



RUTHFRED LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

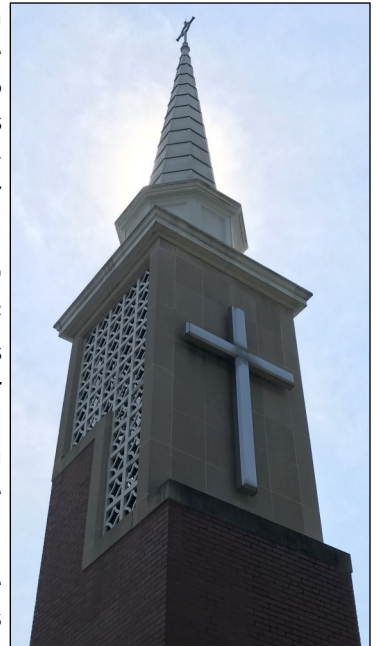
Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations ([www.aflc.org](http://www.aflc.org))

**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 *scherschnitte*, 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 in Lent, March 19, 2023

## Prelude:

### **"Be Thou My Vision"**

(D. Wood)

### **"Lead, Kindly Light"**

(F. Ashdown)

## The Opening Hymn:

### **"Be Thou My Vision"**

(AMB #607)

(Please stand as we  
join our hearts in  
song)

1 Be Thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all  
2 Be Thou my Wis - dom, and Thou my true Word; I ev - er  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise, Thou mine in -  
4 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won, May I reach

else to me, save that Thou art; Thou my best thought, by  
with Thee and Thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Fa - ther,  
her - i - tance, now and al - ways; Thou and Thou on - ly,  
heav-en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, what -

day or by night, Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.  
I Thy true son, Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.  
first in my heart, High King of heav - en, my Treas - ure Thou art.  
ev - er be - fall, Still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*Text: Ancient Irish hymn, tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931; versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935*  
*Tune: Irish melody; arr. Norman Johnson, b. 1928*

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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 Confession of Sins** (SBH, p. 15)

Pastor (P): Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord

**Congregation (C): Who made heaven and earth.** (Psalm 124:8)

P: I said, “I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

**C: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.** (Psalm 32:5)

P: Let us bow or kneel for the confession of our sin.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee, that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace, for the sake of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

(Silent Prayer of Personal Confession)

**Together:**

**O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will, and true obedience to Thy Word, that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **The Absolution**

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His Name, He gives power to become the sons of God, and bestows upon them His Holy Spirit. He that believes, and is baptized, shall be saved. Grant this, O Lord, unto us 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.

**The Introit** (Read Responsively; Please stand)

P: Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad with her.

**C: All you that love her. Rejoice for joy with her.**

P: All you that mourn for her. I was glad when they said to me.

**C: Let us go into the house of the Lord.**

(Isaiah 66:10; Psalm 122:1)

**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 Kyrie** (Sung in Unison; SBH p. 18)

“Kyrie” is Latin for *Lord*, which is the first word of the prayer. Distinct from the confession of sin, it is a prayer for God to grant His mercy in every aspect of our lives and to supply us with all our needs, personally, corporately and for the whole world.

P: For the peace that is from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

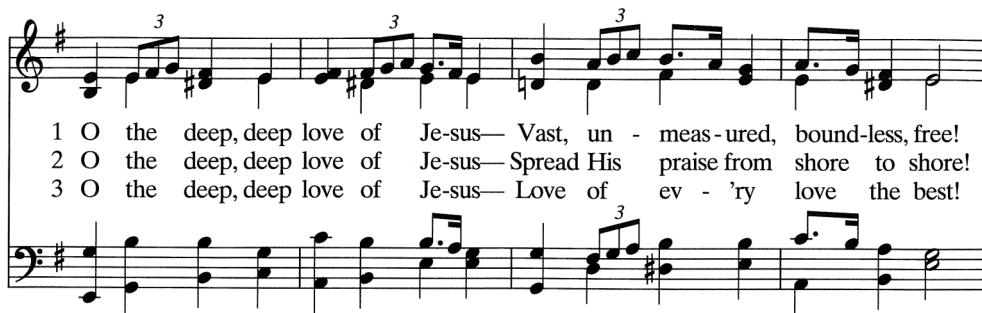
P: For this holy house, and for them that in faith, piety and fear of God offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

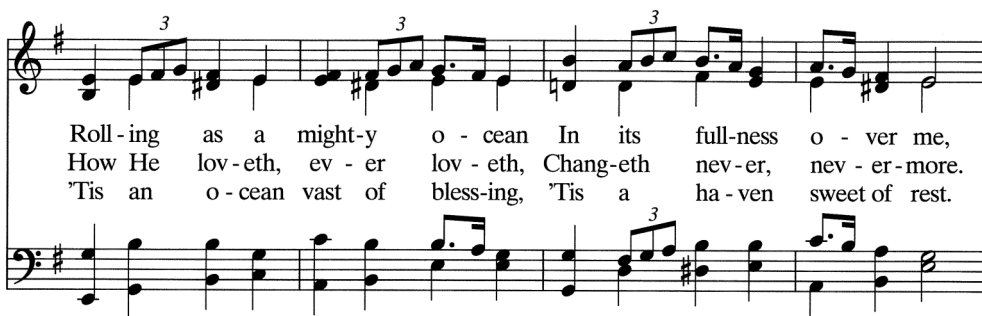
P: Help, save, pity and defend us, O God, by Thy grace.

**C: Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

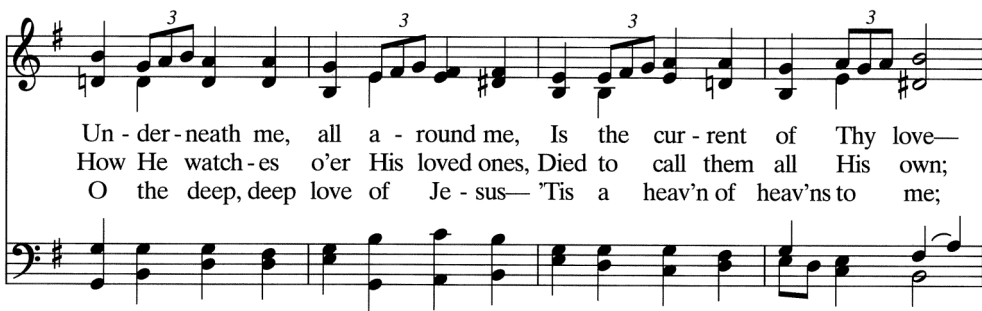
**The Hymn of Praise: "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" (AMB #579)**



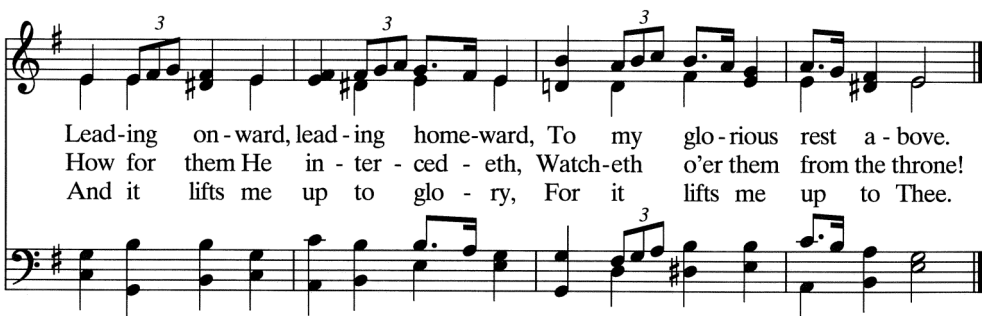
1 O the deep, deep love of Je-sus— Vast, un - meas - ured, bound-less, free!  
 2 O the deep, deep love of Je-sus— Spread His praise from shore to shore!  
 3 O the deep, deep love of Je-sus— Love of ev - 'ry love the best!



Roll - ing as a might-y o - cean In its full-ness o - ver me,  
 How He lov - eth, ev - er lov - eth, Chang-eth nev - er, nev - er - more.  
 'Tis an o - cean vast of bless-ing, 'Tis a ha - ven sweet of rest.



Un - der - neath me, all a - round me, Is the cur - rent of Thy love—  
 How He watch - es o'er His loved ones, Died to call them all His own;  
 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus— 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;



Lead - ing on - ward, lead - ing home - ward, To my glo - rious rest a - bove.  
 How for them He in - ter - ced - eth, Watch - eth o'er them from the throne!  
 And it lifts me up to glo - ry, For it lifts me up to Thee.

Text: S. Trevor Francis, 1834–1925  
 Tune: Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

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The "collect" is a prayer of the day for each day in the liturgical calendar. It is meant to "collect" the prayers of God's people.

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 Collect**

P: The Lord be with you:

**C: And with thy spirit.**

P: Let us pray: Grant, we beseech You, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of Your grace may mercifully be relieved; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

**C: Amen**

## **The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7** (NASB)

<sup>1</sup> But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!" <sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you. <sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place. <sup>4</sup> Since you are precious in My sight, *since* you are honored and I love you, I will give *other* men in your place and *other* peoples in exchange for your life. <sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and gather you from the west. <sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, 'Give *them* up!' And to the south, 'Do not hold *them* back.' Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth, <sup>7</sup> Everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory, whom I have formed, even whom I have made."

## **The Psalm: Psalm 142** (NASB)

P: I cry aloud with my voice to the LORD; I make supplication with my voice to the LORD. I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare my trouble before Him.

**C: When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, You knew my path. In the way where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.**

P: Look to the right and see; for there is no one who regards me; there is no escape for me; no one cares for my soul.

**C: I cried out to You, O LORD; I said, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.**

P: Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low; deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me.

**C: Bring my soul out of prison, so that I may give thanks to Your name; the righteous will surround me, for You will deal bountifully with me."**

**The Epistle Lesson: Philippians 1:1-11, 27-30** (NASB)

<sup>1</sup> Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:

<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, <sup>5</sup> in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> *For I am* confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup> For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup> so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; <sup>11</sup> having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which *comes* through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

<sup>27</sup> Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; <sup>28</sup> in no way alarmed by *your* opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that *too*, from God. <sup>29</sup> For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, <sup>30</sup> experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear *to be* in me.

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:**

I was glad when they said to me: let us go into the house of the Lord. Peace be within your walls and prosperity within your palaces. They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abides forever. (Psalm 122:1, 7; 125:1)

*Following the Gradual reading, the congregation shall sing.*

**The Sentence for Lent**

***Christ hath humbled himself, and become obedient unto death: even the death of the Cross.***



## **The Holy Gospel Lessons**

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

### **John 20:30, 31** (NASB)

<sup>30</sup> Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

### **Matthew 28:18-20** (NASB)

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

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

### **The Confession of Faith:** The Apostles’ Creed (Confessed in Unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and Earth.

And In Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.

### **The Special Music**

8:30 Jason Buzon, guitar—*Children of Our Heavenly Father/Faith of Our Fathers medley* (arr. Buzon)

### **The Anthem**

11:00 Senior Choir—*Trust* (J. Sibelius/W. Stickles)

Be still, my soul: thy Lord is on thy side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief and pain;  
Leave to thy God to order and provide;  
In every change He faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake  
To guide the future as He has the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

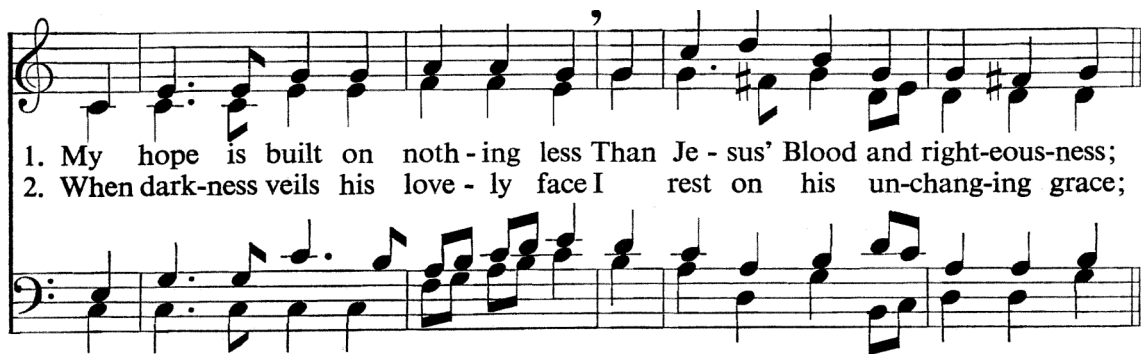
Be still my soul: the hour is hastening on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord,  
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

### **The Announcements**

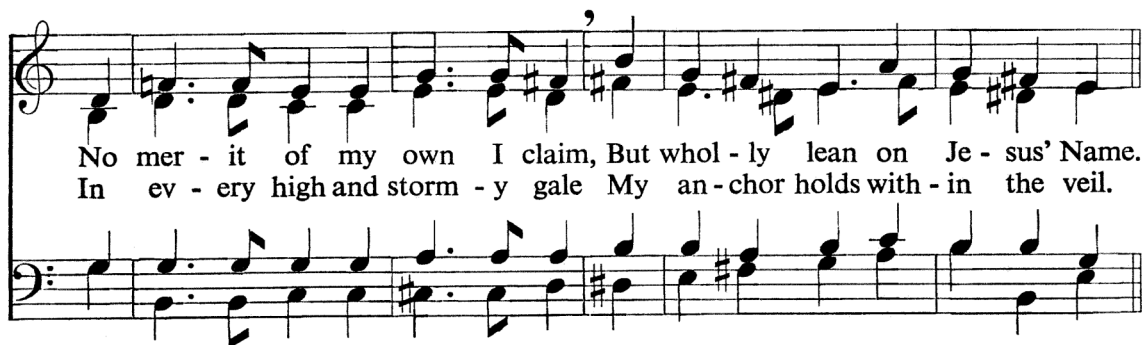
Council President Mark Riley asks that at the close of the 11:00 a.m. service you remain in your pews. If you attended the 8:30 service and are still in the building, please join us in the sanctuary at this time. He will be reading a message to Pastor Carlson on behalf of the congregation.

### **The Children's Object Lesson**

**The Sermon Hymn: "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"** (SBH #385)

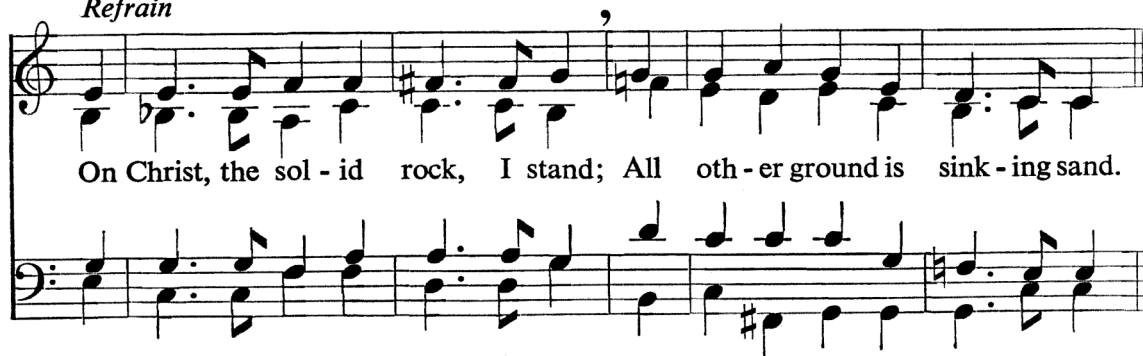


1. My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus' Blood and right-eous-ness;  
 2. When dark-ness veils his love - ly face I rest on his un-chang-ing grace;



No mer - it of my own I claim, But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' Name.  
 In ev - ery high and storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.

*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

3 His oath, his covenant, his Blood,  
 Support me in the whelming flood;  
 When all around my soul gives way,  
 He then is all my hope and stay.

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
 O may I then in him be found,  
 Dressed in his righteousness alone,  
 Faultless to stand before the throne!

*Edward Mote, 1787-1874*

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.

**The Sermon:** "Farewell: Blessings & Prayers" | Philippians 1:1-11, 27-30

**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 Closing & Silent Prayer** (Please bow or kneel in prayer)

**The Lord's Prayer** (Prayed in Unison)

**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; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**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:

### **"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"**

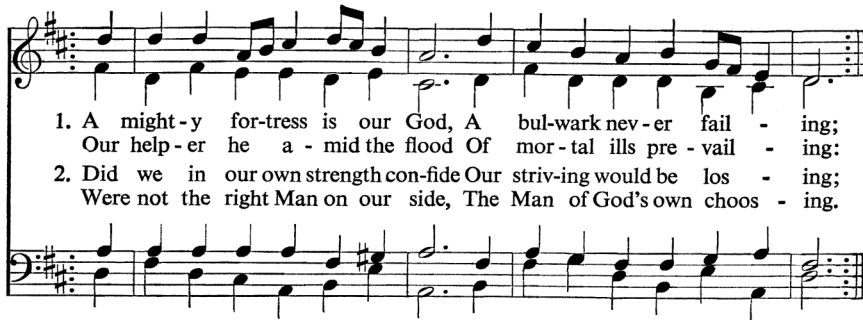
(SBH #150)

## The Silent Prayer & Chimes

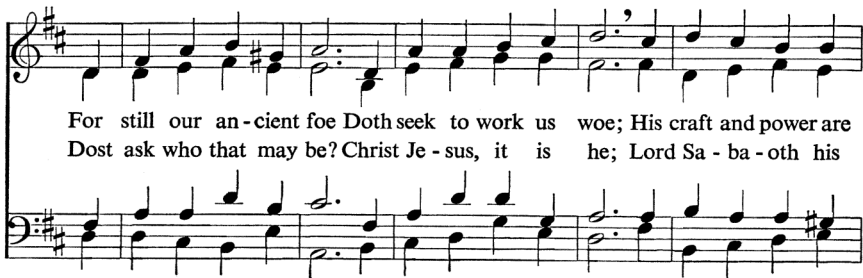
## **The Postlude:**

### **"Fugue on 'Ein Feste Burg'"**

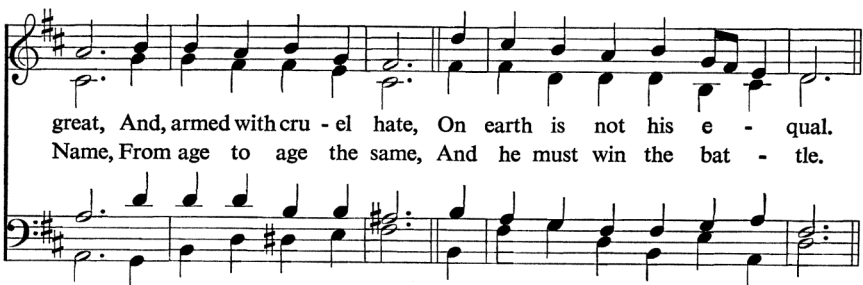
(J. Pachelbel)



1. A might-y for-tress is our God, A bul-wark nev-er fail-ing;  
Our help-er he a-mid the flood Of mor-tal ills pre-vail-ing;  
2. Did we in our own strength con-fide Our striv-ing would be los-ing;  
Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choos-ing.



For still our an-cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je-sus, it is he; Lord Sa-ba-oth his



great, And, armed with cru-el hate, On earth is not his e-qual.  
Name, From age to age the same, And he must win the bat-tle.

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|--|---|
| 3 And though this world, with devils filled,<br>Should threaten to undo us;<br>We will not fear, for God hath willed<br>His truth to triumph through us:<br>The prince of darkness grim,<br>We tremble not for him;<br>His rage we can endure,<br>For lo! his doom is sure,<br>One little word shall fell him. | 4 That word above all earthly powers,<br>No thanks to them, abideth;<br>The Spirit and the gifts are ours<br>Through him who with us sideth:<br>Let goods and kindred go,<br>This mortal life also;<br>The body they may kill:<br>God's truth abideth still,<br>His kingdom is forever. |
|--|---|

*Martin Luther, 1483–1546  
Tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1805–90  
Based on Psalm 46*

# Announcements

**The altar flowers** are presented by Barb Thomas in honor of her twin grandsons' 16<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

**Nursery Today:** 8:30 and Sunday School—TBD; 11:00—Claudia Patalong

**Known to be hospitalized:** Fred Schell—Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Sewickley. Fred's home address is: 103 South Grandview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205. Joanne Salvetti—back at Magee Women's Hospital. Lundy Castro—Asbury Heights. Bill VanKirk—St. Clair Hospital. Please support them with your prayers and cards.

**Prayers for Recovery and Healing:** Linda Donolo (broken leg & hip replacement). Linda is currently in Florida, so cards can be sent to: 307 Reynolds Ct., Naples, FL 34112. Pat Lutz (recent surgery). Nancy Jane Weighley (Jason's mother) is out of the hospital but continuing to be monitored. Fritz Heilman is home continuing his recovery. Please keep all of them in your prayers, as well as all those in the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

**Condolences:** Our pastors and congregation extend Christian love and sympathy to Lynn and Bob Vogel and family on the death of Lynn's father, George Kopac, Wednesday, March 15, 2023. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

**Pastor's Fund:** Given by Andrew and Carol Ausefski in loving memory of Fritz Motzer. Given by Mary Habovick in memory of Fritz Motzer. Given by Mick and Marlene Nowicki in memory of Fritz Motzer. Given by Lou and Arlene Ball in memory of Fritz Motzer and Becky Lindner. Given by Carol and Bill Ward in memory of Fritz Motzer and Becky Lindner.

**Easter Flower Orders:** Please consider ordering a tulip or a lily in memory of or in honor of a loved one to decorate our beautiful sanctuary for Easter. Envelopes will be available in the pew racks from now until March 26. **The cost for a tulip or a lily is \$13.00.** Place your cash or check in the envelope and write your dedication, name, and type of flower you prefer on the outside of the envelope. Envelopes may be placed in the collection baskets or in the box in the office.



**Family Easter Festival:** The 4<sup>th</sup> annual festival for families with young children returns on April 2, 4-6 p.m. Activities are geared to children ages 2-8, but ALL are welcome. Inviting friends is encouraged. To ensure we have adequate supplies and food, **sign-up is REQUIRED by March 26.** This can be done online at [ruthfred.org/announcements](http://ruthfred.org/announcements) or on the list posted next to the Nursery. Please join us!

**Volunteer/Donation opportunities for the Family Easter Festival:** We are needing donations of desserts for the Festival. You can sign up on the list at the base of the stairs or by calling Peggy Cox. Also, we could use a few more kitchen helpers and "where needed" helpers. Please sign up on the list if you can serve, or contact Barb Harrold, [brharrold@comcast.net](mailto:brharrold@comcast.net).

**Young Adults:** This group will meet on Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Andrew and Cassie Vogel's house. All young adults are welcome to join! For questions or further information, please contact Andrew at [andrewvogel@ruthfred.org](mailto:andrewvogel@ruthfred.org).

**XYZers:** The next meeting is THIS Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Our featured speaker will be Tomi Larson, leader of the Bethel Park Genealogy Group. Her talk is entitled "My Islands." She will be sharing about how researching her family tree opened up a whole world of new family and adventures in the Aeolian Islands of Sicily. Peggy Cox will provide a delicious lunch. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside the Library. Please join us!

# Announcements (cont'd)

**Lenten Soup and Salad Suppers:** Please join us for soup and salad suppers on Wednesday evenings from 6–7 p.m. An evening service will follow at 7:30 p.m. If you attend the 2:00 p.m. service, you are welcome to attend the supper also. Peggy Cox will be organizing the food. Arlene Ball will be coordinating volunteers for setting up, serving, and cleaning up. Please contact Arlene at 412-977-8013 or Arlene1952@gmail.com if you are able to help. Thank you in advance!

**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!

**VBS Decorating 2023:** This year decorating will be an in-house project. We will begin Tuesday, April 11, 7-9 p.m. on the stage in the Fellowship Hall. These Tuesday meetings will continue until the decorations are completed. Please consider supporting this important ministry. We particularly need cardboard boxes (square 12” x 12” or 24” x 24”). Larger boxes would also be appreciated. Please contact Jason Weighley at [jason.weighley@gmail.com](mailto:jason.weighley@gmail.com), or bring the boxes to the stage. If you have any questions, please contact Jason or Donna Weighley.

**Youth Bible Camperships:** \$100 Bible Camperships are available to our youth attending a Christian camp. All camperships must be approved by Church Council. Deadline to submit an application is Sunday, April 9, 2023, for approval at the April Council meeting. Please place applications in the Council Secretary mail slot in the Conference Room.

**Farewell Reception for Pastor Carlson and Family:** Please join us for a reception to honor Pastor Carlson and his family: after the 11:00 a.m. service today.

**Benevolence Committee:** We will be meeting on Monday, March 27, 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 ministry of the Schierkolks and Chosen People Ministries (Pastor Kipp).

**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 the 8:30 a.m. service and Sunday School. Please contact Shane Cox if you can help: [coxfarrierservice@gmail.com](mailto:coxfarrierservice@gmail.com).

**Craft & Sew Candy Collection:** As of February, the women at Craft & Sew have sent nearly 2000 favors to local nursing homes since September. Because of this, our candy supply is almost depleted. Please help to refill our supply with snack-size Milky Way bars, M & M’s, Hershey’s Kisses, KitKats, or Twix bars. These candy favors put smiles on many faces. Thank you so much for doing your part! There is a collection box in the Fellowship Hall.

**Bible Reading 2023:** Please join us in reading through the entire Bible in 2023, starting on January 1, 2023. We will be using the YouVersion Bible app, which provides a reading guide for each day (including a daily Psalm), over 150 videos to engage readers throughout the year, and a talk-it-over feature. The daily reading schedule will also be available on the Ruthfred website, as well as being printed in each month’s Herald. The theme for 2023 will be “One Story That Leads to JESUS.” For questions, or to sign up, please email Don Roose at [donroose@yahoo.com](mailto:donroose@yahoo.com).

**Portals of Prayer:** The April-June issues are here and can be found at all church entrances. There are both regular print and large print copies. Please pick one up today!

**Preschool Registration** is now open for the 2023-2024 school year. Register online at [Ruthfred.org](http://Ruthfred.org). Contact: [preschool@ruthfred.org](mailto:preschool@ruthfred.org) with any questions or to schedule a tour.



## Adult Sunday School Class in Large Classroom

Mark Arelt continues his series today.

Bible Questions Answered?

Anyone who reads the Bible seriously is bound to run across certain passages that leave them thinking, "Hmm. Why is that in there?" or "How does that make sense?" or "What does that really mean?"

Join us as we discuss some of the questions YOU have asked about The Bible.



## YOUTH NEWS

### SWAP (6-8 Grade)

There is a **SWAP** meeting tonight at church, 6-7:30 p.m.

### TNT (9-12 Grade)

**TNT** will meet at Ruthfred on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 7-9 p.m.

### Save the date:

**March 24-26: Seneca Hills Retreat** for Grades 9-12.

**Questions/concerns?**

**Contact: Any member of the Youth Committee**



**Lutherans for Life:** "When we ignore the baby in the womb and focus instead on what is now being labeled as the rights of the mother and women's health care, we are turning our backs on God. Never has God authorized killing and called it a right. Never has God condoned promoting abortion and called it health care. His love for life is written throughout Scripture. What are we doing when we ignore His sacred Word?" *Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life*

## Easter Baskets for our Shut-Ins/Homebound Members

This project is back to normal this year. Donations and volunteers are needed. You are encouraged to visit with those receiving a basket depending on your and their comfort level. Some facilities may require that a mask be worn. Sign-up sheets for assembly at 10 a.m. and pickup/delivery beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 1, are on the bulletin board across from the elevator.

Thank you so much for your help.

### SUGGESTED DONATIONS

**HOMEMADE GOODIES - muffins, cookies, etc. in baggies or individually wrapped for easier distribution.**

Soft candies	Small notebooks
Mini candy bars	Pens
Snack crackers	Note cards
100 calorie snacks	Postage stamps
Breakfast bars	Applesauce
Hot/cold cereal	Wrapped tea bags
Mini muffins	Hot chocolate mix
Cookies	Soup packets
Pudding/Jello cups	Tissue packs
Diced fruit	Chapstick

Raisin or Craisin boxes

Please choose store items that are individually wrapped and/or single-serving food items. **NOTHING WITH NUTS. Sugar-free items are welcomed.** Any unused items will be donated to Meals on Wheels.

**Please place items in the Easter basket collection bin outside the kitchen by Thursday, March 30.**

Questions??? Contact Jeanine Szalinski or Jill Kurtz



## This Week At Ruthfred

**Today (3/19) 4th Sunday in Lent**

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

1 1:00 a.m.—Worship Service

### Noon—Farewell Reception for the Carlsons

**Monday (3/20) St. Joseph**

9:30 a.m.—JTTW Leaders' Meeting

9:30 a.m.—Craft & Sew

## Tuesday (3/21)

6:00 p.m.—Gideons' Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

### Wednesday (3/22)

9:15 a.m.—JTTW

2:00 p.m.—Lenten Service

5:45 p.m.—Children's Choir

6:00-7:00 p.m.—Soup & Sandwich Supper

6:30 p.m.—Jr. & Sr. Confirmation Classes

6:30 p.m.—Bell Choir

7:30 p.m.—Lenten Service

### Thursday (3/23)

10:00 a.m.—Knit Wits

### Friday (3/24)

7:00 a.m.—Men's Prayer Group (Fireside Lounge)

Noon-XYZ

**Sunday (3/26) 5th Sunday in Lent**

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

1 1:00 a.m.—Worship Service

### Easter Flower order deadline

Welcome to worship! May God's Word help us each see something or someone in a new way today.

**Attendance for Last Week:**

Sunday Worship...229   Sunday School...95

8:30 Live Stream...43

JTTW (morning)...44    Online...4

Lenten Services... 187

## 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 (pastor 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:

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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

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**Robert Vogel**  
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**Frederick Schell**  
Organist

**Essi Efthimiou**  
Interim Organist

**Melissa Manzo**  
Children's Choir

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