



*It Is
Finished!*

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 tonight 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 the 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

Good Friday, April 7, 2023

Tenebrae Service 7:30 p.m.

Prelude:

"Meditation on Five Lenten Hymns"

(M. Bloedow)

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*

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

Pastor (P): Let us continue by confessing our sins.

Together:

O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities, whereby I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment; but I am heartily sorry for them all and repent of them truly, and I beseech Thee through Thine infinite mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter suffering and death of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinner. Amen.

The Absolution

The Introit (Read Responsively; Please stand)

P: Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

C: He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities. All we like sheep have gone astray.

P: And the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Hear my prayer, O Lord.

C: And let my cry come unto Thee. (Isaiah 53:4-6; Psalm 102:1)

The Scripture Lessons: (NASB)

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

¹³ Behold, My servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted. ¹⁴ Just as many were astonished at you, My people, so His appearance was marred more than any man and His form more than the sons of men. ¹⁵ Thus He will sprinkle many nations, kings will shut their mouths on account of Him; for what had not been told them they will see, and what they had not heard they will understand.

¹ Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? ² For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. ³ He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. ⁴ Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵ But

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The Scripture Lessons: (NASB) (cont'd)

Isaiah 52:13–53:12 (cont'd)

He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. ⁶ All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. ⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due? ⁹ His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth. ¹⁰ But the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand. ¹¹ As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; by His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, and He will divide the booty with the strong; because He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors.

Psalms 22

¹ My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning. ² O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer; and by night, but I have no rest. ³ Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel. ⁴ In You our fathers trusted; they trusted and You delivered them. ⁵ To You they cried out and were delivered; in You they trusted and were not disappointed. ⁶ But I am a worm and not a man, a reproach of men and despised by the people. ⁷ All who see me sneer at me; They separate with the lip, they wag the head, *saying*, ⁸ “Commit *yourself* to the LORD; let Him deliver him; Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him.” ⁹ Yet You are He who brought me forth from the womb; You made me trust *when* upon my mother’s breasts. ¹⁰ Upon You I was cast from birth; You have been my God from my mother’s womb. ¹¹ Be not far from me, for trouble is near; for there is none to help. ¹² Many bulls have surrounded me; strong *bulls* of Bashan have encircled me. ¹³ They open wide their mouth at me, as a ravening and a roaring lion. ¹⁴ I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within me. ¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; and You lay me in the dust of death. ¹⁶ For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; they pierced my hands and my feet. ¹⁷ I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; ¹⁸ They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. ¹⁹ But You, O LORD, be not far off; O You my help, hasten to my assistance. ²⁰ Deliver my soul from the sword, my only *life* from the power of the dog. ²¹ Save me from the lion’s mouth; from the horns of the wild oxen You answer me. ²² I will tell of Your name to my brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise You. ²³ You who fear the LORD, praise Him; all you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel. ²⁴ For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; nor has He hidden His face from him; but when he cried to Him for help, He heard. ²⁵ From You *comes* my praise in the great assembly; I shall pay my vows before those who fear Him. ²⁶ The afflicted will eat

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The Scripture Lessons: (NASB) (cont'd)

Psalm 22 (cont'd)

and be satisfied; those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever! ²⁷ All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will worship before You. ²⁸ For the kingdom is the LORD's and He rules over the nations ²⁹ All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship, all those who go down to the dust will bow before Him, even he who cannot keep his soul alive. ³⁰ Posterity will serve Him; it will be told of the Lord to the *coming* generation. ³¹ They will come and will declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, that He has performed *it*.

The Holy Gospel Reading: (NASB)

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

John 19:17-30

¹⁷ They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified Him, and with Him two other men, one on either side, and Jesus in between. ¹⁹ Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It was written, "JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS." ²⁰ Therefore many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin *and* in Greek. ²¹ So the chief priests of the Jews were saying to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews'; but that He said, 'I am King of the Jews.'" ²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

²³ Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and *also* the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece. ²⁴ So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, *to decide* whose it shall be"; *this was* to fulfill the Scripture: "THEY DIVIDED MY OUTER GARMENTS AMONG THEM, AND FOR MY CLOTHING THEY CAST LOTS." ²⁵ Therefore the soldiers did these things. But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷ Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her into his own *household*. ²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon *a branch* of hyssop and brought it up to His mouth. ³⁰ Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

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

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 Anthems

Senior Choir—*"Within the Darkest Night"* (D. Hakes/B. Printz)
"Ah, Holy Jesus" (arr. C. Courtney)

Within the Darkest Night

On a silent night darkness filled the skies.
No one there could offer answers to our Savior's mournful cries.
Do we understand? Do we really see
all the pain and suffering that He endured to set us free?
In the darkest night silence filled the air.
Do you doubt the love He had for us and do you know the reason He
was there?
As the Savior hung, as He hung upon the tree,
surely, surely He knew His Father's master plan to set us free.
Jesus suffered scorn, wore a crown of thorns.
At the place called Calvary, He did His Father's will.
And the love in His eyes as He looked to the skies
all at once was clear to those gathered on the hill.
In the darkest night silence filled the air.
Do you doubt the love He had for us and do you know the reason He
was there?

Ah, Holy Jesus

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast Thou offended
that we to judge Thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by Thine own rejected, O most afflicted!
Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon Thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone Thee!
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied Thee; I crucified Thee.
For me, kind Jesus, was Thine incarnation,
Thy mortal sorrow, and Thy life's oblation;
Thy death of anguish and Thy bitter passion, for my salvation.
Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay Thee,
I do adore Thee, and will ever pray Thee,
think on Thy pity and Thy love unswerving, not my deserving.
Ah, holy Jesus.

The Announcements

The Sermon Hymn:

"O Come And Mourn With Me Awhile" (AMB #90)

1 O ___ come and mourn ___ with me a - while; O come ye
 2 Have_ we no tears___ to shed for Him, While sol - diers
 3 Sev-en times He spake, sev - en words of love; And all three
 4 O ___ love of God, ___ O sin of man! In this dread

to the Sav - ior's side; O come to - geth - er
 scoff and foes de - ride? Ah! look how pa - tient -
 hours His si - lence cried For mer - cy on the
 act Your strength is tried, And vic - to - ry re -

let us mourn: Je - sus, our Lord, is cru - ci - fied.
 ly He hangs: Je - sus, our Lord, is cru - ci - fied.
 souls of men: Je - sus, our Lord, is cru - ci - fied.
 mains with love: For He, our Love, is cru - ci - fied!

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863
 Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

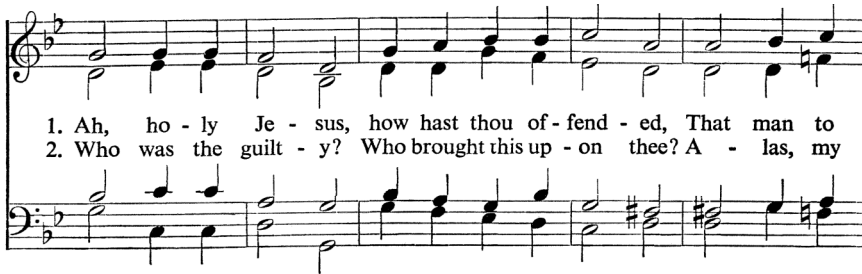
ST. CROSS
LM

The Sermon: "The Psalm of the Cross" | Psalm 22

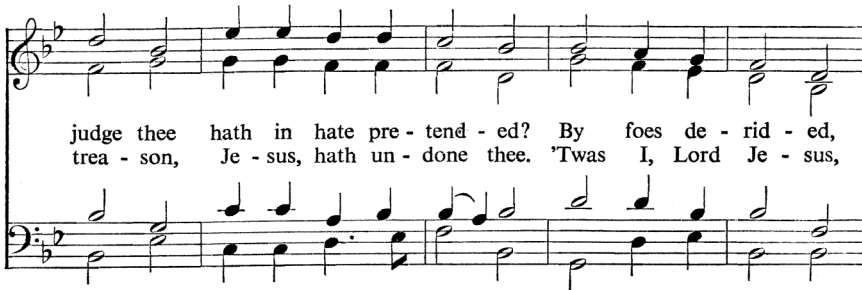
The Offertory Response (Sung in Unison; Please Stand)

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 Hymn: "Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended?" (SBH #85)



1. Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed, That man to
2. Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my



judge thee hath in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
treason, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
I it was de - nied thee: I cru - ci - fied thee. A-men.

- 3 Lo, the good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
The slave hath sinnèd, and the Son hath suffered;
For man's atonement, while he nothing heedeth,
God intercedeth.
- 4 For me, kind Jesus, was thine Incarnation,
Thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
Thy death of anguish and thy bitter Passion,
For my salvation.

5 Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,
Think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,
Not my deserving. Amen.

*Text from THE YATTENDON HYMNAL, edited by Robert Bridges,
by permission of The Clarendon Press, Oxford.*

*Johann Heermann, 1585–1647
Tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930*

The Service of Tenebrae

Explanation of the Service

Seven Words of Christ

I. Father, Forgive Them, For They Know Not What They Do.

Megan Huwe

II. Verily, I Say To Thee, Today Thou Shalt Be With Me In Paradise.

Megan Wentz

III. Woman, Behold Thy Son...Behold Thy Mother.

Isaac Cox

IV. My God, My God, Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?

Noah McMinn

V. I Thirst.

Elias Manzo

VI. It Is Finished.

Samuel Bostaph

VII. Father, Into Thy Hands I Commend My Spirit.

Madelynne Cox

Explanations

Caleb Cox

The Reading of the Passion History VII (Page 27)
"Jesus' Burial"

The Closing Prayer & Silent 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 Postlude: Tolling of the Chimes

A stylized illustration of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Jesus is depicted on the cross, wearing a loincloth, with a red sunburst background behind him. The cross is made of dark wood. The background is a large, vertical oval with a red-to-yellow gradient, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall style is simple and graphic.

Scripture Reader: Thank you to Jason Weighley for his willingness to minister in this way.

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

[illegible]

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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

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