

Hallelujah



RUTHFRED LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

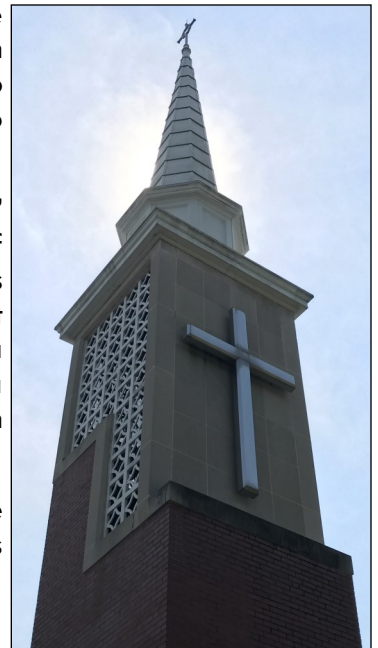
Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (www.aflc.org)

We are delighted to have you with us this morning 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

The Fourth Sunday after Easter, May 7, 2023

Cantate

Prelude:

**"The Head That
Once Was
Crowned"**

(R. Hobby)

"Come Ye Faithful"

(W. Wold)

The Opening

Hymn:

**"At the Lamb's
High Feast We
Sing"**

(SBH #95, 1st tune)

(Please stand as we
join our hearts in
song)

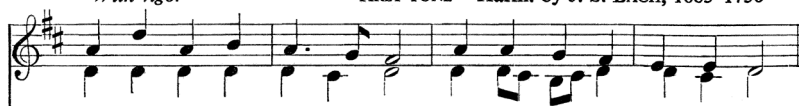
SALZBURG (ALLE MENSCHEN). 7 7, 7 7. D.

With vigor

FIRST TUNE

JAKOB HINTZE, 1622-1702

Harm. by J. S. BACH, 1685-1750



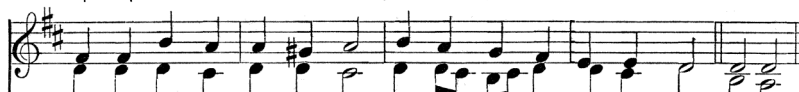
1. At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to our vic - to - rious King,
2. Where the Pas - chal Blood is poured, Death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;



Who hath washed us in the tide Flow - ing from his pier - ed side;
Is - rael's hosts tri - umph - ant go Through the wave that drowns the foe.



Praise we him, whose love di - vine Gives his sa - cred Blood for wine,
Praise we Christ, whose Blood was shed, Pas - chal vic - tim, Pas - chal bread;



Gives his Bod - y for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.
With sin - cer - i - ty and love Eat we man - na from a - bove. A-men.



3 Mighty victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce powers beneath thee lie;
Thou hast conquered in the fight,
Thou hast brought us life and light;
Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthrall;
Thou hast opened paradise,
And in thee thy saints shall rise.

4 Paschal triumph, Paschal joy,
Sin alone can this destroy;
From sin's power do thou set free
Souls new-born, O Lord, in thee.
Hymns of glory, songs of praise,
Father, unto thee we raise:
Risen Lord, all praise to thee
With the Spirit ever be. Amen.

*Based on the Latin
Tr. Robert Campbell, 1814-68 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*

We confess our sins at the beginning of each service, because we are coming into the presence of a holy God. Though we are sinners who daily struggle with sin, we are invited to come to Him to receive the forgiveness of sin earned for us by Jesus. Through this forgiveness, we are given a right standing before a holy God. Because sin is both corporate and personal, we confess our sins together, and privately in the silence of our hearts.

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).

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. 247)

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

U: 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

"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.

God's chief means of extending His grace to His children is through His Word. Hearing it and learning it are central to His proper worship.

The Introit (Read Responsively; Please stand)

P: Christ is Risen.

C: He is Risen indeed and is coming again.

P: O sing to the Lord a new song, alleluia; for He has done marvelous things, alleluia.

C: The Lord has made known His salvation.

P: His righteousness has He openly showed in the sight of the heathen. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

C: His right hand, and His holy arm hath gotten Him the victory. (Psalm 98:1-2)

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 First Lesson: Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60 (NASB)

¹ Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. ² So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵ The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. ⁶ And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them. ⁷ The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith. ⁸ And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ But some men from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen, including both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and argued with Stephen.

^{2a} And he said, "Hear me, brethren and fathers!"

⁵¹ "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did. ⁵² Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now

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The First Lesson: Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60 (NASB) (cont'd)

become; ⁵³ you who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it." ⁵⁴ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; ⁵⁶ and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. ⁵⁸ When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" ⁶⁰ Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

The "Gradual" (Latin for *step*) is a liturgical reading bridging the readings of the epistle and the Gospel. It is comprised of Scripture, mostly the Psalms.

The Gradual

Alleluia, alleluia. The right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly. Alleluia. Christ, being raised from the dead, dies no more. Death has no more dominion over Him. Alleluia.

(Psalm 118:16; Romans 6:9)

The Alleluia (Sung in Unison)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel Reading: John 14: 1-14 (NASB)

The Congregation shall rise and sing, "**Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**"

¹ "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. ⁷ If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." ⁸ Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. ¹¹ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me;

(continued on next page)

During the Service of Holy Communion, we confess our faith using the Words of the Nicene Creed. Though officially adopted a few hundred years after Christ's earthly ministry, the Creed emphasizes the truths that had been taught since the time of the Apostles, namely, that Christ is both fully God and fully man. As such, we are assured that in the person of Jesus Christ, God Himself became like us in every way, yet perfect and without sin; and shed His own Blood and gave His own Body in death so that we could find in Him forgiveness of sin and life eternal.

This creed has been used in worship across denominational lines.

The Holy Gospel Reading: John 14: 1-14 (NASB) (cont'd)

otherwise believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it."

The Congregation shall sing, "**Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**"

The Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed (Confessed in Unison)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one Holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

The Special Music

11:00: Senior Choir—*Sing Ye Joyfully* (D. Besig)

Sing ye joyfully unto the Lord!
Sing all ye nations! Sing all ye people!
Sing ye joyfully unto the Lord and praise His holy name
singing "Alleluia, alleluia!"
Sing a joyful alleluia: Sing ye joyfully unto the Lord!

Sing ye joyfully unto the Lord!
Sing of His power, sing of His glory,
Sing ye joyfully unto the Lord and praise His holy name
singing "Alleluia, alleluia!"
Sing a joyful alleluia; Sing ye joyfully unto the Lord!

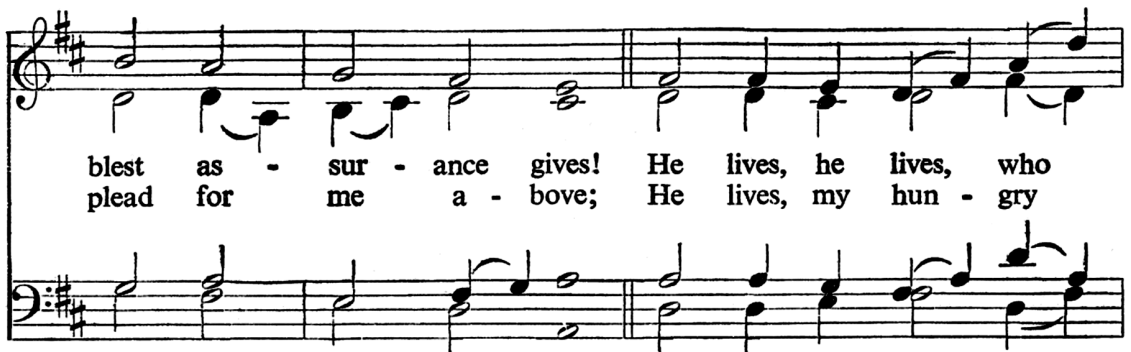
Sing of the beauty of the earth and the glory of His creation!
Sing of the power of His word and the wonder, the wonder of His love!

The Announcements

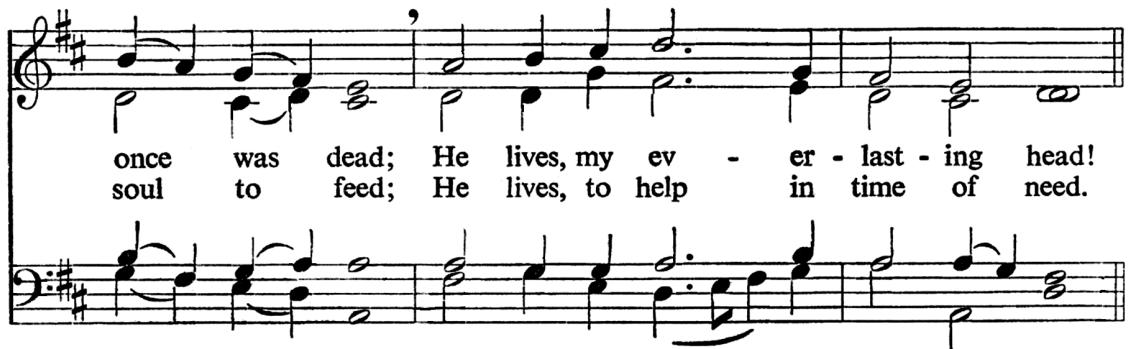
The Sermon Hymn: "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" (SBH #387)



1. I know that my Re - deem - er lives: What joy the
 2. He lives, to bless me with his love; He lives, to



blest as - sur - ance gives! He lives, he lives, who
 plead for me a - bove; He lives, my hun - gry



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - last - ing head!
 soul to feed; He lives, to help in time of need.

3 He lives, and grants me daily breath;
 He lives, and I shall conquer death;
 He lives, my mansion to prepare;
 He lives, to bring me safely there.

4 He lives, all glory to his Name;
 He lives, my Saviour, still the same;
 What joy the blest assurance gives:
 I know that my Redeemer lives!

Samuel Medley, 1738-99

The Sermon is the central component of our Worship. In it, we hear God's Word taught and explained. We hear His Law, convicting of sin and guiding the believer. We also hear the promises of His Gospel, the Good News of Christ's work for us—His redemption, forgiveness and provision of life eternal.

On the first Sunday of each month, as well as on other special occasions, 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.

The Sermon:

"God's Church Grows Through Ministry" | Acts 6:1-7

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)

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. Therefore 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 cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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 page 12 for the purpose of aiding you in the same way.

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 alway.

C: And with thy spirit.

The Agnus Dei

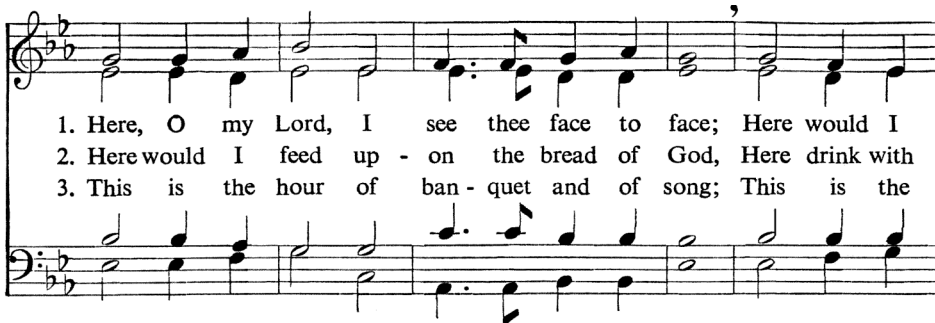
C: O Christ thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us;

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

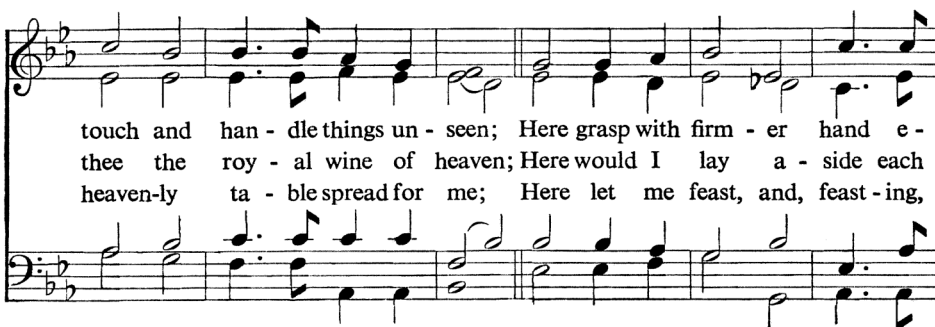
O Christ thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace. Amen.

The Distribution

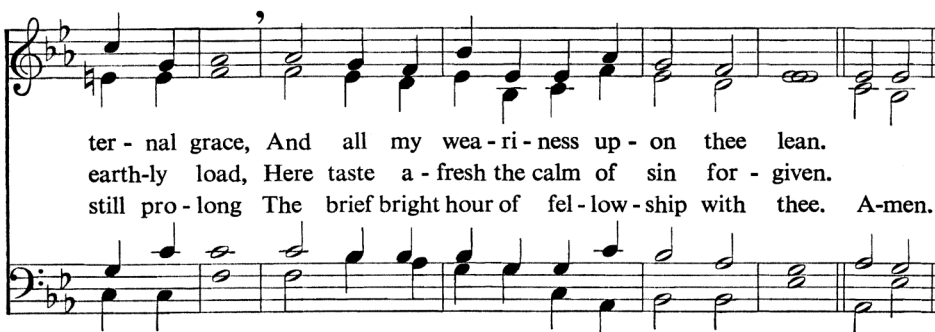
During Communion we shall sing: 'Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face' (SBH #275)



1. Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face; Here would I
2. Here would I feed up - on the bread of God, Here drink with
3. This is the hour of ban - quet and of song; This is the



touch and han - dle things un - seen; Here grasp with firm - er hand e -
thee the roy - al wine of heaven; Here would I lay a - side each
heaven-ly ta - ble spread for me; Here let me feast, and, feast - ing,



ter - nal grace, And all my wea - ri - ness up - on thee lean.
earth-ly load, Here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - given.
still pro - long The brief bright hour of fel - low - ship with thee. A-men.

4 I have no help but thine; nor do I need
Another arm save thine to lean upon;
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
My strength is in thy might, thy might alone.

5 Mine is the sin, but thine the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt, but thine the cleansing Blood;
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace;
Thy Blood, thy righteousness, O Lord, my God. Amen.

Horatius Bonar, 1808-89

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 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:

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

(Worship & Rejoice, #719)

The Silent Prayer & Chimes

The Postlude:

"Lift Up Your Heads"

(M. Burkhardt)

1 Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.
2 Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.
3 Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me;
4 I, the Lord, will bless and keep you and give you peace;

Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you; you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you; what I can cure.
grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.
I, the Lord, will smile up-on you and give you peace:

In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for
Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his
Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here his ten-der com-fort
I, the Lord, will be your Fa-ther, Sav-ior, Com-fort-er, and

ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing— you are my own.
glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.
stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free.
Broth-er. Go, my chil-dren, I will keep you and give you peace.

WORDS: Jaroslav J. Vajda (1919-)
MUSIC: Welsh melody

AR HYD NOS

Announcements

The altar flowers are presented by the Bostaph family in memory of Marcia Pavesi, whose birthday was May 5, with thanksgiving for her friendship and the legacy of faith she shared so lovingly with us!

Nursery Today: 8:30—Donna Weighley; 11:00—Claudia Patalong.

Special thanks to Eric Wentz, Kurt Ziegler, and Steve Cox. They are reading Scripture and assisting with Holy Communion today at the 8:30, 11:00, and 6:00 services, respectively.

Welcome to Worship Today! We are blessed to have everyone, visitors and regular attendees alike, in worship today! Please take time to greet one another in His Name!

Known to be hospitalized: Joanne Salvetti—Magee Women's Hospital. Caryl Hansen—now at Paramount Senior Living, Room 328. Please support them with your prayers and cards.

Prayers for Recovery and Healing: Sylvia Fitzgerald—broken leg. Amy Jones (Al Malone's daughter)—broken pelvis. Her address is 1216 Valley St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136. Carol McDowell—knee replacement. Abby Stutzman—autoimmune disorders. Bob Bohaski is now home recovering from his recent surgery. Virginia DiSalvo is now at a rehab facility recovering her strength. Lundy Castro (Jen Carlson's father)—his cancer continues to spread. Erna Jochum—Concordia Health Center Room 283. Please keep them in your prayers, as well as all those in the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

On hospice care: Don Coldsmith continues under hospice care. Please pray for him and support him with cards.

Condolences: Our pastor and congregation extend Christian love and sympathy to Garnett Wasson's family. Garnett, who had been a member at Ruthfred since 2019, passed away in Florida at the age of 91 on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Her service will be at the David Henney Funeral Home on Monday, May 8, 2023, at 11 a.m. Burial will follow at Jefferson Cemetery.

Congratulations to Jeremy Huwe who graduated from the University of Pittsburgh on April 28, 2023, having earned a Doctorate of Pharmacy degree. Blessings to you, Jeremy, as you begin this next chapter of your life!

Congratulations to Mason and Meghan Mitchell! They were married on Saturday, May 6th, just hours after both graduated from the Free Lutheran Bible College. The Rev. Dr. Nathan Olson, a former Ruthfred vicar, performed the ceremony at Living Word Lutheran Church in Eagan, MN. Mason is a Ruthfred member. He and Megan will be moving soon to Bethel Park, and Mason will be serving as Interim Youth Director for Ruthfred.

Meals on Wheels Collection: Our neighbors at Meals on Wheels, located at Grace Lutheran Church in South Park, need bottled salad dressings. Donations will be accepted until June 4th. Their preferred purchase places are Aldi's or The Dollar Store. Please place these items in the appropriate bin outside the kitchen. They are grateful for any donation! If you have any questions, please contact Carol Ward. Thank you!

Benevolence Committee: We will be meeting Monday, May 15, at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge. All members of the congregation are invited to come with any questions, input, or suggestions. We will be reviewing the AFLC ministries of Pastor Jonathan and Tamba Abel in Brazil and Michael Rokenbroddt in Uganda.

Announcements (cont'd)

VBS 2023: Dates are July 24-28. The theme this year will be "Twists and Turns." Come and learn how following Jesus will help you through life's twists and turns. Registration is open at: <https://www.myvbs.org/RuthfredLutheran/>. This link allows parents to register their children for this fun event and also allows volunteers to sign up to help make VBS a success! Volunteer sign-up sheets are also available on the interior window outside the Fellowship Hall entrance.

VBS Decorating 2023: This year decorating will be an in-house project. We meet each Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. on the stage in the Fellowship Hall. These meetings will continue until the decorations are completed. Please consider supporting this important ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Jason or Donna Weighley.

Volunteer Guidelines: Please note that all volunteers age 18 and older must have current clearances in order to serve with children and youth at VBS, Sunday School, and youth events. Clearances are good for 5 years. Contact Felicia Rieck in the church office for more information.

Pray for our Confirmation students (Joshua Cimarolli and Jonathan Tarrant) as they prepare for their final exam and for Confirmation Sunday on May 21st. Pray for their parents and families also as the students look forward to this important step in their spiritual development.

College Graduates: It is that time of year when we want to recognize our graduates. Please let us know (via email to sallyondrejko@ruthfred.org) of any college or graduate school students who will be graduating this Spring. Please include name of student, name of college, date of graduation, and degree. We will be highlighting these students in future bulletins.

High School Graduates: Ruthfred will celebrate our high school graduates on Sunday, June 11th. We hope you are able to join us that day to receive a blessing from the church as well as a special, personalized gift.

Save the Date—Parents' Date Night: Mark June 16th in your calendars for this event! This is a babysitting event and parents get to go out and have fun!!! We play games, sing songs, have a Bible lesson, feed the kiddos dinner, and have a snack while watching a movie. There will be a short planning meeting following the 11:00 service on May 7th for those interested in helping.

Open Church Council Position: The position of Secretary is currently open. The primary duty is to record minutes from the monthly meetings. If you have an interest in serving in this capacity, please contact Mark Riley, Council President, at markriley@ruthfred.org.

Employment Opportunity at Ruthfred: Do you have a heart for the youngest in our Church family? We have a need for a nursery worker during Sunday School. Please contact Shane Cox if you can help: coxfarrierservice@gmail.com.

Special Congregational Meeting

A special congregational meeting has been requested and will occur on May 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. The agenda will consist of an executive briefing by our attorney that will provide additional context to the January 15, 2023, congregational letter, an elder-led discussion addressing congregational concerns submitted to the council by the members who requested the meeting, and a discussion of council actions and plans to improve and strengthen our child protection policies and procedures. A letter of meeting notification and agenda will also be mailed to all members of the congregation.

Gifts to our Church:

Current Fund:

- ◆ Given by Bonnie Krauss in memory of her friend Marie Wilmer.

Music Fund:

- ◆ Given by Lou and Arlene Ball in memory of George Kopac (Lynn Vogel's father).
- ◆ Given by Beth and Eric Langkamp in memory of Fred Schell.
- ◆ Given by Bob and Gladys Reith in memory of our faithful organist, Fred Schell.
- ◆ Given by Elaine Conti Widich in memory of Fred Schell.

Pastor's Fund:

- ◆ Given by Beth and Eric Langkamp in memory of Marie Wilmer.
- ◆ Given by Bob and Gladys Reith in memory of Marie Wilmer.

New Member Class: Many people have expressed interest in joining Ruthfred lately, so we'd like to schedule another New Member class to begin soon. If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining Ruthfred or in attending a New Member class (current members are allowed, and even encouraged, to do so), please contact Melissa Bostaph (contact information on back of bulletin) to let her know.

Please join us for breakfast this morning:



For The Month

Acolytes:

8:30 a.m. (5/7, 5/28)
(5/14)
(5/21)
11:00 a.m.

Asher Manzo
Jonathan Tarrant
Evan Gusky
Elliot McMinn

Flag Bearer in celebration of Memorial Day Sunday

8:30 a.m. (5/28)

Jonathan Tarrant
Asher Manzo

11:00 a.m. (5/28)

Ryan Handshue
Elliot McMinn

Crucifers:

8:30 a.m. (5/14)
(5/28)

Morgan Dolence
Courtney Felicetti

11:00 a.m. (5/7, 5/21)

Holly Miller

Altar Guild:

Mari Donlin

Counters:

8:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m.

Mark Killinger, Steve Cox
Nathan Donolo, TBD

Ushers:

8:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m.

Bernard Paterra, John Ruzicka
Deacons in rotation

Coffee Hour:

Mary Lou Streiner



OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE: Today, we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. By means of bread and wine, Jesus Christ gives Himself to each communicant. This is His Word and promise. We accept His Word. If you are not a member of a Lutheran church, we ask you to speak to our pastors at any time about the meaning of Holy Communion and a person's desire to receive it. When we come to the altar, we must come with believing and repentant hearts. As we return, we always bow or kneel in prayer in thanksgiving to God for what Jesus Christ has given unto us. 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.

Adult Sunday School Class In Large Classroom

There is NO class today, but starting next week, please join us for a new series:

Why is Ruthfred part of a tiny national church body called the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC)? What's the AFLC, what's a congregation, and why does that matter to me? Starting Sunday, May 14th Pastor McMinn and others will guide the adult Sunday School class through a series called "*The Gospel in The Congregation*," written in part by Pastor James

Molstre, a former pastor at Ruthfred. Join us for this brand new series, which includes great videos and a short, helpful workbook. Don't assume you already understand the Biblical role of a congregation and your part in it. Come and see for yourself what it's all about.

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## YOUTH NEWS:

### SWAP (6-8 Grade)

There is **SWAP** tonight, 6:00-7:30 p.m., at Ruthfred.

### TNT (9-12 Grade)

TNT will NOT meet this week.

### Questions/concerns?

Contact: Any member of the Youth Committee

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Ruthfred Lutheran Preschool

Register now for the 2023-2024 school year!

3- and 4-year-old classes still available but filling up fast!



Register online at ruthfred.org

Contact preschool@ruthfred.org for more information or to schedule a tour.

This Week At Ruthfred

Today (5/7) CITY MISSION FOOD SUNDAY

8:30 a.m.—Communion Service
9:45 a.m.—Fellowship Breakfast
11:00 a.m.—Communion Service
After 11:00 a.m. service—Parents' Date Night
Planning Meeting
6:00 p.m.—Communion Service

Monday (5/8)

9:30 a.m.—Craft & Sew (crafters only)
11:00 a.m.—Funeral service for Garnett Wasson @
David Henney Funeral Home
7:00 p.m.—Elders' Meeting
7:30 p.m.—Council Meeting

Tuesday (5/9)

6:30 p.m.—**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Wednesday (5/10)

Noon—Esther
5:45 p.m.—Children's Choir
6:45 p.m.—Senior Confirmation Class
7:00 p.m.—Senior Choir

Friday (5/12)

7:00 a.m.—Men' Prayer Group (Fireside Lounge)
Happy 91st Birthday, Marian Meyer!

Saturday (5/13)

9:30 a.m.—Mary Bible Study

Sunday (5/14) MOTHER'S DAY

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Worship Service

You are a royal priesthood, God's own people.
Welcome to worship, that we may proclaim the mighty
acts of God, who called us into His marvelous light.
(Based on 1 Peter 2:9)

Attendance for Last Week:

Sunday Worship...272 Sunday School...81
8:30 Live Stream...42

Prayer Requests

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 for the pastor only).

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

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

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. Each ruling unit consists of a solid top blue line, a dashed midline, and a solid bottom blue line. There are ten such units visible on the page.

- ☐ Please keep this request Private (to be kept amongst the pastors and vicar only).
- ☐ Please make this request known to the Ruthfred prayer team and announce it to the congregation when appropriate.

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