hanged with him railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

Peter: But the other rebuked him saying, “Do you not fear God, since we are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.’ Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’

People: **Forgive us our trespasses. Deliver us from evil for Thine is the kingdom.**

Narrator: And Jesus replied

People: **And the power-**

Narrator: “Truly, truly, I say to you”

People: **And the glory –**

Narrator: Today, you will be with me in Paradise.”

People: **Forever and ever. Amen!**

Solo: Were you there?

Were you there when he cried out at the end?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble—

Were you there when he cried out at the end?

Narrator: It was now about noon—and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun’s light failed and the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from the top to the bottom. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit!”

(Silence)

And having said this, he breathed his last. (Pause)

All the crowd had gathered there for this spectacle

People: **And when they saw what had taken place, they returned home beating their breasts.**

All Women: But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

7. LATE FIRDAY AFTERNOON: BURIAL

Solo: “Were you there?”

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Pilate: Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid.

Narrator: It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning.

All Women: The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments-

Narrator: On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

(Silence.)

8. CONFESSION AND PARDON

P: My sisters and brothers, Christ shows us his love by becoming a humble servant. Let us draw near to God and confess our sin in the truth of God's Spirit.

ALL: Most merciful God, we your Church confess that often our spirit has not been that of Christ. Where we have failed to love one another as he loves us, where we have pledged loyalty to him with our lips and then betrayed, deserted, or denied him; forgive us, we pray; and by your spirit make us faithful in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. But Christ suffered and died for us, was raised from the dead and ascended on high for us, and continues to intercede for us. Believe the good news: In the name of Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. **Amen.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

AM: Hearing the call to return to the Lord, let us join the whole people of God in prayer for all who cry out in pain and in hope.

A brief silence.

AM: Be with all who wave palm branches and walk the road to the cross. For the mission of the gospel where your church is forgotten, for disciples wrestling with betrayal, for all who seek the Lord, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

AM: Renew the waters of the earth and restore us to right relationship with all creation. For villages without access to clean water, for cities with an abundance, for flood lands and drought lands, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

AM: End human trafficking in every nation. For children taken from their families, for men and women without hope, for governments and nonprofits seeking resolutions, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

AM: We pray for the world. This week from the Cycle of World Prayer we especially lift up Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. May they live in your peace and protection. Let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

AM: Comfort the afflicted. For those imprisoned, for those waiting on death row, for all overwhelmed by sorrow, and for all who live with disease, chronic pain, and anxiety in this world (*especially*), let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

AM: Enrich the children and youth of our congregation with an abundance of your Spirit. For each child in our community, for parents and guardians, for confirmation mentors and faith formation leaders, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

AM: Bless the ministry of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of Saratoga, our sister congregation in our parish and we lift them up in prayer. Let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

AM: Sustain the weary. For all who mourn, for all who yearn to be with you in paradise, for funeral home staff, for hospital chaplains and grief counselors, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: To you, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and
ever. Amen**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The words of Institution have been read earlier, we will now sing these words.

Communion Song: "I Am the Bread of Life" ELW 485vs 1, 2

(The presiding Pastor will sing the verses, and the congregation the refrain.)

REFRAIN:

**"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
And I will raise you up on the last day."**

DISTRIBUTION OF BREAD

We will each receive a piece of bread. Do not eat it until the pastor tells us.

P: Eat this bread, broken for you, and remember Christ.

All: Amen. Come Lord Jesus (all eat)

Communion Song: "I Am the Bread of Life" ELW 485 vs. 3,4

(The presiding Pastor will sing the verses, and the congregation the refrain.)

REFRAIN:

**"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
And I will raise you up on the last day."**

DISTRIBUTION OF WINE

Each will receive a cup of wine or juice. Do not drink it until pastor indicates.

P: Drink from the Cup of the Covenant. Share his death and his life.

All: Amen. Come Lord Jesus

We drink the wine/juice together.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER THE MEAL

P: Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord,

All: And where I am, there will my servant be also. Oh God, our help and strength, you have satisfied our hunger with your own body and blood. Strengthen our faith, that through the death and resurrection of your Son we may be led to salvation; for he is Lord, now and forever. Amen.

TIME OF SHARING AND INVITATION

Offering

Offering Song "Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart" W&P 41

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong," Let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Invitations & announcements

After this breakfast, we will strip the altar in preparation for the observance of Good Friday. Please join in this sacred action.

Blessing

P: The blessing of God's eternal love, the courage to follow the way of Christ's cross, † and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the broken places of our world, be among you and remain with you forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" ELW 325

1. I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me; all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
2. In my trials, Lord, walk with me; in my trials, Lord, walk with me; when my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
3. When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; when my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

TABLE BLESSING

P: Merciful God, we thank you for food;

All: And remember the hungry.

P: We thank you for health;

All: and remember the sick.

P: We thank you for freedom;

All: and remember the enslaved.

P: We thank you for all the hands who have made this meal possible;

All: And remember the farmers, the workers, the merchants, and the cooks and servers.

P: We thank you for love;

All: And remember those who do not know they are loved. May these remembrances stir us to service That your gifts to us may be used for others. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

WHITE BREAKFAST IS SERVED:

Thanks to all who have contributed to this worship & feast!

ELCA World Hunger's
40 DAYS of Giving

In 2016, ELCA World Hunger is extending an invitation to our congregations:

Lift up the life-changing work of ELCA World Hunger through new levels of giving - spiritually, intellectually and financially - during Lent.

Beginning Sunday, Feb. 7, and extending through the season of Lent, (i.e. for 40 days) congregations across the ELCA will join together to raise \$2 million to benefit the ministries of ELCA World Hunger. Faith Lutheran Church has committed to raise **\$2,000** in donations to help this cause.

FLC Sunday School is utilizing *Heifer.org* to donate animal gifts that help families become self-reliant. And we have set a **goal of collecting \$120** in change to purchase 1 pig. ***We can do it!!!***

Mar 25 Good Friday Service 1:00 p.m.

Mar 27 Easter Sunday Celebration & family egg hunt with great Refreshments 9:30 a.m.
(No Lenten study today)

**2016 is World Hunger Year for the ELCA Campaign:
*God's Work our Hands***

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Mar. 20, 2016

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle—This week
Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

Give thanks for: Those who help to clear landmines. Caregivers for those who have lost limbs. Cambodian Christians who are returning home after years in exile, preaching the gospel and starting new churches. Those who work for peace among communities and inter-religious harmony.

Youth/Children's Sunday School— 8:30 AM, Room 2/7

Adult Bible Study—During Lenten Season bible study will be in the Fireside Room at 10:45 – 11:30 AM

Easter Egg Hunt and Refreshments - Sunday, March 27th, following service
Lord's Pantry deliveries are made every Monday

Financials/Attendance for Mar. 13:

Attendance: 23

Offering: \$820.00

Social Concern of the Month: \$100.00

Heifer.org donations: **100+% of Goal**

Lenten Donations – 40 days of Giving “World Hunger”: \$45.00/Total: \$585.00

OUR GOAL: \$2,000 (We have reached 29% of our goal)

Social Concern(s) of the Month—March

The ELCA World Hunger Campaign

**** Please be sure if you unlock doors that you lock all of them before leaving. It is a security problem. Many doors are being left open and unlocked.****

Those in Service today

Pastor	Pastor Anne Carlson	Narrator	Skip MacAskill
Sub-Organist:	Darryl Parker	Jesus Figure	Nazanine Bain
Ushers:	Bob Balcomb and Les Grundy	Pilate	Bob Balcomb
		Peter	Reginald Swilley
Altar Care:	Linda Perez	Judas	Jim Carlson

Prayer List

Nathan Balcomb/Crall

Sharon Biller

Elizabeth Krc

Marie Hughes

Lira Kingston

Connie Zimmerman

Helen McCrocklin

Harvey and Arlene Wyckoff

Elwailly Family

Anne-LiseHolte

Eva Woodall

Thelma Spaziani

Doris Wacker

*Please let us know the names of those you would like included on the prayer list.

By request, names may be returned to the prayer list.

PICK UP ENVELOPE IN THE NARTHEX IF YOU WISH TO BRING A LILY PLANT FOR EASTER

March 20, 2016

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION / PALM SUNDAY

Blessed Is He!

Today is Palm Sunday, the day we hear again of Christ's ride into Jerusalem on a donkey to the acclaim of what must have seemed like the entire city. "Blessed is the king!" (Luke 19:38), cried men, women, and children, putting their cloaks both on the donkey on which Jesus rode, and on the road before him. The city burst with joy (Luke 19:37) because of the hope Jesus provided for the people. He who raised the dead—the widow of Nain's son (Luke 7:11-16), Jairus's twelve-year-old daughter (Luke 8:40-56), Lazarus (John 11)—what would he do next?

But Palm Sunday is not Easter. There is, in fact, a world of events between this Sunday and next. Joy will come again, joy greater and deeper than any Palm Sunday cry. But first, Jesus will be handed over to the authorities. All who put their cloaks on the road before him will rip them from under his feet. Jesus will stand alone, abandoned even by his closest friends. First will come suffering, crucifixion, death. On Palm Sunday, Jesus is the savior the crowd senses he is. But he will not save as they anticipate he will—by making Israel a great nation once more, by throwing off their Roman oppressor, by going toe-to-toe with power, and declaring victory in the fight.

Blessed is this Lord, indeed. He will save in an entirely unexpected way. He will save by pouring himself out for others, by answering hatred with love. Blessed is he! He will do this for love, by love, in love. Blessed is he. Death will not contain him—the one who brought a son, a daughter, a brother to life will himself be raised, the first fruits of all of those overcome by death themselves.

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