

He came and took her  
by the hand and  
lifted her up.

Then the fever left her, and  
she began to serve them.

Mark 1:31

**February 4, 2024**

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Portions from *Sundays & Seasons 2024*

*Setting Three*

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

# Joys & Concerns

**Prelude**

*Be Still, My Soul*

~Jean Sibelius

## **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**

*Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

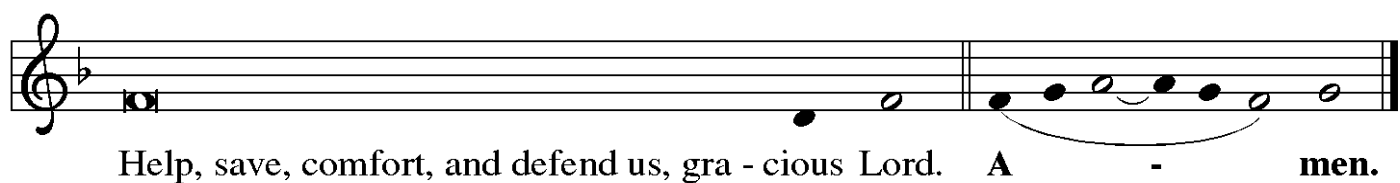
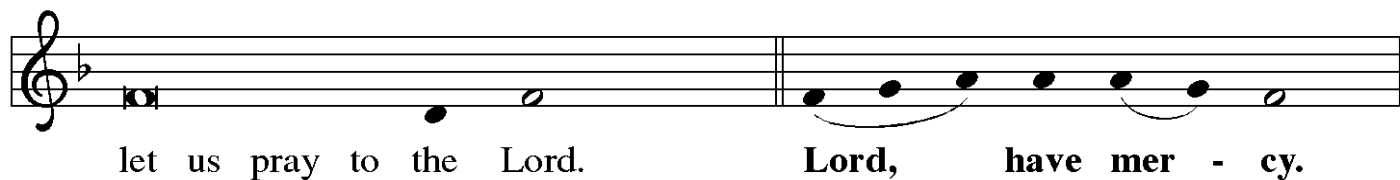
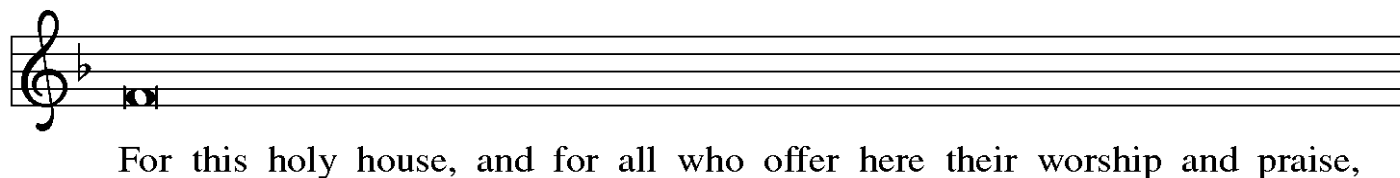
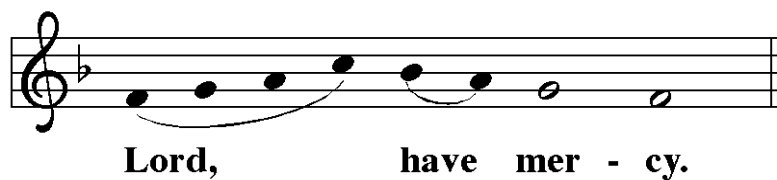
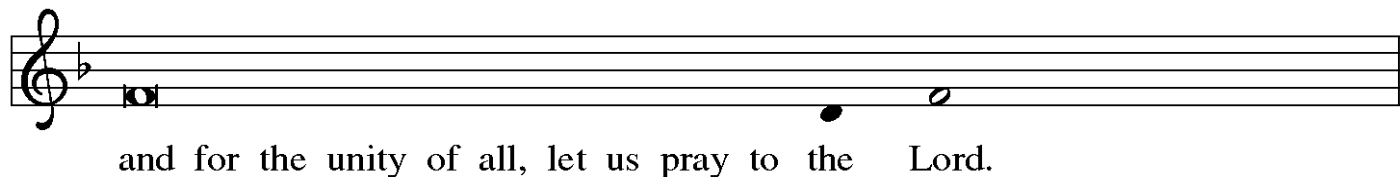
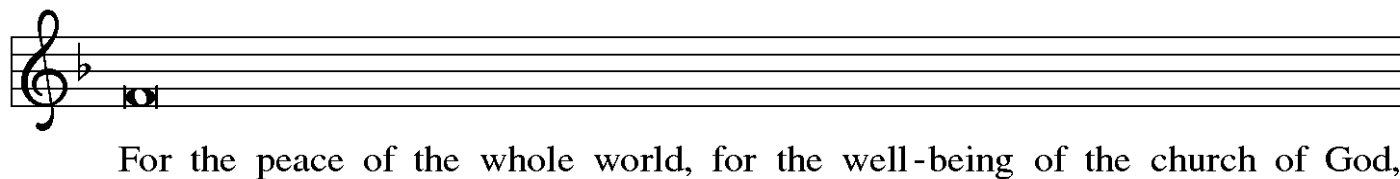
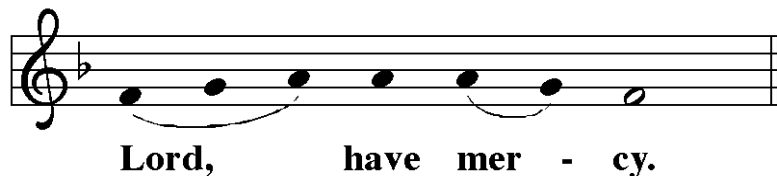
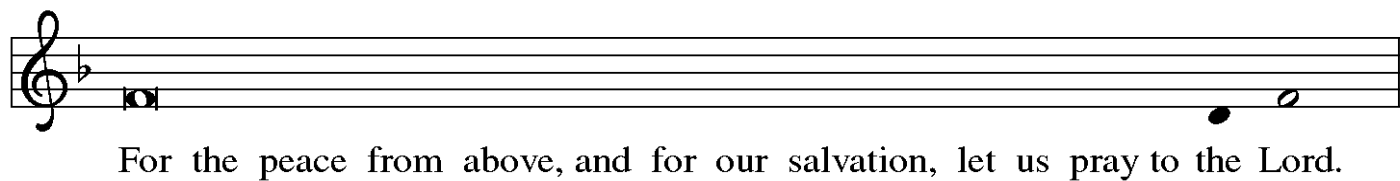
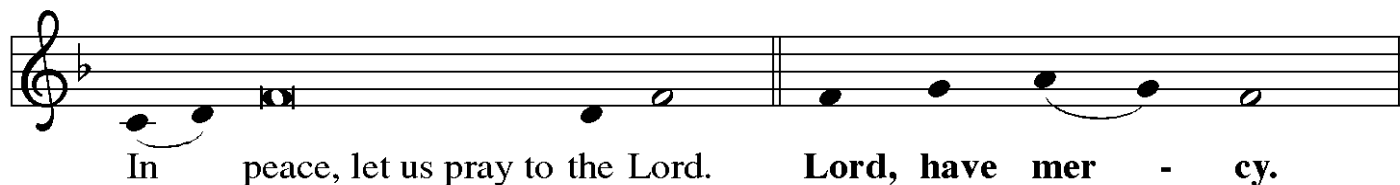
ELW 533

## **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*

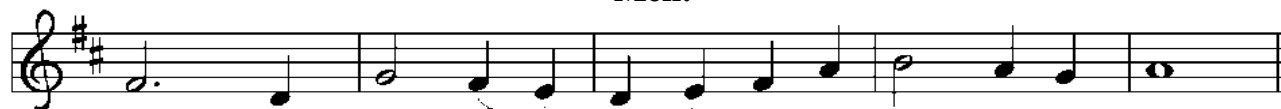


**All:** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



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*

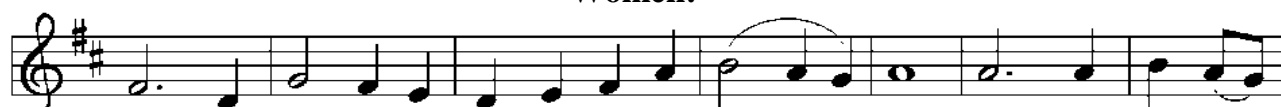


**All:** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,




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.** Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **First Reading**

**Isaiah 40:21-31**

*The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.*

<sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?



<sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

<sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

<sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"?

<sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

**L. Word of God. Word of life.**

**C. Thanks be to God.**



*But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. Isaiah 40:31*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!  
How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,  
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup>**The LORD counts the number of the stars  
and calls them all by their names.**

<sup>5</sup>Great is our LORD and mighty in power;  
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD lifts up the lowly,  
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

<sup>7</sup>Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;  
make music upon the harp to our God,

<sup>8</sup>**who covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain  
for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

<sup>9</sup>God provides food for the cattle  
and for the young ravens when they cry.

<sup>10</sup>**God is not impressed by the might of a horse,  
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

<sup>11</sup>**but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,  
in those who await God's steadfast love.**

<sup>20c</sup>**Hallelujah!**



**Second Reading**

**1 Corinthians 9:16-23**

*God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people.  
Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but  
the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.*

<sup>16</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me,  
and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a  
reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my  
reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to  
make full use of my rights in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win  
more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I  
became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those  
under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not



free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

**C. Thanks be to God.**



*I have become  
all things to all people,  
so that I might  
by any means  
save some.*

*1 Corinthians 9.22*



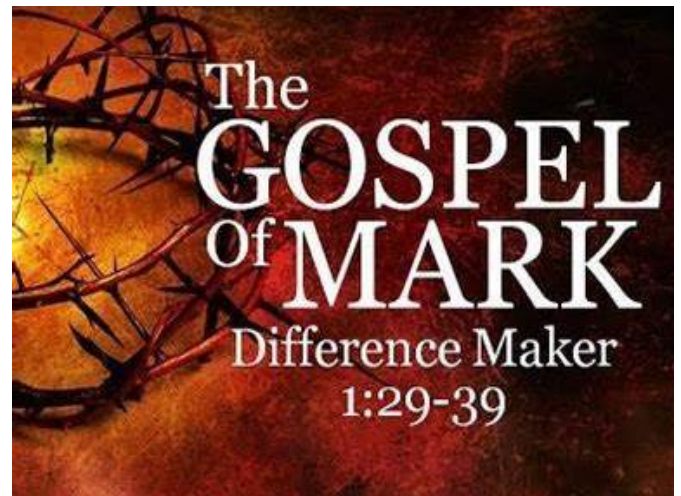
## Gospel Acclamation



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

**C.** Glory to you, O God.

*Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.*



<sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. <sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

**P.** The gospel of the Lord.

**C.** Praise to you, O Christ.

**Sermon**

John Petry, Interim Pastor

**Hymn of the Day**

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

ELW 773

# *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*

Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world. God of grace,

**C. receive our prayer.**

**A.** Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made.

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

*O, The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus* ~Samuel Francis

### *Let the Vineyards...*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. 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. Each staff contains a single melodic line with lyrics written below it. The lyrics are: '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.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

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 and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: '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', and 'comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'



## 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 (☐) is placed at the beginning of the first line of lyrics. A curved line connects the word 'grant' to the word 'us' in the final line of lyrics.

## Communion Hymns

*Give Me Jesus*

ELW 770

*This Little Light of Mine*

ELW 677

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

ELW 742

## Post Communion Cantic



**☐** 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

*I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me*

ELW 860

## Dismissal

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

**C.** Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

*Here I Am, Lord* ~Dan Schutte

Many THANKS to  
Conrad Lentz and Lori Bosco  
for supplying for us today!!!

*Thank You!*

**Servers for Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>:**

Assisting Minister..... Shannon Thomsen  
Reader ..... Rena Bogle  
Altar Guild ..... Helen Holderman  
Acolyte ..... Antonio Smith  
Guest Musician ..... Conrad Lentz, piano  
Guest Musician ..... Lori Bosco, violin



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.



**Flowers** this week are given by Mike & Sharyl Eggert  
in honor of Sawyer Michael Rogen's Baptism.

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.



## One-Day Retreat

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**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**