

Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,

February 4, 2024

10:00 AM

**Fifth Sunday
after Epiphany**





Welcome to Worship!

SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

In-person Worship. Masks and distance recommended, not required

Livestream on YouTube. Live at 10am then available on our channel

"The Redheaded Preacher" Podcast. Available wherever you get your podcasts, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



Ways to Give

Text Your Gift. Text your gift to [844-977-2346](tel:844-977-2346)

After a short set-up the first time, simply text your gift amount

Use PayPal. [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchpot/display/external?merchantid=STPETERUCCSKOKIE)

Send a Check. Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine

Set up Vanco. Contact the church office to enroll in regular giving



Open Communion

All Christians and seekers after God are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper with us the **first Sunday of every month** and special Holy Days (Christmas, Maundy Thursday, and Easter). **At-home Communion** participants are invited to provide their own elements and join when Pastor bids you, "take, eat, and drink."



About St. Peter's UCC

We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie since 1867. We are a part of the United Church of Christ, which means we are passionate about our faith and open in our thinking. We believe in a Triune God who **loves everyone**, regardless of gender identity, orientation, race, status, or physical or mental ability, and we **joyously welcome all people** to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.



Contact, Follow, or Talk to Us

Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor): revlanford@gmail.com

In the office Wed-Sat (times vary) and Sundays

Laura Olson (Office Manager): office@stpeteruccskokie.org

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

Ben Westphal (Music Director): bcwestphal@gmail.com

Facebook/Instagram/YouTube: [stpeteruccskokie](https://www.facebook.com/stpeteruccskokie)

Website: www.stpeteruccskokie.org

Like, follow, or join our email list for up-to-date info about events and activities!



8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077 | 847-673-8166

St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie
Order of Worship for
Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 10:00am
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome to worship. The music before the service is intended as a time of silent prayer and preparation.

PRELUDE "Prelude in F" by Borodin

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Have you come seeking God?

C: We have come seeking and longing for God.

P: Jesus has prepared a table for us.

C: We want to meet God through the power of the Holy Spirit at the table of Jesus Christ.

P: Come, the Triune God is waiting!

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: Our God is waiting, but you and I must clear the air first.

C: Some of our words, actions, silences and attitudes have alienated God from us.

P: So let us do what we can to amend these wrongs, and join in a prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Who are we to claim equality with You, Ruler of all worlds? Yet we try to order You around when it is we who should be taking orders, and we do not truly realize it. At times we act as if we can get along without You.

C: In our church, we often pretend that we don't need other congregations. We hoard the gospel as if it were our possession, and thus we do not follow its teachings.

P: We bend Your law to our own whims, again not always realizing it, and then excuse our disobedience with various justifications.

A: Forgive us, God! Are we even worthy to carry the name of Christ, in whose name we pray? Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Titus 3:3-7*

P: “For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray . . . But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

Goodness. Loving kindness. Mercy. Grace. These are God’s and God shares them with sinners and brings them, us, back into the fold of forgiven followers. At the Table we are nourished for the faithful next steps on our journey of faith. God has done for us what we could not do for ourselves; let the people rejoice with me and praise God with that great word . . .

All: Alleluia! Amen.

HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision"

SSB #20



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,
 thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish 8th–10th cent.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.
 Music: SLANE, Irish tune

The congregation may be seated

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rich Schneider

From the Prophets:

Isaiah 40:21-31

Gospel:

Mark 1:29-39

CHORAL ANTHEM “On Eagles Wings”

THE INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Introduction

- P: Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church, or in various settings in the life of the world. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts,
But the same Spirit gives them.
- C: *There are different ways of serving but the same God is served.***
- P: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.
- C: *The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each believer for the good of all.***
- P: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.
- C: *It is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts.***
- P: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.
- C: *All of us are Christ’s body, and each one is a part of it.***

Presentation

(At this time, all who were elected to serve as an Officer or on a Board are named and asked to come forward, standing on the chancel steps when your name is called and facing the congregation).

P: These people have been called by God in accordance with the faith and order of this church to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

Covenant

P: Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church, whether gathered or scattered. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God, in Christ's name, and for the glory of God?

Installees: I am.

P: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Installees: I do, relying on God's grace.

P: (to the congregation): Members and friends of the household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to

service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able please rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

C: *We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.*

Prayer

C: Amen.

Declaration


P: In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of the people of St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie, I rejoice to announce that you are all now duly installed in your respective positions!

All: Thanks be to God!


Will those who are able please stand up

HYMN "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"


SSB #13 (vv. 1, 2, 3)




1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol - low, nev - er fal-tering, re - con - cil - ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per - son's sor-row with a calm that con - quers strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor-er, all God's peo - ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com - pas-sion to in - crease,



E - qual part - ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
 Blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

The Congregation may be seated

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

OFFERTORY

Will those who are able please rise to sing

OFFERTORY RESPONSE “We Are An Offering” SSB #11

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an offering.

Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are Yours, we are an offering.

All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be we give to You.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an offering, we are an offering.

The congregation may be seated

HOMILY “Charging Station”

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Exhortation and Invitation

Sursum Corda:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: Lift up your hearts!

C: *We lift them up to the Lord!*

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Consecration

RESPOND
153 **Eat of This Bread**

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of quarter note = 65. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: 'Eat of this bread, drink of this wine; come and be fed, come now and dine. Eat of this bread, drink of this wine; here all are fed, here all may dine.' The chords are: Eb, A♭, Ddim, Gm, Cm, Fm, Fm7, B♭sus, B♭, Ddim, Gm, Cm, Fm, B♭, Eb.

Eat of this bread, drink of this wine;
come and be fed, come now and dine.
Eat of this bread, drink of this wine;
here all are fed, here all may dine.

The Words of Institution Participation

CLOSING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**A: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;**

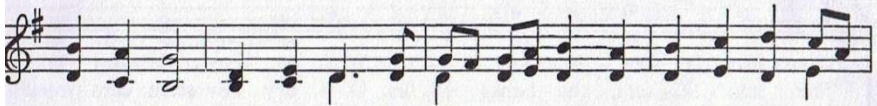
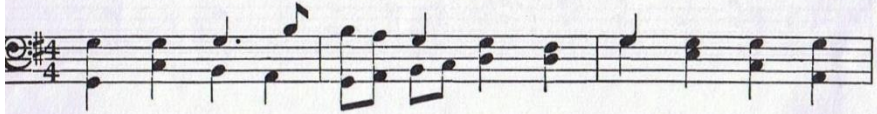
**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen**

Will those who are able please stand up

HYMN "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" #80



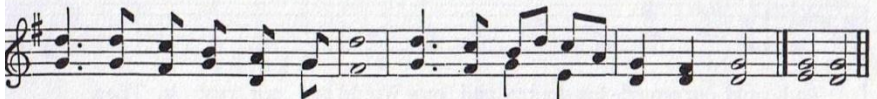
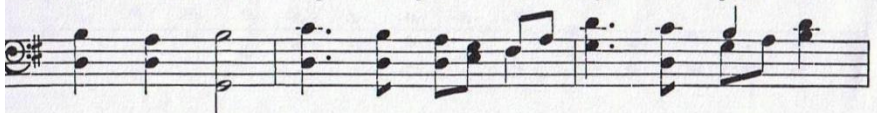
1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this
2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, Whence the heal - ing
3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



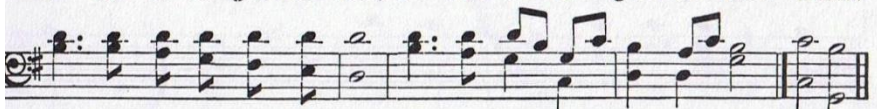
bar - ren land; I am weak, but Thou art might - y; Hold me with Thy
stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar Lead me all my
fears sub - side; Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, Land me safe on



power - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en,
jour - ney through; Strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer,
Ca - naan's side; Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



Feed me till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield, Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.
I will ev - er give to Thee, I will ev - er give to Thee. A-MEN.



CHARGE *from 1 Thessalonians 5*

- P: But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.
- C: And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all.**
- P: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- C: Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.**

BENEDICTION *Galatians 6:18*

- P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters.

POSTLUDE "Celebration in C" by F. Martin

The music after the service is intended as a time of reflection. Pastor will be pleased to greet you at the Sanctuary doors as soon as the postlude has concluded, and our livestream has stopped.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Jenn Schneider
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Kathy Zipperer

A for the Veterans

Move-in Essentials Collection

GIVE A GIFT TO VETERANS EXITING HOMELESSNESS

Personal Hygiene:

Bath Soap ★ Hand Soap
Toothbrush ★ Toothpaste
Deodorant
Shaving Cream
Hairbrush ★ Comb
Nail Clippers

Kitchen & Cleaning:

Dishwashing Liquid
Paper Towels ★ Windex
Kitchen Trash Can
Garbage Bags ★ Dish Cloth
Mop & Bucket ★ Sponge
Broom & Dustpan

Bathroom:

Toilet Brush ★ Plunger
Toilet Bowl Cleaner
Bath Towels ★ Wash Cloth
Shower Curtain
Toilet Paper

Miscellaneous:

Flashlight ★ Light Bulbs
Sandwich Bags
Laundry Detergent
Hamper ★ Laundry Basket
Aluminum Foil
Pot Holders

VISIT STPETERUCCSKOKIE.ORG FOR MORE INFO

Feb 17th 9-12_{pm}

Feb 18th 12-3_{pm}

St Peter's UCC

8013 Laramie

Open to All!

2024 EASTER FLOWER ORDERS



Please find below the order form for the Easter plants that we will have to beautify our chancel on Easter Sunday. Sometimes there are limited quantities of plants available, and G & E will substitute an equal value plant (Orders will be filled by date submitted.) Orders may be placed in the offering plate, brought or mailed to the church. Please write a separate check for your flower order made out to St Peter's UCC.

Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 10, 2024.

Quantity	Type	Price	Total
	Easter Lily 6" pot	11.00	
	Azalea 6" pot	19.00	
	Hyacinth 6" pot	8.50	
	Tulip 6" pot	8.00	
	Rieger Begonia 6" pot	10.50	
Total			

Name

Phone

In Honor/In Memory:



SOFT GOODS DRIVE

**Donate during
January 2024**

St. Peter's UCC

8013 Laramie Ave. Skokie, IL 60077

For more information, call

(847) 673-8166

Items Needed:
Clothing
Shoes, Hats,
Purses, Belts
Bedding
Linens
Stuffed Toys
Pillows

News in the Pews

Welcome to worship. Welcome to worship. May God's love be made known to you during your time shared here today.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered in the several ministries of the church this morning – ministries of worship, education, hospitality, and administration.

As we install and reinstall Officers and Board Members, as Peggy Reins did at the Annual Meeting last week, we want to acknowledge and sincerely thank those who have completed their service on a Board, or who are stepping off as of today: Karen Christianson (Board for Christian Education); Kathy Zipperer (Bd. of Finance); Rich Schneider (Trustees); Peter Svenson (Deacons); and Heidi Tarzian (Elders). Thank you!

A ❤️ for the Veterans Collection has begun! We are collecting household goods (cleaners, supplies like mops, towels, paper towels, toilet paper, bathroom supplies, etc.) AND easily accessible food (food bars, individual drinks, snacks & microwavable food with pop tops) for the Military Outreach's program for Vets exiting homelessness as well as their food pantry for Vets who come in their doors to have a hot meal. Items will be collected in the Memorial room and can be brought on Sundays or during office hours. We will also have a special collection date of February 17th from 9AM to Noon and Sunday the 18th from 12PM – 3PM.

SAVERS FUNDRAISE ENDS THIS WEEK! You have until Friday, February 9th to bring in those soft goods. ***Please come Saturday,***

February 10th at 10AM to load the truck to bring the items to Savers, and thank you!!

Next Sunday, January 11th St. Peter's is having an All-Boards Brunch to welcome folks new, returning, or continuing a leadership role. After gathering for spirit-filled charge from Pastor, church leaders will break into their individual boards where members will discuss their roles and begin to set priorities for the year. There will be a bit of time at the end for re-gathering and sharing. The goal is building community and successfully launching into a new year of board work. As always, all are invited into the work of the church. Even if you are not an officer or a church board member, you can come to the All-Boards Brunch. (If you are an officer or member of a board, you should have already received your invitation.) The plan is to cater food in—no one wants to meet hungry—so our volunteer leaders are not distracted with kitchen tasks. *Please see Pastor or President Peggy if you would like to join the brunch meeting or want more information.* An early Lenten season can catch us by surprise. Sometimes we are wading through snow to get Ash Wednesday services! This year our calendars brought challenges with the Council choosing Sunday, February 11th as the best date for this new All-Boards Brunch. Regrettably, this conflicts with our traditional pre-Lenten brunch, so we will forgo that event this year and look forward to its return another year.

ASH WEDNESDAY is in a week and a half! It is Wednesday, February 14th. There will be a morning service at 11:30 AM, and a fuller service with Holy Communion at 7:00 PM.

The Lenten Soup-n-Study of John chapters 5 to 11 will begin on Wednesday, February 21st. See Beth or Pastor if you want the materials! The study goes from the 21st through March 20th.

SUPERBOWL WATCH PARTY! Chad McCoy would like to invite you to come and watch the big game (or just the commercials if you prefer) with your church family on Sunday, February 11th starting at 4PM (kickoff is at 5:30PM) in the Memorial Room. Bring a dish, or some snacks, beverages, games, etc. We'll treat it like a large family living room and enjoy some fun time together. This is not a fundraiser, but hopefully a "FUN"raiser. Contact Chad at chadwood.mccoy@gmail.com for any questions!

Our People

Cub Scouts Pack #85 of Skokie meets this Tuesday night at St. Peter's from 6:30 to 7:30. It also meets this Saturday in our Gym for its annual Pinewood Derby!

The new group approved by Council to meet in the Gym, SKOMOR, begins its activities this Tuesday in the Gym from 5:30 to 8:30 PM.

**Pastor will attend the monthly meeting of the Niles Township
Church Forum this Wednesday the 7th at 8:30 AM.**

**Chicago Rocks and Minerals is scheduled to have use of our
Memorial Room this coming Saturday the 10th from 6 to 10 PM.**

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Beth Lanford
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

Regular Reminders!

About Communion: We are back to passing the plates, but with the pre-filled, wafer-topped cups in the trays that are passed, for you to take. We practice Open Communion, where it does not matter what your denominational background or identity is; you are welcome to the Lord's Table here. We do ask that our St. Peter's kids have taken the Communicants Class first before partaking. Partake with the Pastor when he prompts us, first with the bread and then with the cup. You'll want to get a little head start pulling the wafer-tab up and away from the plastic cup. Please place the empty cup in the little cup holder rack on the rear of the pew in front of you.

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. No amount is too small! See inside the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

Let us know you were here! Please sign the attendance sheet in the black pew pads and when you think your pew is ready, please pass the pad towards the center aisle of the church.

Pastor's podcast is available wherever you listen to podcasts! Just type in "The Redheaded Preacher" and you'll find us!



MISSION MOMENTS

February 4, 2024

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Mark 1:29-39

Source of Strength

In today's story, a woman is healed by Jesus and then serves a meal to him and his disciples. It was a simple act but a profound one that was recognized and remembered and the server's story was told and retold for generations to come.

On this first Sunday of the month, many congregations will celebrate communion. Who serves communion in your congregation? Do you recognize and remember those who serve in the church in this special way? One church community recognizes their communion servers with these words of blessing and gratitude.

Might your community do something similar?

Pastor: Recognizing that the Spirit falls on all, we rejoice that these people have been called out of our community to serve in this way. They are our communion servers.

Servers: It is a blessing to serve the community in this way. As we serve the elements, we look for the face of Christ in each of you, and we ask God's help, that you might see the face of Christ in each of us.

Congregation: We thank you for this service to our family of faith. As we share communion with each other, we remember, through your leadership, Our Lord Jesus Christ. We rejoice that Christ came to us as Jesus to live, to die and to rise again; we celebrate that Christ lives with us still; and we look forward to the time when all will be gathered at the table of plenty.

Pastor: Grateful for the service of these among us, let us enter into a time of prayer together:

All: (prayer) Holy One, Bless these, our communion servers, as you bless each of us in the ministry to which we have been called. Thank you for your Spirit, poured out so abundantly on each of us. Create in each one of us a pure heart and a true intention to serve, however you have called us. In your name we pray. Amen.

Isaiah 40:21 - 31

²¹Have 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?

²²It is God 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;

²³ who brings princes to naught,

and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴ 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.

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

²⁶ 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.

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”?

²⁸Have 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.

He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹
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.

Mark 1:29 - 39

²⁹As soon as Jesus and the disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And 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.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” ³⁸He 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.” ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.