

Joy Lutheran Church of Rockwall, Texas
302 N. Goliad - Rockwall, Texas 75087
(214) 716-7539 • www.joylutheranchurch.org

North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

North Texas/Oklahoma Mission District

*Bringing Joy to the
Heart of Rockwall*

We are a community of faith, formed
in the grace and joy of Jesus Christ.

We are a people involved in God's
sure and unfolding promise to mend
His creation through the life, death
and resurrection of His Son, Jesus
Christ, and in the power of the Holy
Spirit.

We are a church under the cross of
Christ, shaped by the ancient rhythms
of Christian worship, fellowship and
service to others.

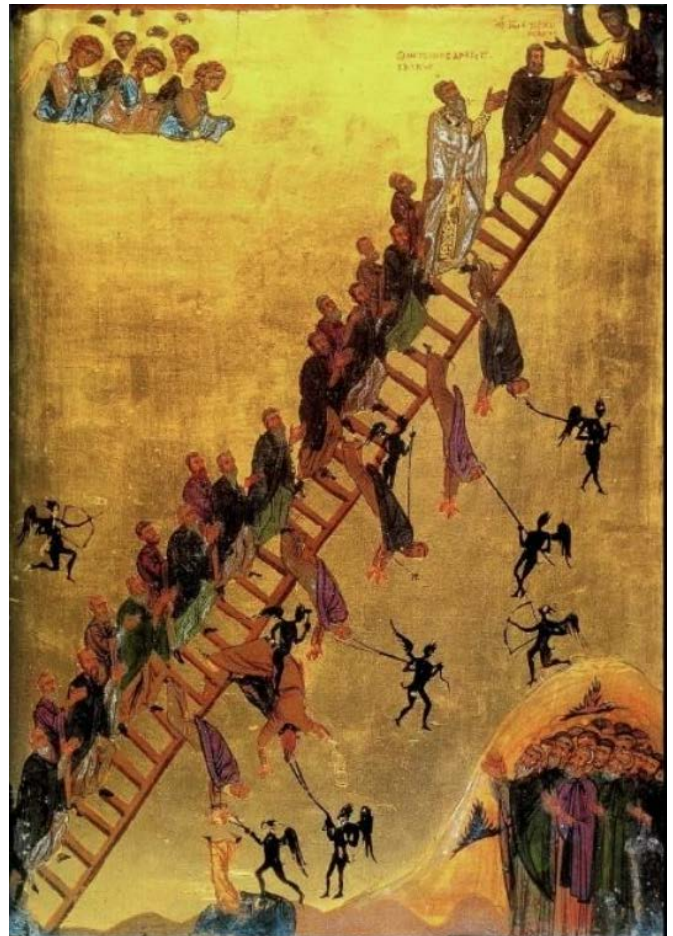
COME SHARE THE JOY!

Our Pastor

Rev. Martin Moore
martinmoore55@gmail.com
(979) 551-6222

Our Council President

Rhonda White
rhondawhite08@gmail.com



The 12th Century Icon: *Ladder of Divine Ascent*
Saint Catherine's Monastery, Sinai Peninsula, Egypt

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (YEAR A)
AUGUST 23, 2026



Our Members, Guests and Visitors

We are all on a journey of faith; God does not expect us to make the journey alone.

Please contact us if we can be of help in any way.

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Prelude

You may use this time to prepare your heart for worship

- Welcome! Whether you are a longtime member or visiting for the first time, you are a gift from God to us. Guests, please fill out the card on the back of your pew and place it in the offering plate later in the service. May the love of Christ comfort you, and the love of His people encourage you!
- All who are baptized and desire to share in the Body and Blood of our Lord are welcome to receive Communion.
- Children in worship are a blessing! A worship bag (filled with coloring pages and crayons, children's bulletin, etc.) is available at the back of the sanctuary to use during worship. Ask an usher if you need assistance.
- We've started an Artists' Gathering, which includes drawing, painting, crafts, etc., every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please come join us in the Fellowship Hall.
- Rally Day is Sunday, September 13th.
- Sunday school resumes September 20th at 9:15 a.m.
- A congregational potluck is scheduled after worship on Sunday, September 20th.
- Please remember to review the Blessing Board to volunteer for various ministries.

"O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth stand in awe of him." (Psalm 96:9)

Please stand

PROCESSIONAL HYMN~ "THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION" (Red P. 654, vss 1,2,3)

654 **The Church's One Foundation**

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of six systems of music, each with a vocal line and a corresponding line of lyrics. The lyrics are arranged in five verses. The first verse is the main text, and the following four verses are variations or continuations of the theme. The score includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are as follows:

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

As the Pastor says the Invocation, the Sign of the Cross ✠ may be made in remembrance of our baptisms.

Pastor (P): "In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Congregation (C): Amen

(P): "Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord." **(C): Amen.**

(P): "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

(P): "Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another." ...

(P): Most merciful God,

(C): We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

(P): In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

(C): Amen

GREETING

(P): 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 ~ (Red, P. 147)

(P): "In peace, let us pray to the Lord." **(C): Lord, have mercy.**

(P): "For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord."

(C): **Lord, have mercy.**

(P): "For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord." (C): **Lord, have mercy.**

(P): "For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord." (C): **Lord, have mercy.**

(P): "Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord." (C): **Amen**

HYMN OF PRAISE: "THIS IS THE FEAST"

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

All
Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and
strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

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

2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the
hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and
might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(P): The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

(P): Care for your Church, O Lord, with perpetual mercy. Since we totter and are sure to fall without your grace, remove what will harm us and arrange what will make us whole. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

(C): Amen

Please be seated

HOLY WORD

(God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song)

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 51:1-6

¹"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. ³For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed."

(P): The Word of the Lord

(C): Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 138*

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;*
before the gods I will sing your praise.

**²I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your Name,*
because of your love and faithfulness;**

³For you have glorified your name*
and your word above all things.

⁴When I called, you answered me;*

you increased my strength within me.

⁵All the kings of the earth will praise you, O LORD,*
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

**⁶They will sing of the ways of the LORD,*
that great is the glory of the LORD.**

⁷Though the LORD be high, he cares for the lowly;*
he perceives the haughty from afar.

**⁸Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;*
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.**

⁹The LORD will make good his purpose for me;*

O LORD, your love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

SECOND READING

Romans 11:33-12:8

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴"For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵"Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

(R): The Word of the Lord

(C): Thanks be to God!

Please stand for the Reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ~ "ALLELUIA"



THE HOLY GOSPEL

(P): The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th Chapter.

(C): **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-20

¹³When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

(P): The Gospel of the Lord.

(C): **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Please be seated

HOMILY FOR THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

LIFE ON THE ALTAR (AN EVANGELICAL UNDERSTANDING OF WORKS)

"Faith is a divine work in us which changes us and makes us to be born anew of God. It kills the old 'Adam' and makes us altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and all powers; and it brings with it the Holy Spirit. O it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly . . . And this is the work the Holy Spirit performs in faith. Because of it, without compulsion, a person is ready and glad to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, out of love and praise to God, who has shown this grace. Thus, it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate heat and light from fire." —Martin Luther (1522)

“[It] is our teaching, faith, and confession that good works follow from true faith (when it is not a dead faith but a living faith), as certainly and without doubt as fruit from a good tree.... [For] it is no less necessary to admonish the people to Christian discipline and good works and to remind them how necessary it is that they practice good works . . . than it is to admonish them that works not be mingled with the article on justification.”

-Book of Concord, *Epitome*, Article IV

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ “FAITH OF OUR FATHERS” (Red, P. 812, 1-4, vs 1-4
words for vs 4 found on P. 813)

812 Faith of Our Fathers

1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,
 2 The mar - tyrs, chained in pris - ons dark, were still in heart and
 3 Faith of our fa - thers! We will love both friend and foe in

fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
 con - science free; and blest would be their chil - dren's fate
 all our strife; pro - claim thee too, as love knows how,

Refrain
 when - e'er we hear that glo - rious word.
 if they, like them, should die for thee. Faith of our fa - thers,
 by sav - ing word and faith - ful life.



- 4 Faith born of God, oh, call us yet,
bind us with all who follow you,
sharing the struggle of your cross
until the world is made anew.
Faith born of God, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.

Please Remain Standing

APOSTLES' CREED

(P): "With the whole church, let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed."

(C): 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 THE CHURCH

(P): Confident in God's steadfast love through Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

(P): ... Lord in your mercy. (C): **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

(P): Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (C): **Amen**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

(P): "The peace of the Lord be with you always." (C): **And also with you.**

(P): "Let us share that peace with one another."

Please be seated as the gifts and offerings are collected

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Please stand as the gifts and offerings are brought forward

Please be seated [after sharing the peace - ushers will collect offering]

GATHERING & PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

*As the gifts are brought forward to the altar,
we will sing the Offertory Response*

Please stand.

"LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL"

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "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." The music is a simple, flowing melody with some rests and ties.

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.

OFFERING PRAYER

(P): Let us pray.

(C): Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please remain standing

THE HOLY MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(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 Him thanks and praise.**

THE PROPER PREFACE

(P): "It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:"

SANCTUS - HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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.

Please remain standing.

HOLY MEAL

(God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(P): 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.

(P): 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.' For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death, until he comes.

(C): Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

(P): Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of His resurrection, we await His coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

(C): Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

(P): Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of His resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

(C): Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

(P): Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

(C): Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

(P): Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

(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

Please be seated

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

(P): Come, for all has been prepared.

AGNUS DEI (LAMB OF GOD)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

We invite all baptized believers to come forward and receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Small children are invited to come with arms folded across their hearts to receive a blessing from the pastor. Both the elements of wine and grape juice are offered. If you are unable to come forward for communion, please inform an usher and communion will be brought to you.

Please stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

(P): May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **(C): Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(P): Let us pray: "We give you our thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord."

(C): Amen

Please remain standing

SENDING

(God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.)

BLESSING

(P): The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

(C): Amen

SENDING HYMN ~ "THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION" (Red, P. 654, vss 1,4,5)

654 **The Church's One Foundation**

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

DISMISSAL

(P): "We are called by Christ"

(C): **To JOYfully share Jesus and ourselves with our neighbors.**

(P): "Go in peace. Share the good news."

(C): **Thanks be to God.**

OUR WORSHIP SERVANTS THIS MORNING:

Greeter:	Marcia Matarelli
Ushers:	Paul & Linda Manak
Altar Care:	Linda Manak
Lector & Communion Assistant:	Steve Orr
Acolyte:	Matthew Chubbs
Music & Facebook Monitor:	Rhonda White
Hospitality:	Rhonda White
Offering Count Team:	Rhonda White & Sandra Lacroix
Altar Flowers:	Carol Agee, in memory of her mother, Billie Simmons' birthday