**Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday**

The movement of this day—from shouts of praise to words of denial and cries for crucifixion—mirrors the path of discipleship. The lives of Jesus’ followers hang in the balance between faithfulness and betrayal. For Peter, the act of denial is subtle and insidious. He claims not to know Jesus; he claims to have no plan as his disciple. On the surface it is seemingly harmless. It happens, then is over in a moment. In reality, the harm is deep and lasting. Subtle but harmful denial happens in a split second as disciples compromise faith for the sake of self-protection—as they’re too embarrassed to give thanks; as someone knows how to help but fails to do so because it’s inconvenient; as resources are hoarded. While Peter withholds everything for his own sake, Jesus, for the sake of others, withholds as resources are hoarded. While Peter withholds everything for his own sake, Jesus, for the sake of others, withholds as resources are hoarded.
Palm/Passion Sunday
March 25, 2018

Gathering Songs
(8:15) “All Glory, Laud and Honor” ELW 344
(10:30) “Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)” - Paul Baloche

Welcome and Announcements
P: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
C: Hosanna in the highest.

Processional Gospel: John 12:12-15
Narrator: The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

Crowd: “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!”

P: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
C: Hosanna in the highest.

Processional Song:
Were you there when Hosannas filled the air? (2x)
Oh…. Sometimes it causes me to wonder, wonder, wonder
Were you there when Hosannas filled the air?
Were you there when they waved palm branches high? (2x)
Oh…. Sometimes it causes me to wonder, wonder, wonder
Were you there when they waved palm branches high?
Were you there when he rode in humbleness? (2x)
Oh…. Sometimes it causes me to wonder, wonder, wonder
Were you there when he rode in humbleness?
Were you there when ‘Hosannas’ filled the air? (2x)
Oh…. Sometimes it causes me to wonder, wonder, wonder
Were you there when ‘Hosannas’ filled the air?

Prayer of the Day
P: We pray together: God of honor and celebration.
C: Together we cry, “Hosanna!” to your Son, who rode willingly and bravely into Jerusalem.

Hear us as we celebrate your anointed one, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Chancel Choir: (8:15) “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” - John Carter

Offering
Offertory: (8:15) “We Are An Offering” ELW 692
(10:30) “Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)” - Paul Baloche

OFFERTORY PRAYER

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Palm/Passion Sunday Today
Please pick up a palm as you enter church today. We’d like to thank the following people who participated as readers today: LaDonna Howell, Greysen Wang, Michelle Wang, Gavin Wang, Marilyn Hallstrom, Emma Jarvis, and Myron Morris.

Pancake Breakfast Today
Join us for breakfast today starting at 9:00am. Enjoy delicious pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, juice and coffee. All supplies were donated or paid for with a Thrivent Grant. Freewill offering will go directly to the youth. This event is hosted by the youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas, this summer.

Easter Egg Hunt Today
Sunday School hosts the annual Easter Egg Hunt today at 9:30am.

Communion Assistants
We are looking for 10 communion assistants for both Easter Sunday services. Please sign up at the Welcome Center to help.

Lawn Mowing
We are looking for a couple more people to help out with the lawn mowing here at St. John’s. If you are interested, please call or email the church office.

Thank you…
…in heartfelt appreciation for all of you kind and loving people of St. John’s who came and helped me celebrate my 90th Birthday. It was a joy and blessing from our Lord Jesus who alloted me 90 years here on earth, and there’s more to come—amazing! Also a sincere thank you for all the beautiful cards & gifts I received. God’s Blessings — Frieda Gunderson

Butter Braids
Braids have arrived. Look for your name on a bag located in the freezers in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to all of our St. John’s members and friends. Your support of Precious Gifts is a greatly appreciated.

Precious Gifts Preschool Registration
We are now taking applications for Precious Gifts for the fall of 2018. The first 10 registrations received will be put in to a drawing for a tuition discount. We are a preschool that prepares kids for the future!

Deadline is NEAR!! Hang On For The Ride—Annandale Christian Women’s Club Guest Night
Thursday Evening, April 12 at St. John’s — 6:30pm Punch — 7:00pm Dinner & Program — $14.00 per person (Due April 5)

Lutheran Marriage Encounter Event
For the first time a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend will be held in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod on April 6-8 at the St. Cloud Holiday Inn. This ministry can benefit married couple of all ages and years of marriage. There is a $100 registration fee plus a free will offering. Pre-registration is required by March 26. Contact the church office for more information.

Food For Kidz
Once again this year we are asking you to consider a special offering to support our Food for Kidz food packaging event on Wednesday, April 18 at 1:00pm. Please consider a special gift above and beyond your normal giving and place it in the enclosed envelope and drop it off in the offering plate or the office drop slot by April 18. Our goal is to package 30,000 meals and raise $4,500. Check out the poster in the Gathering Area and sign up for a shift or two. Watch the thermometer rise!

Crow River Spring Gathering
The Crow River Spring Gathering is Saturday, April 28 at 1st Lutheran Church in Litchfield. Speaker Pastor Julie Ryan is going to gather us in. $10.00 due by April 16 and can be put in the box outside the Church Office. Registration is from 8-8:30am and Brunch will begin at 8:30am. More info available on the bulletin boards.

March is MN Foodshare Month
We encourage you to give a special gift to support our local food shelf this month. You can bring items here to the church and we will make sure they get to the food shelf. Remember our local food shelf can do MORE with a dollar than you or I can, so a gift of money will go farther to help the hungry. You can give a gift by using the Special Offering line on your offering envelopes. Write “Food Shelf” and the amount, or you can use our website to give online.

Personal Care Kits
We will be collecting personal care kits from now through April 28, 2018 at St. John’s. Grab a friend or two and make up a personal care kit together or on your own!

NEW IN THE LIBRARY
We have 3 new books in our library:
- The Next Place by Warren Hanson, The Goodbye Book by Todd Parr, and When Dinosaurs Die by Laurie Brown. These books are in the children’s section and are appropriate for pre-school through elementary grades to help kids deal with the loss of a loved one. They are given by Paul and Mary Iverson in loving memory of their daughter, Michelle.
John 19:31-37
Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (2x)
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

John 19:38-42
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (2x)
Oh... sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Prayers of the Church
P: Lord, in your mercy.
C: Hear our prayer

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.

Scripture Reading: Philippians 2:5-11 (New Testament p. 152 in pew Bible)

Song: “Lamb of God” ELW #336

Dismissal
P: Let us go forth in peace.
C: In the name of Christ. Amen

The Passion According to the Gospel of John

John 12:20-26, 28b-3
Were you there when he said, “My hour has come”? (2x)
Oh... sometimes it causes me to wonder, wonder, wonder.
Were you there when he said, “My hour has come”?

John 13:1-20
Were you there when he knelt and washed their feet? (2x)
Oh... sometimes it causes me to wonder, wonder, wonder.
Were you there when he knelt and washed their feet?

John 13:21-30
Were you there when betrayal filled the night? (2x)
Oh... sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when betrayal filled the night?

John 13:31a, 33-38; 18:1-12
Were you there when he let them capture him? (2x)
Oh... sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when he let them capture him?

John 18:13-27
Were you there when he heard the rooster crow? (2x)
Oh... sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when he heard the rooster crow?

John 18:28-40
Pilate: “I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?”

Narrator: They shouted in reply,
Crowd: “Not this man, but Barabbas!”

Narrator: Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Were you there when Barabbas they did choose? (2x)
Oh... sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when Barabbas they did choose?

John 19:1-16
Narrator: When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted,
Crowd: “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

Narrator: He said to the Jews,
Pilate: “Here is your King!”

Crowd: “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!”

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (2x)
Oh... sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

John 19:16b-30
Were you there when they nailed him to a tree? (2x)
Oh... sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to a tree?