**Ministry of Lector**

**Opening Prayer**

*The opening prayer begins with the sign of the cross.*

**Invitation to Prayer:**

Leader: Let’s all take a moment of silence

here in the midst of our busy lives

in order to collect the events of today

and bring ourselves, body and soul, into this gathering.

*Pause for a moment of sacred silence.*

**Gathering Song:**

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 4:16-22

**Response:**

Leader: Blessed Lord, who cause all the Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may such wisely hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of the Holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**ALL:** **In the name of God, Amen.**

**Prayer:**

Leader: I weave a silence on my lips.

 I weave a silence into my mind.

 I weave a silence within my heart

**ALL:** **I close my ears to distractions.**

 **I close my eyes to attentions,**

 **I close my heart to temptations.**

Leader: Calm me, O Lord, as you stilled the storm,

 Still me, O Lord, keep me from harm.

**ALL:** **Let all the tumult within me cease,**

 **Enfold me, Lord in your peace.**

**ALL: Gracious God, remove our hearts of stone. Dig away the stoniness of our hearts. Root out the thorniness in us. Give us hearts of flesh, an open receptive soil, ready and eager to embrace your Word. May the Word we bear to your people grow in the soil of their hearts. May it bear fruit for the life of the world. Amen**