

**LCMS DEACONESS MINISTRY**

**LCMS Office of International Mission — \$39,523**

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Hymn: “For All the Faithful Women” (v. 1, *LSB* 855). (An additional verse of the hymn will be sung following each of the readings, and verses 3 and 4 will follow the closing prayer.)

Reader 1: There are numerous faithful women throughout Scripture who served the Lord in many ways. One Old Testament woman who served the Lord was Ruth, who cared for her mother-in-law, Naomi, and traveled with her from Moab to Naomi’s homeland in Judah. She left her Moabite family and gods, cared for Naomi, and worshiped the one true God. Her service to the Lord was expressed in her care of Naomi.

Hymn: Ruth verse (7)

Reader 2: Mary and Martha were friends of Jesus. We often think of Martha as being very busy and fussy, but she had a deep faith as well, expressed when Jesus arrived after the death of her brother, Lazarus. Mary is remembered as sitting at Jesus’ feet, listening as He taught. These sisters served the Lord, each in her own way.

Hymn: Martha and Mary verse (9)

Reader 1: Another Mary who is included in Scripture is Mary Magdalene. Jesus healed her, and she served Him. She was one of the women who prepared the spices and ointments for burial and went to the tomb on Easter morning to anoint the body of Jesus, only to find that He wasn’t in the tomb. She is the first one to see the risen Jesus on that first Easter morning.

Hymn: Mary Magdalene verse (11)

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Reader 2: Another woman who served the Lord, and the poor and widows in Joppa, was Tabitha — translated as “Dorcas.” When she died, the disciples in Joppa had heard that Peter was in Lydda, and they sent for him. The widows in the room where they had laid Dorcas were weeping and showing Peter the garments and tunics that Dorcas had made. Peter prayed and took Dorcas’ hand and said to her, “Tabitha, arise” (Acts 9:40). She sat up, and Peter presented her — alive! — to those gathered.

Hymn: Dorcas verse (12)

Closing Prayer: Lord, You have called women with diverse talents to serve You. We pray that You would bless the mite offerings offered for the work of the LCMS Deaconess Ministry, that the women called for this ministry may be equipped through education and training. We thank You for their willingness to serve Your people. We pray this in the name of our Savior, Jesus. Amen.

Hymn: Verses 3 and 4