

*They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them
as one having authority and not as the scribes.*

Mark 1:22



January 28, 2024

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Portions from *Sundays & Seasons 2024*

Setting Three

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

Jays & Concerns

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

C. Amen

P. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P. God, our rock and refuge,

C. **we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

P. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

C. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

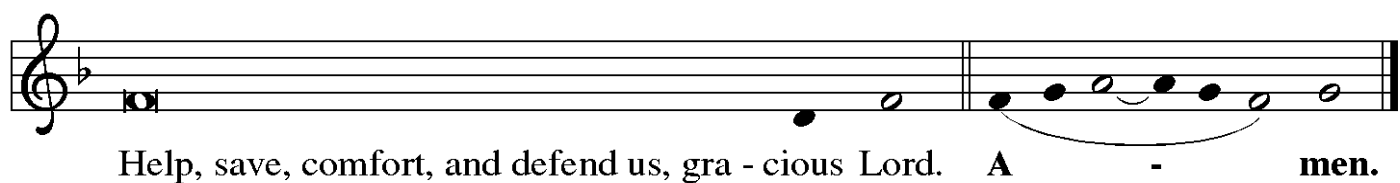
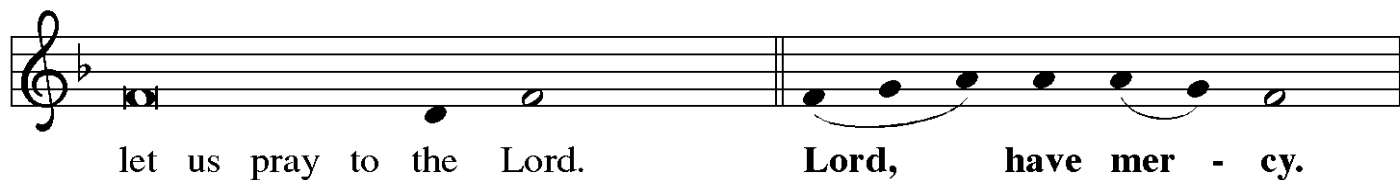
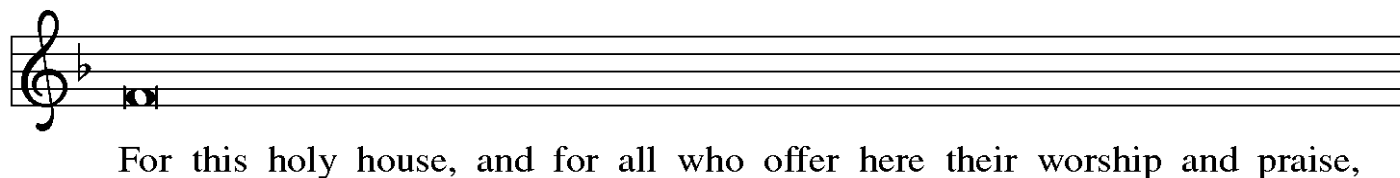
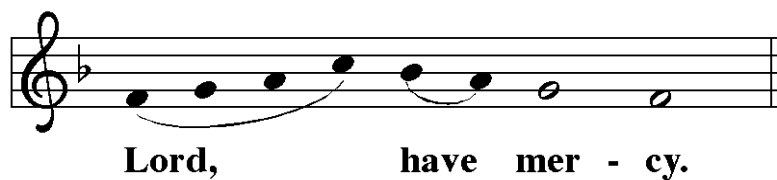
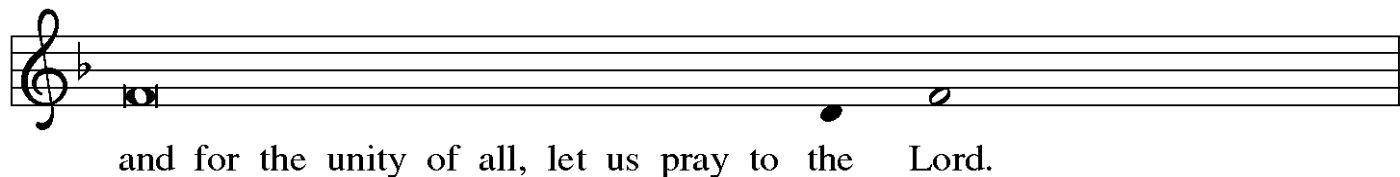
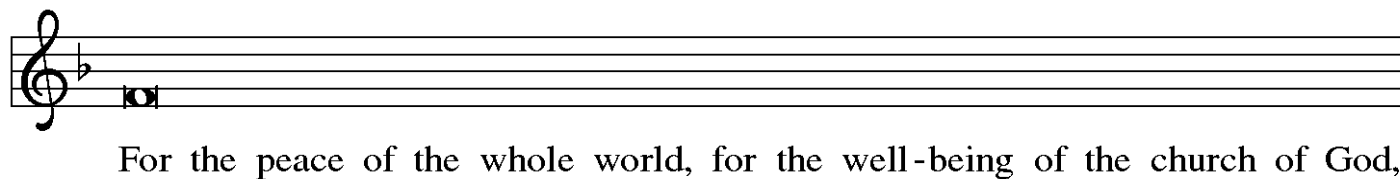
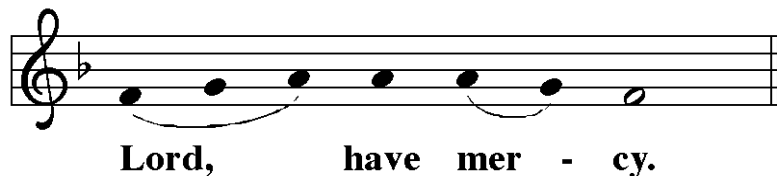
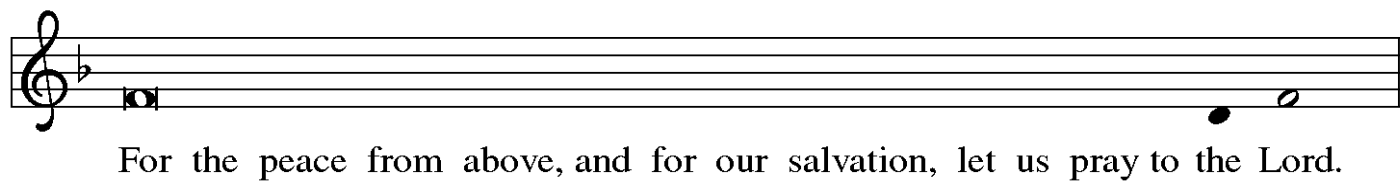
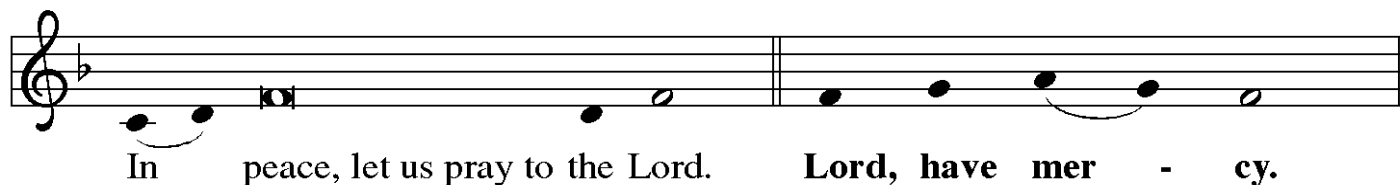
ELW 886

Greeting

P. Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. **And also with you.**

Kyrie




This is the feast . . .

Women vs. 1, 3; Men vs. 2, 4

Refrain



All: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

Women:



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

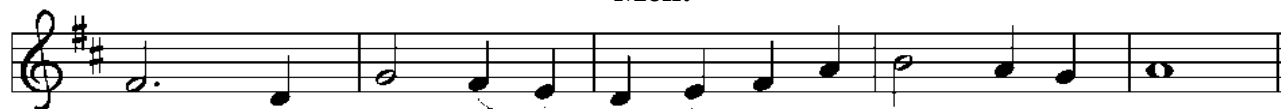


All: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

Men:




strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

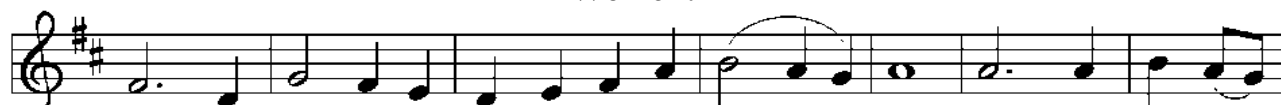


All: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,




al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

Women:



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast . . .

Refrain



All: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

Men



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



All: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

- A. Let us pray
- C. Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

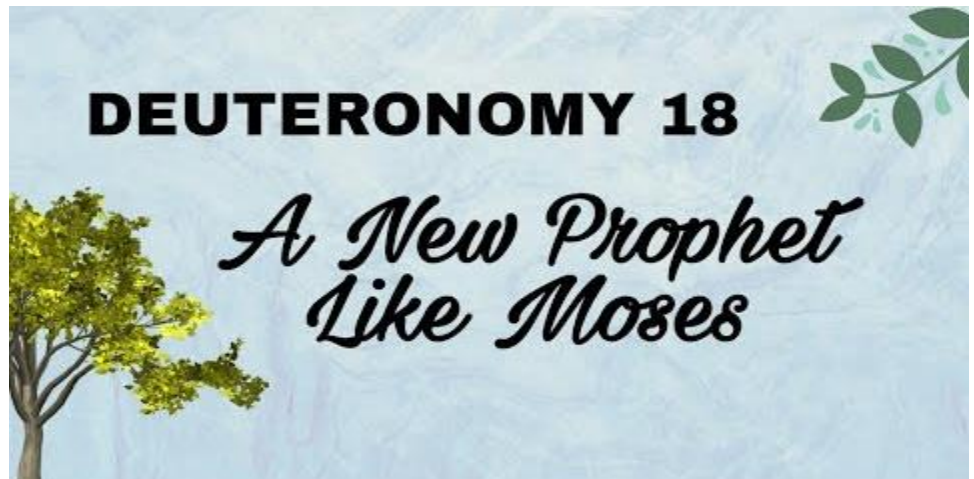
Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great

fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

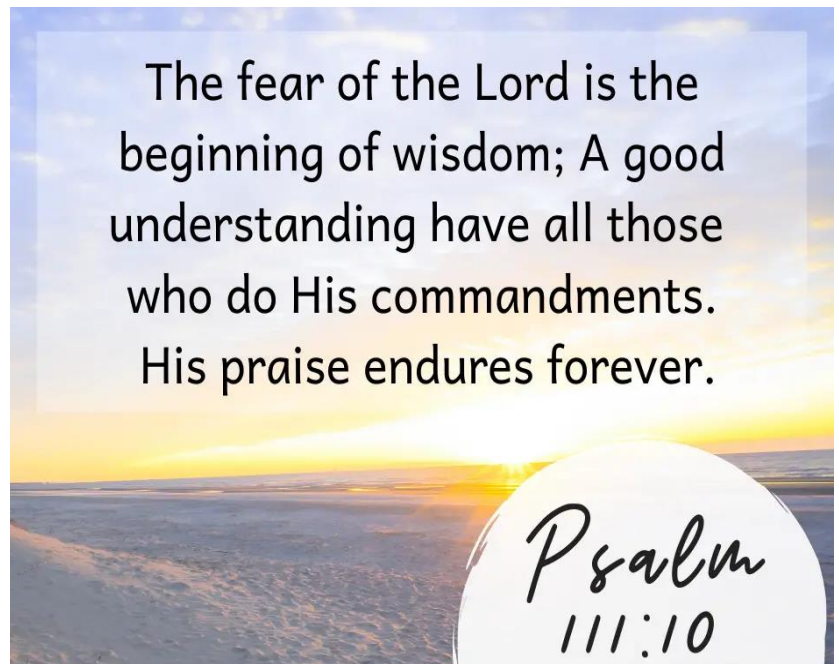
L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.



The fear of the Lord is the
beginning of wisdom; A good
understanding have all those
who do His commandments.
His praise endures forever.

Psalm 111 spoken responsively



¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are your works, O LORD,
pondered by all who delight in them.**

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵You give food to those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
All who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P. The holy gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

C. Glory to you, O God.

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

P. The gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

John Petry, Interim Pastor

Hymn of the Day

There Is a Balm in Gilead

ELW 614

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen



Prayers of Intercession

A. As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. God of grace,

C. receive our prayer.

A. Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth. God of grace,

C. receive our prayer.

Other Prayers

P. Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C. Amen.

The Peace

P. Jesus said, Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled. May His peace be with you always.

C. And also with you.

The Offering

Anthem

Come, Thou Almighty King

Choir

Let the Vineyards...



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

A. Blessed are you, Holy One,

C. for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us.

Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves are continuous.

Preface: It is truly right . . .

GIVE YOUR
 TO
JESUS!

The Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is more complex than the Thanksgiving hymn, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are written below each staff. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves are continuous.

Eucharistic 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

Invitation to Communion

P. At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see. Everyone is invited, no exceptions.

C. Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. A square symbol with a cross inside (☐) appears at the beginning of the first line of lyrics. A curved line connects the notes for 'grant' and 'us' in the final line.

Communion Hymns

Spirit of God, Descent upon My Heart
Healer of Our Every Ill

ELW 800
ELW 612

Post Communion Cantic



C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Post Communion Prayer

A. Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.

Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

C. Amen

Blessing

P. God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, † bless you and remain with you always.

C. Amen.

Sending Hymn

Jesus Shall Reign

ELW 434

Dismissal

A. Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Many Thanks to
Marsha Vanderwerff
for supplying for us today!!!
Thank You!

Servers for Sunday, January 28th:

Assisting Minister..... Shannon Thomsen
Reader Gale Isaacs
Altar Guild Sylvia Lambert
Greeters/Counters Steve Brantley/Linda Hash
Guest Musician Marsha Vanderwerff



Sign-up sheets for the various worship assistant slots are on the board in the hallway. Please consider spending time giving glory to God by filling one of these positions on a Sunday.



Candles this month are given by Julia Lochra in celebration of many family Birthdays.

Flowers this week are given by Ginny King in celebration of her Great Grandchildren's Birthdays.

Honor a loved one by making a donation for the candles in the sanctuary for the month or the flowers that beautify the church each Sunday. Sign-up sheet is on the board in the hallway.

Important Upcoming EVENTS

Today



After Worship Fellowship today
is provided by the Altar Guild

LEADER'S
retreat

February 3^d



One-Day Retreat

Saturday, February 10, 2024 – Lord of Life

Check-in/Fellowship begins at 8:30 am.

Program begins at 9:00 am at all locations and ends by 1:30 pm.

\$10 Registration Fee

(Covers a light breakfast, lunch, and program materials)

Women do not have to be Lutheran to enjoy this retreat, so bring your friends and neighbors.

Encourage teens and young women to participate. A limited number of Leadership Legacy (ages 14-18) and Young Women Guest (ages 19-30) scholarships are available. Request a scholarship on the registration form.

Registration Deadline: January 31, 2024

In everyday life there is a kaleidoscope of opportunities to unite with God in prayer. As our lives are drawn to reflect God's love, new patterns of awe and expectation lead us into lives of caring adventures. During this retreat participants will discover new patterns of prayer and embrace time-tested methods of drawing near to God.

We will learn about ministries that our North Carolina Women of the ELCA will be giving to in this coming year: Sleep in Heavenly Peace (providing beds for children), Moms Demand Action (preventing gun-violence), and MATCH (addressing the needs of children and incarcerated mothers).

We'll join together in prayer for these ministries as we see how God's loving light is reflected through our lives in praise, comfort, confession, healing and hope.

**See Alecia Harrison for
further information**