

Psalms of our Savior



CARR

Ruthfred Lutheran Church

Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (www.aflc.org)

**We are delighted to have you with us today as we gather to
worship the Lord Jesus Christ.**

If you are visiting today, we are glad you are here! Whether you are visiting from out of town, seeking a new church home, or for any other reason, thank you for choosing to worship with us. We would love to get in touch with you. Please fill out your contact information in the red folder at the end of your pew, or fill out the information on the back cover of this bulletin, and place it in an offering basket.

About Us:

- ◆ Since her opening service on Christmas Eve in 1948 and her charter the following year, Ruthfred Lutheran Church has been a congregation rooted in the conviction that the Bible is inspired by God, living and active, capable to produce faith in its hearers, and true and faithful in all its parts. As such, our preaching and teaching aim to be faithful to its correct interpretation and is central to our worship of God.
- ◆ Our Divine Service, called the “Common Service,” possesses a rich history that stems from the early days of the Lutheran Reformation. It is centered upon God’s Word, and proclaims the realities of God’s abundant grace in Jesus Christ from its start to its close. If this is a new form of worship for you, this bulletin will serve as a welcome companion. The order of service begins on page 3.
- ◆ The Divine Service begins as our organist begins the Prelude. When the music starts, please quiet your hearts as you prayerfully prepare for worship.



Our cover is a paper cut, or *scherenschnitte*, created specially for our church by our very own Kathryn Carr. The artwork will reflect liturgical and Ruthfred-specific themes that occur throughout the year.

The Divine Service of the Word

Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023

"Psalms of Our Savior"

Prelude:

"In Thee Alone, O Christ"

(J. G. Walther)

"Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

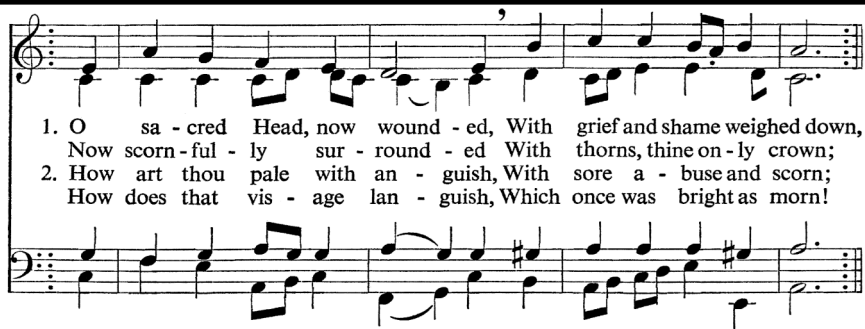
(G. W. Cassler)

The Opening Hymn:

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

(SBH #88, 2nd tune)

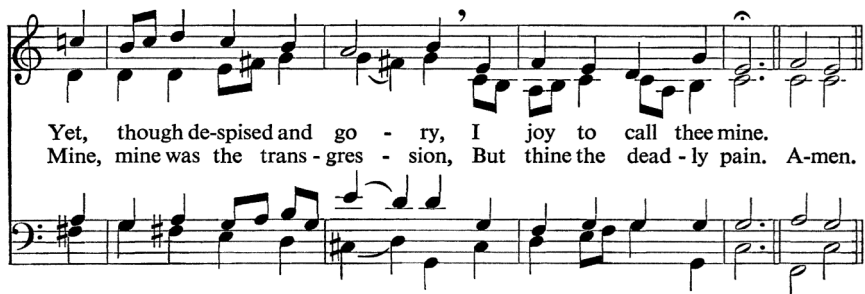
(Please stand as we join our hearts in song)



1. O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns, thine on - ly crown;
2. How art thou pale with an - guish, With sore a - buse and scorn;
How does that vis - age lan - guish, Which once was bright as morn!



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss till now was thine!
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion Were all for sin - ners' gain;



Yet, though de-spised and go - ry, I joy to call thee mine.
Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, But thine the dead - ly pain. A-men.

3 What language shall I borrow
To thank thee, dearest friend,
For this thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me thine for ever,
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
Outlive my love to thee.

4 Be near when I am dying
O show thy Cross to me!
And, for my succor flying,
Come, Lord, to set me free.
These eyes, new faith receiving,
From thee shall never move;
For he who dies believing
Dies safely in thy love. Amen.

Ascribed to St. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153

Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76

Tr. James Waddell Alexander, 1804–59 a.

The "invocation" is Latin for "call upon." In the Invocation we remember our baptism and acknowledge God as our Father. We are reminded that through Christ's name we have access to the Father's throne by the Holy Spirit. Because we are children of God, we have the privilege to invite (invoke) God's presence and blessing upon this service of "divine liturgy" in which we receive the Work of God through His Word and Spirit, and also in which we offer up to God our praise as an act of worship. *Hebrews 10:19-25; 13:15; Ephesians 2:18*

Lent is a season where we are invited to examine ourselves. When we do we find that we are confronted with our sinfulness. As we begin our worship of Him, we come to Him together, and in the quietness of our own hearts, asking for His forgiveness, knowing that because of Christ, He gladly grants it. (1

The Call to Worship and Invocation

Pastor (P): We open this service in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen

The Order for Public Confession (SBH, p. 250)

P: Dearly Beloved: The Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ has been instituted for the special comfort and strengthening of those who humbly confess their sins, and who hunger and thirst after righteousness. Forasmuch as we intend to come to the Lord's Table, it becomes us diligently to examine ourselves as St. Paul exhorts us.

We find, when we do this, that we are under the dominion of sin and death. To save us from death, make us children of God and exalt us to everlasting life, our Lord Jesus Christ had mercy on us, took our nature upon Him, and Himself became obedient unto death.

In order that we should believe this with greater confidence and be strengthened in cheerful obedience to His will, He has instituted the Sacrament of the Altar in which He gives us His Body and His Blood to eat and to drink. Whoever eats this Bread and drinks this Cup, firmly believing the words of Christ, lives in Christ and Christ in him, and has eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death, that He was delivered for our offences and raised again for our justification. For all that He has done we are bound to give Him most hearty thanks, to take up our cross and follow Him, and as He gave commandment, to love one another as He has loved us. For as we are all partakers of this one Bread and drink of this one Cup, so are we all one body in Him. Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, unto 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 Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son our Lord, Amen.

P: I ask you, in the presence of God, who searches the heart: Do you confess that you are by nature a most unworthy sinner, and that you have grievously offended against Him, in thought, word, and deed, and have merited only His wrath and condemnation?

C: I do so confess.

P: Do you trust entirely in the mercy of God in Jesus Christ?

C: I do so trust.

P: Do you promise heartily to forgive others, as you believe that God forgives you, and to serve Him henceforth in newness of life, to the glory of His holy Name?

C: I do so promise.

P: Let us humbly kneel, and make confession unto God, imploring His forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: O God, our heavenly Father, I confess unto Thee that I have grievously sinned against Thee in many ways; not only by outward transgressions, but also by secret thoughts and desires which I cannot fully understand, but which are all known unto Thee. I do earnestly repent, and am heartily sorry for these my offenses, and I beseech Thee of Thy great goodness to have mercy upon me, and for the sake of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to forgive my sins, and graciously to help my infirmities. Amen.

The Absolution, Admonition & Blessing:

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and for the sake of the sufferings, death, and resurrection of His dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, forgives us all our sins. As a Minister of the Church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare unto you who do truly repent and believe in Him, the entire forgiveness of all your sins. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

P: On the other hand, by the same authority, I declare unto the impenitent and unbelieving, that so long as they continue in their impenitence, God has not forgiven their sins, and will assuredly visit their iniquities upon them, if they turn not from their evil ways, and come to true repentance and faith in Christ, ere the day of grace be ended.

P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.

C: Amen

The Absolution is based upon God's instruction in Luke 24:47 that repentance and the forgiveness of sins should be widely proclaimed in the name of Jesus. (See also 1 John. 1:9).

"Introit" means "to enter into," and is a responsive reading meant to lead God's forgiven children into the worship of Him. The words are from Scripture, and relate to the theme of the day in the liturgical calendar.

The Introit (Read Responsively; Please stand)

P: I will cry to God most High.

C: To God that performs all things for me. In the shadow of Your wings will I make my refuge.

P: Until these calamities be over. Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me.

C: For my soul trusts in You. (Psalm 57: 1-2)

The Gloria Patri (Sung in Unison; SBH p. 17)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Reading of the Passion History 1 (page 5)

"Jesus' Readiness To Suffer And Die"

The Scripture Lesson: Psalm 51 (NASB)

¹ Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified when You speak and blameless when You judge. ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. ⁶ Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. ⁷ Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Make me to hear joy and gladness, let the bones which You have broken rejoice. ⁹ Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit. ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will be converted to You. ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; *then* my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness. ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, that my mouth may declare Your praise. ¹⁶ For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. ¹⁸ By Your favor do good to Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹ Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, in burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then young bulls will be offered on Your altar.

During different seasons of the year, we confess our faith using Luther's explanation of the 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed, which concerns the person and work of Jesus. In it we confess who Christ is, and what we believe about Him. This serves as a public witness of our faith, as well as personal and corporate affirmation of the salvation that is ours in Him.

The Confession of Faith

"I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary is my Lord: who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood, and with His innocent sufferings and death, in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead, and lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true."

The Special Music

2:00 Robert Vogel, piano—*God So Loved the World* (J. Stainer)

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,
That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish,
But have everlasting life.

The Anthem

7:30 Senior Choir—*Who Is the Lamb* (L. Larson)

Who is the Lamb who sleeps in stable warm?
Who is the Lamb, secure in Mary's arm?
Who is the Lamb whom heavenly angels charm?
Who is the Lamb?

Who is the Lamb who preaches in the field?
Who is the Lamb, the blind and sick to heal?
Who is the Lamb for us His life to yield?
Who is the Lamb?

Who is the Lamb? The Promised One, the sinless son,
His death is our salvation won.

Who is the Lamb who comes down heaven's path?
Who is the Lamb? A cross is on His back!
Who is the Lamb who groans and breathes His last?
Who is the Lamb?

Behold the Lamb of God!
The Lamb who takes away the sins of the world!

The Announcements

The Sermon Hymn: "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood" (AMB #412)

1 There is a foun - tain filled with blood Drawn from Im - man - uel's veins,
 2 The dy - ing thief re - joiced to see That foun-tain in his day,
 3 Dear dy - ing Lamb, Thy pre - cious blood Shall nev - er lose its pow'r,
 4 E'er since by faith I saw the stream Thy flow-ing wounds sup - ply,
 5 When this poor lisp - ing, stam-m'ring tongue Lies si - lent in the grave,

And sin - ners plunged be - neath that flood Lose all their guilt - y stains:
 And there may I, though vile as he, Wash all my sins a - way:
 Till all the ran - somed Church of God Be saved to sin no more:
 Re - deem-ing love has been my theme And shall be till I die:
 Then in a no - bler, sweet - er song, I'll sing Thy pow'r to save:

Lose all their guilt - y stains, Lose all their guilt - y stains;
 Wash all my sins a - way, Wash all my sins a - way;
 Be saved to sin no more, Be saved to sin no more;
 And shall be till I die, And shall be till I die;
 I'll sing Thy pow'r to save, I'll sing Thy pow'r to save;

And sin - ners plunged be - neath that flood Lose all their guilt - y stains.
 And there may I, though vile as he, Wash all my sins a - way.
 Till all the ran - somed Church of God Be saved to sin no more.
 Re - deem-ing love has been my theme And shall be till I die.
 Then in a no - bler, sweet - er song, I'll sing Thy pow'r to save.

Text: William Cowper, 1731-1800
 Tune: American melody

CLEANSING FOUNTAIN
 CMD

The sermon is the central focus of our worship, as it is where we hear and learn from God's Word.

The Sermon: "Psalm of Repentance" | Psalm 51

Sermon Notes:

The Offertory Response (Sung in Unison; Please Stand)

Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence: and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation: and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. (Psalm 51:10-12)

Today we have the privilege of receiving Holy Communion together. We do not require membership to participate in this.

However, we do ask that those coming to receive Communion would be baptized believers in the saving work of Jesus Christ, who are of confirmation age (completed 8th grade), and who are in agreement with the biblical teaching of Christ concerning it.

We believe and teach that Holy Communion is a Sacrament in which we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in, with and under the bread and the wine, that it was instituted by Christ himself, and that it is given to us Christians to eat and to drink.

We believe and teach that the benefit for Christians receiving Communion is expressed in the words "given" and "shed for you for the forgiveness of sins" (See Matthew 26:26-29). As described by Martin Luther in his *Small Catechism*, these words show us that "forgiveness of sin, life and salvation" are given to us in Communion.

Luther formulated a list of 20 questions with appropriate responses to guide the believer to prepare their hearts for Communion. We include a selection of those questions on the following page for the purpose of aiding you in the same way.

The Service for Communion

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy Spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

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

C: It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God: Who on the Tree of the Cross did give salvation unto mankind; that from where death arose, there life might also rise again; and that the evil one who by a tree once overcame, might likewise by Christ on the Tree of the Cross be overcome, we pray through Christ our Lord; through whom with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious Name; ever more praising Thee, and saying:

C: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory; Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Institution:

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples, saying, take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you; This do in remembrance of me.

After the same manner also, He took the cup, when He had supped, and, when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in my Blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; this do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

P: 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; Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;

C: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And with thy Spirit.

Do you believe that you are a sinner?

Yes, I believe that I am a sinner.

Are you sorry for your sins?

Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.

Do you desire to be saved?

Yes, such is my desire.

In Whom do you trust?

In my dear Lord, Jesus Christ.

What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?

He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

Do you believe that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?

Yes, I believe it.

What induces you to believe this?

The Word of Christ, "Take, eat this is My body; This is My blood, drink of it all of you."

Why ought we to remember and proclaim His death?

That we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins but Christ, true God and man; and that we may learn to look with terror at our sins, and to regard them as great indeed, and to find joy and comfort in Him alone, and thus be saved through such faith.

Finally, why do you wish to go to receive Holy Communion?

That I may learn to believe that Christ died for my sin out of great love, as before said; and that I may also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.

The Agnus Dei:

C: O Christ Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us;

O Christ Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us;

O Christ Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace. Amen.

The Distribution

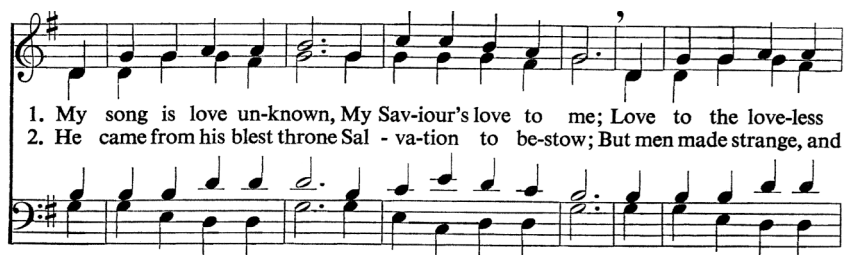
During Holy Communion we shall sing:

"My Song Is Love Unknown" (SBH #65)

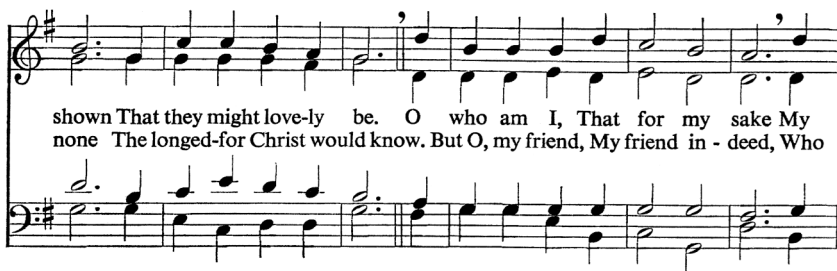
(printed on next page)

The Distribution (*During Communion*)

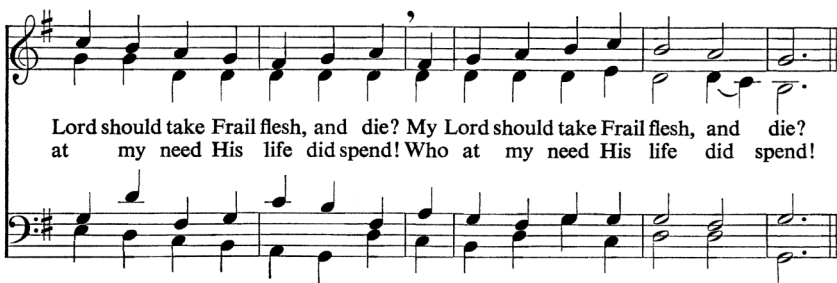
"My Song Is Love Unknown" (SBH #65)



1. My song is love un-known, My Sav-iour's love to me; Love to the love-less
2. He came from his blest throne Sal - va-tion to be-stow; But men made strange, and



shown That they might love-ly be. O who am I, That for my sake My
none The longed-for Christ would know. But O, my friend, My friend in - deed, Who



Lord should take Frail flesh, and die? My Lord should take Frail flesh, and die?
at my need His life did spend! Who at my need His life did spend!

3 Sometimes they strew his way
And his sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their king.
Then 'Crucify!'
Is all their breath,
And for his death
They thirst and cry.

4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these
Themselves displease,
And 'gainst him rise.

5 They rise, and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful he
To suffering goes,
That he his foes
From thence might free.

6 Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend.

Samuel Crossman, 1624–83

The Nunc Dimittis:

U: Lord now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the Glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Prayer:

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

C: And His mercy endureth forever

The Closing Prayer *(after which the congregation shall sing "Amen.")*

P: The Lord be with you.

C. And with thy spirit

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Benediction

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May He make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

May He lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

(Numbers 6:24-26)

C: Amen

The Closing Hymn:

"Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"

(AMB #71)

The Silent Prayer & Chimes

The Postlude:

"Christ Is My Life's Salvation"

(J. S. Bach)

1 Je - sus, keep me near the Cross, There a pre - cious foun - tain
2 Near the Cross, a trem - bling soul, Love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the Cross! O Lamb of God, Bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the Cross I'll watch and wait, Hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,
Le - jos de mi Pa - dre Dios Por Je - sús fui halla - do:

Free to all— a heal - ing stream, Flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
There the bright and morn - ing star Shed its beams a - round me.
Help me walk from day to day, With its sha - dow o'er me.
Till I reach the gold - en strand, Just be - yond the riv - er.
Por su gra - cia y por su a - mor Só - lo fui sal - va - do.

Refrain

In the Cross, in the Cross, Be my glo - ry ev - er;
En Je - sús, mi Señ - or, Es mi glo - ria e - ter - na:

Till my rap - tured soul shall find Rest be - yond the riv - er
Él me a - mó y me sal - vó Por su gra - cia tier - na.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Tune: William H. Doane, 1832–1915

NEAR THE CROSS
76 76 w/refrain

Our Communion Practice: We do not practice the communion of children who are not instructed and confirmed, but the children are encouraged to come to the altar rail for a family blessing. Please sign a communion card and hand it to the deacon. If you are not a member of a Lutheran Church, please speak to the pastors any time about communion and its meaning.



Please use this space to let the
pastors, elders and/or church
know of your prayer needs.

[illegible]

☐ Please keep this request Private (to be kept amongst the pastors only).

■ Please make this request known to the Ruthfred prayer team and announce it to the congregation when appropriate.

Visiting with us?

Please use this tear-off section to help us get to know a little bit about you and how we may best serve you.

If you have a specific concern or prayer request, please use the space on the other side of this fold.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Children: _____

Address: _____

Phone (indicate home, cell, etc.) _____

Email: _____

I am a/an:

- ☐ 1st-Time Visitor
- ☐ 2nd-Time Visitor
- ☐ Out-of-Town Visitor
- ☐ Regular Attendee

I would like to learn more about:

- ☐ What It Means To Be a Christian
- ☐ Church Membership
- ☐ Ruthfred's Ministries or Groups
- ☐ Ways To Share My Gifts

Ruthfred Staff

Rev. Steven P. Carlson | Senior Pastor
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 229)
PastorCarlson@ruthfred.org

Rev. Bryce C. McMinn | Associate Pastor
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 226)
PastorMcMinn@ruthfred.org

Melissa Bostaph | Parish Assistant
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 225)
MelissaBostaph@ruthfred.org

Sally Ondrejko | Office Manager
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 222)
SallyOndrejko@ruthfred.org

John Morden | Accounting Manager
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 224)
JohnMorden@ruthfred.org

Felicia Rieck | Administrative Assistant
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 221)
FeliciaRieck@ruthfred.org

Brian Lyskava | Custodian

Andrew Vogel | Multi-Media Coordinator
(412) 568-3215
AndrewVogel@ruthfred.org

A. J. Dolence | Live Stream & Social Media Assistant
AJDolence@ruthfred.org

Robert Vogel
Senior & Bell Choirs

Frederick Schell
Organist

Essi Efthimiou
Interim Organist

Melissa Manzo
Children's Choir

Erin McMinn | Interim Preschool Head Teacher
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 234)
Preschool@ruthfred.org

Ruthfred Lutheran Church

3401 South Park Road
Bethel Park, Pennsylvania 15102
Phone: (412) 835-7140
Email: ruthfred@ruthfred.org
www.ruthfred.org