

# Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

March 25, 2015

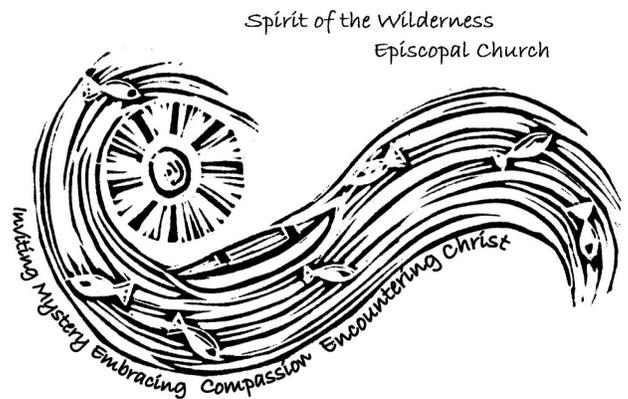
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## Vicar's Report

So much going on at *Spirit of the Wilderness* these days, as we continue preparing to launch Ruby's Pantry, finish up our South Africa Book and Movie Group, and are still in the midst of our annual art show! We're also doing sabbatical preparation, and haven't even really considered gearing up for our busy summer months yet....

And yet over these next ten days we approach the time that is central to us as Christian believers. I invite you/ encourage you/ pressurize you! / to take part in as much of Holy Week and Easter as you are able. To do so means that you immerse yourself, along with Christians all over the world, in the central mysteries of our faith.

This Sunday, **Palm Sunday**, begins with a victory parade—imagine the cheering at the end of a hometown victory—that gradually morphs into the reality that shows us that popularity, celebrity status, and success are ephemeral. They disappear and Jesus and the followers are left with concern and dread. At this service we read together the gospel.

There are some wonderful prayers for each day of Holy Week (in your Book of Common Prayer on page 220-221). Here's an example from **Monday in Holy Week**:

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Holy Week journey continues with our **Passover Seder on Thursday**. Besides being a wonderful time of fellowship, this service roots us. The central rite of our worship—the Eucharist—comes from Jesus' celebration of the Passover with his followers. We re-enact this with the joy and then with Jesus' words—that must have seemed dire and puzzling at the time, as he goes out to his betrayal and death.

**Good Friday** is traditionally a holy day for Christians. We will have a quiet service from 1-2 at the dental office using the prayer book service for Good Friday. But, one of the gifts of living in Grand Marais is the ministerium—the group of ministers who gather monthly. On Good Friday we have a Cross Walk—when the cross is carried throughout town, stopping at various churches to pray for them. At 7, there is a rotating service—this one is being held at St. John's, with Fr. Seamus preaching. Spirit of the wilderness is leading the liturgy—please come to join your neighbors. (If you'd like to help lead, please let me know.) Would LOVE to have you there.

**Easter Sunday** we have a great celebration...please join us as we rejoice in Christ's triumph over evil and death.

Please join us for all of this great journey that is central to our faith. Blessings, Mary Ellen



Susan Sink presented at our art opening on the St. John's Bible; on Saturday morning she led a workshop.

**This Sunday:**

- Leading—Val
- Preaching—Passion reading
- Presiding—Mary Ellen
- Music—Layne, Karen, and Bob
- Treats—Danielsons

Celebrants wanted! During Mary Ellen's sabbatical. We are looking for 3-4 supply clergy to serve and preach, giving us a different perspective. If you know someone you would like to invite please send me the name (and contact info if you have it). Milan.

How about joining us for the Second Annual Spirit of the Wilderness Women's Canoe Trip this summer? Please let me know if you're interested and we'll start thinking about a time to make this happen!

**Adult forums:**

- April 19th—Anglican or Episcopalian??? (Mary Ellen)
- May 17th—Life: quantity or quality? (Ellen Stubbs)
- May 31st: Historical Service—1670. (Karen Halbersleben)
- June 7th: Sacraments—(Mary Ellen)

**Lessons for Palm Sunday**

- Isaiah 50: 4-9a
- Philippians 2:5-11
- Mark 14:1-15: 47

Palm Sunday carries within it the whole sweep of emotions—from a victory parade to Jesus' death on the cross. Consider this whole sweep in your life...

**Mark your calendars:**

**Sunday, March 29th—Palm Sunday service, art show closes.**

**Wednesday, April 1st—Bishop's Committee meeting 6:30-8:00, venue TBD**

**Thursday, April 2nd—Seder Meal at Hedstroms. RSVP to Hedstroms so we have a head count by Sunday.**

**Friday, April 3rd—Good Friday service, 1-2 at the Dental Office.**

**Friday, April 3rd, 6 pm—Interdenominational Cross walk begins at St. John's Catholic church.**

**Friday, April 3rd, 7 pm—Interdenominational service at St. John's.**

**Sunday, April 4th—Easter celebration!!**



Some fine artists at the opening....

Johnson Heritage Post, March 13th.