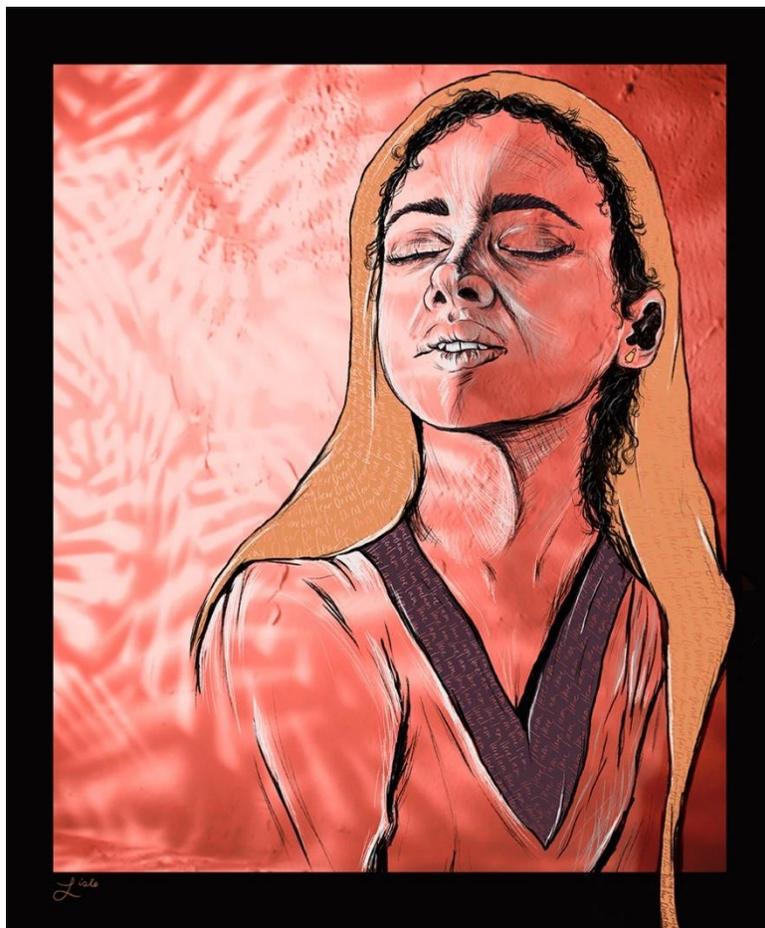


3rd Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025 8:30, 11:00 a.m. & Livestream



Mary's Yes by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

FAITH . DISCIPLESHIP . COMMUNITY
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Rev. Drew McCaffery, Pastor

At The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, we embrace the uniqueness of every individual and respect their dignity and worth, for all are created in the image of God. We strive to welcome everyone in the fullness of who they are.

Let us call together for reconciliation, and live out God's vision of love for people of every sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic status, age, physical or mental ability, political persuasion, race, ethnicity, and personal history. Let us walk together to strive for racial equity, as Jesus calls us to do.

All people are welcome here to worship, build community, and grow together as Jesus' disciples at this place.



✦ GATHERING ✦

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P *Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.*

C **Amen.**

P *Friends, often in life, when we make mistakes, we want to keep those mistakes to ourselves. We don't want to advertise our blunders. We don't want to highlight our failings. We can be tempted to brush those things under the rug and move on. But when it comes to God, there is nothing we need to brush under the rug. God welcomes and loves our full, honest, messy selves—blunders and all. So let us go before God, trusting that there is nothing we need to hide from our Creator.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

P *Courageous God,*

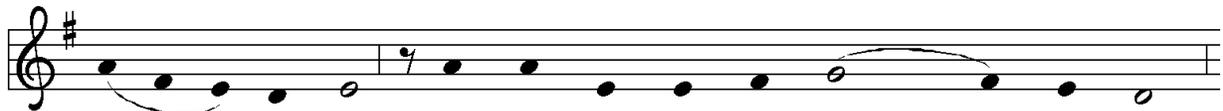
C **you invite us to live into our call. You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust. Instead of responding with a resounding “yes,” we often hide our face. We dig our heels in. We look for someone else to volunteer. Spark courage in us. Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference. Remind us that even when we're scared, we are not alone. You invite us forward. With baby steps we hope, we pray, Amen.**

P *Family of faith, no matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a new day. So join me in declaring this good news: We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve.*

C **May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God's call. Amen.**



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far - and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

P *In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?*
C **We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards. We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents. We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs.**

P *You are right. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us. Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it. Let us join in singing verse 3 of Light one Candle as we light the advent wreath.*

Verse 3



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
 He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Please be seated.

✦ **THE WORD** ✦

First Reading

Isaiah 35: 1-10

A *A reading from Isaiah. ¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;*

*the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
 like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
 and rejoice with joy and shouting.
 The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
 the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
 They shall see the glory of the Lord,
 the majesty of our God.*

³ *Strengthen the weak hands
 and make firm the feeble knees.*

⁴ *Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
 "Be strong, do not fear!"*

Here is your God.

*He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.*

He will come and save you.”

⁵ *Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;*

⁶ *then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.*

*For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;*

⁷ *the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.*

⁸ *A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.*

⁹ *No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.*

¹⁰ *And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*

A *The word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 146:5-10

- A** ⁵ *Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;*
- C** ⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**
- A** ⁷ *who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the captive free.*
- C** ⁸ **The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**
- A** ⁹ *The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.*
- C** ¹⁰ **The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-10

- A** *A reading from Jeremiah. ⁴ Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,*
- ⁵ *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”*
- ⁶ *Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷ But the Lord said to me,*
- “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’ for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.*
- ⁸ *Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.”*
- ⁹ *Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me,*

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

*¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”*

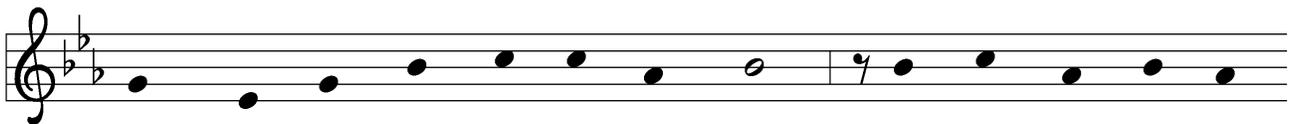
A *The word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

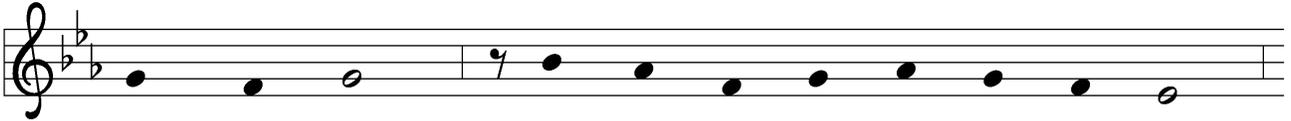
Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

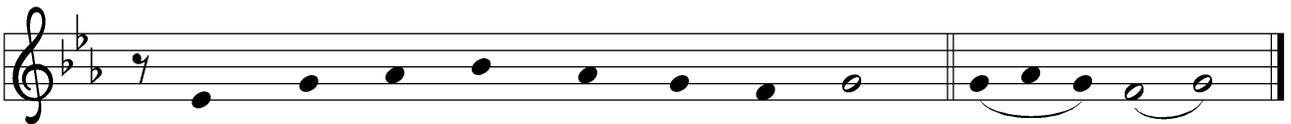
Creator of the Stars of the Night



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-39

P *The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.*

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

P *²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.*

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,

P *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

Please be seated.

Sermon

The Rev. Drew McCaffery

What do you fear? Even in our fear, we are called forward.

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

No. 265



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

A *Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.*

C **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being

with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

A *In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.*

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers:

A *God of grace,*
C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P *Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.*
C **Amen.**

P *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*
C **And also with you.**

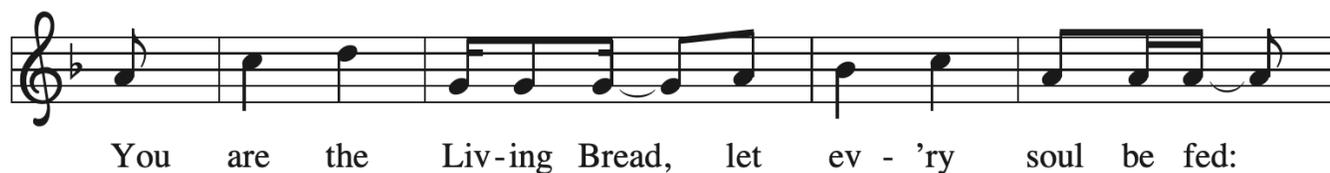
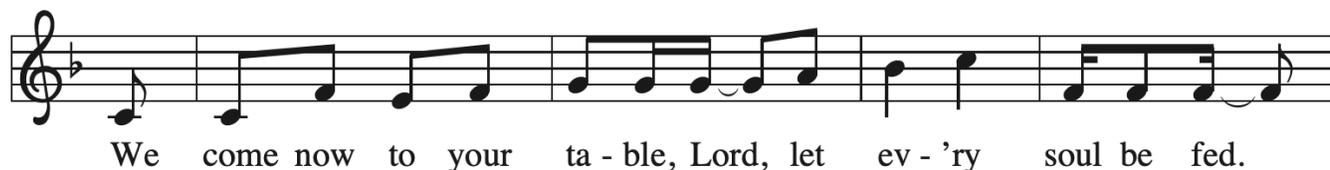
After sharing the peace, please be seated.

Offering & Anthem

Gaudate

arr. Craig Kingsbury

As the gifts are presented, please stand as you are able.



- A** *Let us pray. Nourishing God,*
C **you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.**
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

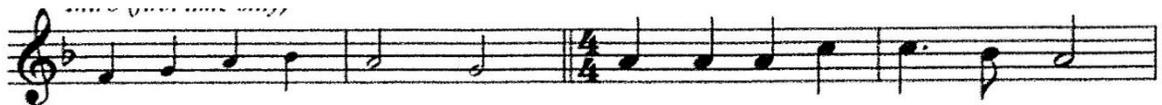
✦ THE EUCHARIST ✦

- P** *The Lord be with you.*
C **And also with you.**
- P** *Lift up your hearts.*
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

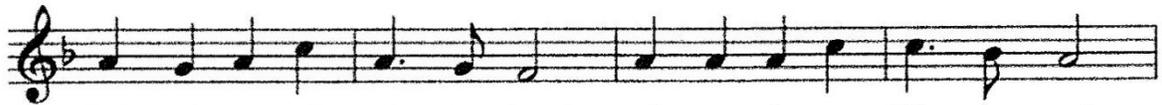
P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*
C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

The congregation responds to the tune of, *Angels we have Heard on High*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 Bles - sed is the one who came,



God of hosts, all praise be given! All your glo - ry fills the earth;
 bring - ing love and light di - vine. Bles - sed is the king who comes



all your pow - er fills the heavens. Glo - - - -
 in the bread and in the wine.



ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!



Glo - - - -



ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

P *With-us God, we live in a fearful world. If we're honest, we come to this Table today with the taste of fear on our tongues. We come to this Table carrying our anxiety. We come to this Table asking for guidance. We come to this Table with all of life's "what-ifs."*

But you do not disregard our fear. You do not brush it under the rug or call us foolish. You do not ignore the realities in front of us. You do not dish out hurtful platitudes, telling us to "toughen up" or "power through."

Instead, you meet us here. You listen to our fears. You remind us that we are not alone. You surround us with people who love us. You show us where we are strong. You walk beside us. And you give us a new song to sing.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

So today we pray, gracious God: replace the fear on our tongues with words of hope and songs of joy. As we come to this Table, pour out your Spirit on this bread and cup. Remind us that even in a fearful world, you are on the move. Remind us that even in a fearful world, you are here, inviting us to the Table, nourishing our spirits, reminding us that we belong, calling us by name.

Instill that good news in us, for this is a joyful feast. Fear is not the loudest voice today.

C Amen.

P *Now with hope for a better tomorrow, we join our voices together to pray the prayer Jesus taught us,*
C **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.

P *Do not fear. Come and receive what God has promised.*
C **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated.

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table! Whether you are a member of this church or a visitor, the Communion celebrated here is "open" to all who trust that our Lord Jesus Christ—his true Body and his true Blood—is present for All of God's People.
(Note: should you prefer, we also offer gluten free wafers and grape juice.)*

During the distribution, the following is sung to the tune of "Once in Royal David's City"

**Lamb of God, the world Redeemer,
Mercy to your people give.
Lamb of God, the world's Redeemer,
May we in your mercy live.
Lamb of God, we all implore:
Grant us peace forevermore**

Communion Hymn *Each Winter As the Year Grows Older* No. 252



1 Each win - ter as the year grows old - er, we each grow old - er,
2 When race and class cry out for trea - son, when si - rens call for
3 Yet I be - lieve be - yond be - liev - ing that life can spring from
4 So e - ven as the sun is turn - ing to jour - ney to the
5 O Child of ec - sta - sy and sor - rows, O Prince of peace and



too. The chill sets in a lit - tle cold - er; the
war, they o - ver - shout the voice of rea - son and
death, that growth can flow - er from our griev - ing, that
north, the liv - ing flame, in se - cret burn - ing, can
pain, bright - en to - day's world by to - mor - row's, re -



ver - i - ties we knew seem shak - en and un - true.
scream till we ig - nore all we held dear be - fore.
we can catch our breath and turn trans - fixed by faith.
kin - dle on the earth and bring God's love to birth.
new our lives a - gain; Lord Je - sus, come and reign!

After all have communed, please stand, as you are able.

P *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

C **Amen.**

A *Let us pray. Loving God,*

C **In a world racked with fear, you gather us together. You set the table. You meet us here. You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits. You remind us that this is a joyful feast, and that fear cannot win every time. So with renewed courage, with renewed hope, with renewed conviction, send us out into the world. Help us to feed others as you have fed us. With gratitude we pray, Amen.**

✦ SENDING ✦

P *In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit. May you reach for each other's hands. May you choose courage whenever you can. And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear. In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends, and the one who journeys with today and always.*

C **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

The King Shall Come

No. 260



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

A *Go in peace and be not afraid.*

C **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Postlude

Pray for Those That Need God's Healing

*Gail, Phyllis, Paul, Kathy, Donna, Andrea, Al,
Joan, Teri, Betty, Jean, Lois, Barbara & Bruce*

The Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God

by Sallie Gartside in memory of Doris Mellor