

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 local artist Kathryn Carr. The artwork will reflect liturgical and Ruthfred-specific themes that occur throughout the year.

# The Divine Service of the Word

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, July 30, 2023

## Prelude:

**"Blessed Jesus, at  
Thy Word"**

(J. Walther)

**"Jesus I Shall Never  
Forsake"**

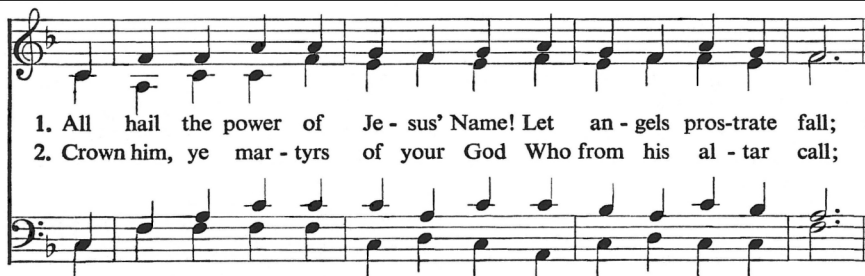
(J. Walther)

## The Opening Hymn:

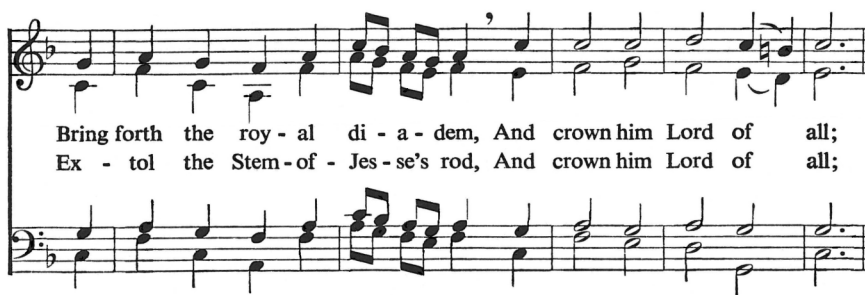
**"All Hail the Power  
of Jesus' Name"**

(SBH #426, 2nd tune)

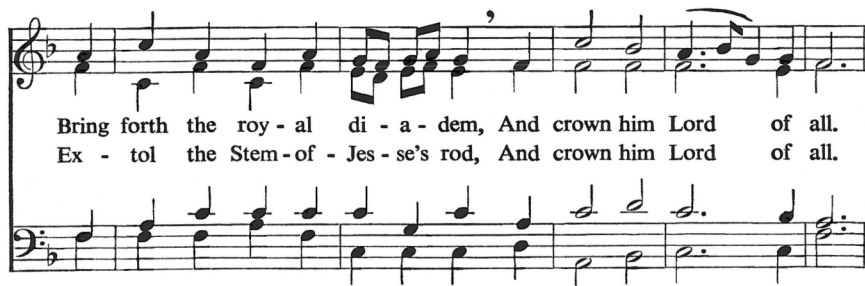
(Please stand as we  
join our hearts in  
song)



1. All hail the power of Je - sus' Name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;  
2. Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of your God Who from his al - tar call;



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown him Lord of all;  
Ex - tol the Stem - of - Jes - se's rod, And crown him Lord of all;



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown him Lord of all.  
Ex - tol the Stem - of - Jes - se's rod, And crown him Lord of all.

3 Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,  
Ye ransomed of the fall,  
Hail him who saves you by his grace,  
And crown him Lord of all.

4 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget  
The wormwood and the gall,  
Go, spread your trophies at his feet,  
And crown him Lord of all.

5 Let every kindred, every tribe,  
On this terrestrial ball,  
To him all majesty ascribe,  
And crown him Lord of all.

6 O that with yonder sacred throng  
We at his feet may fall;  
We'll join the everlasting song  
And crown him Lord of all.

*Edward Perronet, 1726-92  
John Rippon, 1751-1836*

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

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

"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.

## **The Absolution**

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only-begotten son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name, He gives the power to become children of God, and bestows upon them His Holy Spirit. The one who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this O Lord, unto us all.

**C: Amen**

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

P: We have thought of Your lovingkindness, O God, in the midst of Your temple.

**C: According to Your Name, O God, so is Your praise to the ends of the earth.**

P: Your right hand is full of righteousness.

**C: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of His holiness.** (Psalm 48:1, 9, 10)

## **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)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

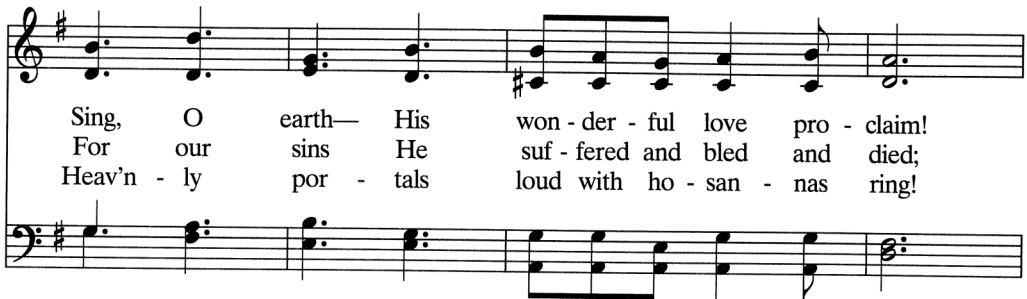
P: Help, save, pity and defend us, O God, by thy grace.

**C: Amen.**

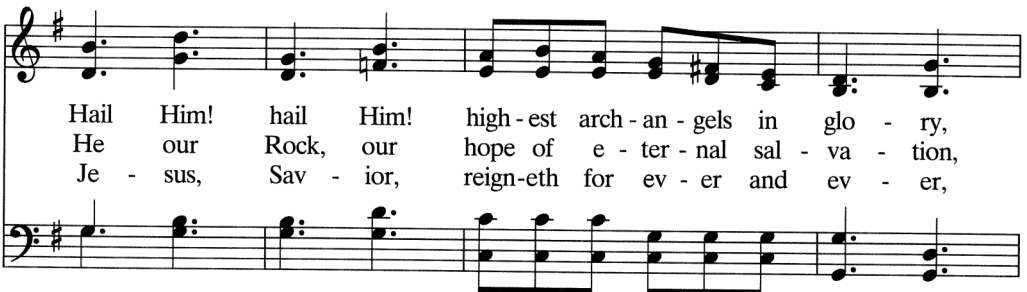
**The Hymn of Praise: "Praise Him! Praise Him!"** (AMB #539)



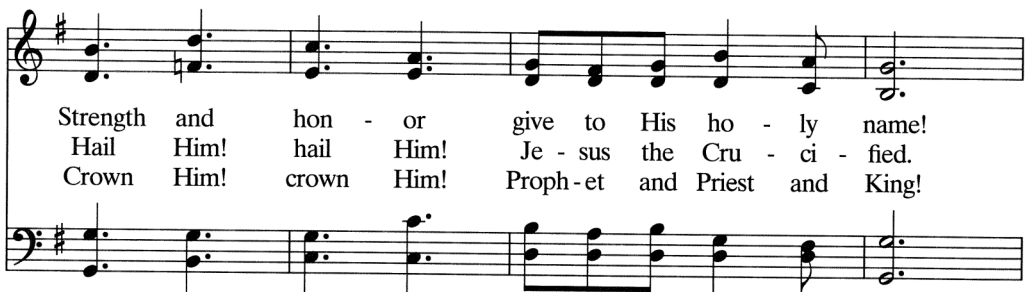
1 Praise Him! praise Him! Je - sus, our bless - ed Re - deem - er!  
 2 Praise Him! praise Him! Je - sus, our bless - ed Re - deem - er!  
 3 Praise Him! praise Him! Je - sus, our bless - ed Re - deem - er!



Sing, O earth— His won - der - ful love pro - claim!  
 For our sins He suf - fered and bled and died;  
 Heav'n - ly por - tals loud with ho - san - nas ring!



Hail Him! hail Him! high - est arch - an - gels in glo - ry,  
 He our Rock, our hope of e - ter - nal sal - va - tion,  
 Je - sus, Sav - ior, reign - eth for ev - er and ev - er,



Strength and hon - or give to His ho - ly name!  
 Hail Him! hail Him! Je - sus the Cru - ci - fied.  
 Crown Him! crown Him! Proph - et and Priest and King!

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**The Hymn of Praise: "Praise Him! Praise Him!"** (AMB #539) (cont'd)

Like a shep - herd Je - sus will guard His chil - dren—  
 Sound His prais - es— Je - sus who bore our sor - rows—  
 Christ is com - ing, o - ver the world vic - to - rious—

In His arms He car - ries them all day long:  
 Love un - bound - ed, won - der - ful, deep and strong:  
 Pow'r and glo - ry un - to the Lord be - long:

*Refrain*

Praise Him! praise Him! tell of His ex - cel - lent great - ness!

Praise Him! praise Him! ev - er in joy - ful song!

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915  
 Tune: Chester G. Allen, 1838–1878

PRAISE HIM  
 12 10 12 10 11 10 w/refrain

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 continue to pray: Grant to us, Lord, we beseech You, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right; that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may by You be enabled to live according to Your will; 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: Deuteronomy 7:6-9** (NASB)

<sup>6</sup> For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup> “The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup> but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments.

### **The Psalm: Psalm 125** (NASB)

P: Those who trust in the LORD are as Mount Zion, which cannot be moved but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds His people from this time forth and forever.

**C: For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest upon the land of the righteous, so that the righteous will not put forth their hands to do wrong.**

P: Do good, O LORD, to those who are good and to those who are upright in their hearts.

**C: But as for those who turn aside to their crooked ways, the LORD will lead them away with the doers of iniquity. Peace be upon Israel.**

### **The Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:28-39** (NASB)

<sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; <sup>30</sup> and these whom He predestined,

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### **The Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:28-39** (NASB) (cont'd)

He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. <sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; <sup>34</sup> who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> Just as it is written,

"FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG;  
WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

<sup>37</sup> But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **The Gradual**

Be my strong rock, O Lord, for a house of defense to save me. In You, O Lord, do I put my trust. Let me never be ashamed. Alleluia, alleluia. The Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish. Alleluia. (Psalm 31:1, 23)

### **The Alleluia** (Sung in Unison)

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **The Holy Gospel Lesson: Luke 14:12-24** (NASB)

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

<sup>12</sup> And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and *that* will be your repayment. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a reception, invite *the* poor, *the* crippled, *the* lame, *the* blind, <sup>14</sup> and you will be blessed, since they do not have *the means* to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." <sup>15</sup> When one of those who were reclining *at the table* with Him heard this, he said to Him, "Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!"

<sup>16</sup> But He said to him, "A man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many; <sup>17</sup> and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' <sup>18</sup> But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, 'I have bought a

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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.

"Alleluia" is Hebrew for "Praise the Lord."

The Apostles' Creed is a statement of Christian belief used since the early Church. It's not specific to any one Christian denomination, but used by the Church as a whole. We choose to confess it together as a unified reminder of what we believe to be true about God, and His caring service to us.

### **The Holy Gospel Lesson: Luke 14:12-24** (NASB) (cont'd)

piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.' <sup>19</sup> Another one said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.' <sup>20</sup> Another one said, 'I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come.' <sup>21</sup> And the slave came *back* and reported this to his master. Then the head of the household became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' <sup>22</sup> And the slave said, 'Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' <sup>23</sup> And the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel *them* to come in, so that my house may be filled. <sup>24</sup> For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.'"

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.

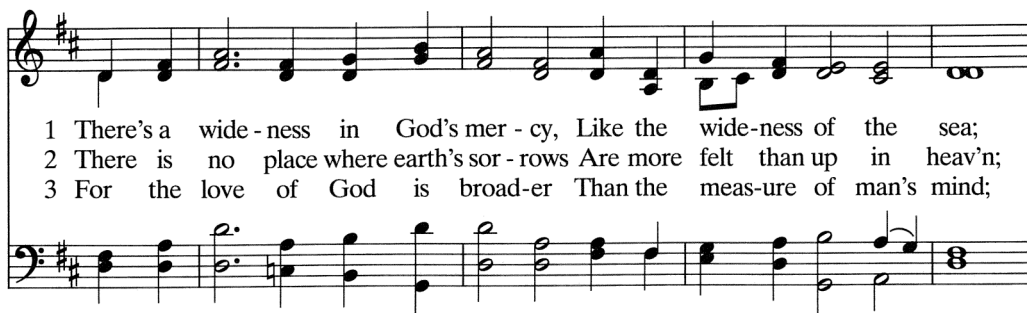
### **The Special Music**

8:30 & 11:00: Jeen & Rick Harper—*Softly and Tenderly* (arr. C. McCartha)

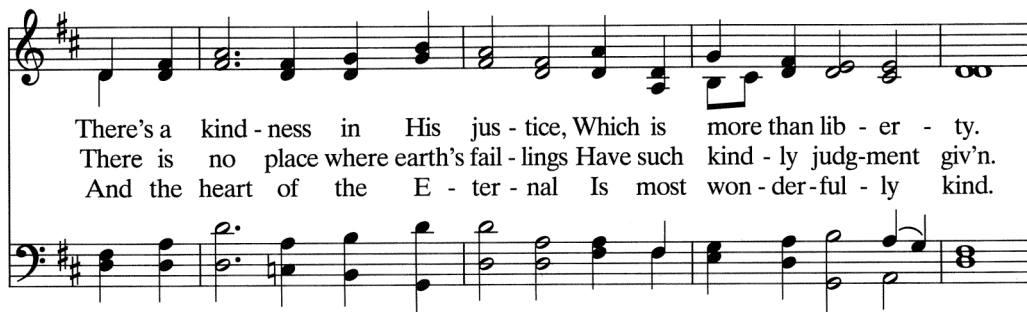
### **The Announcements**

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

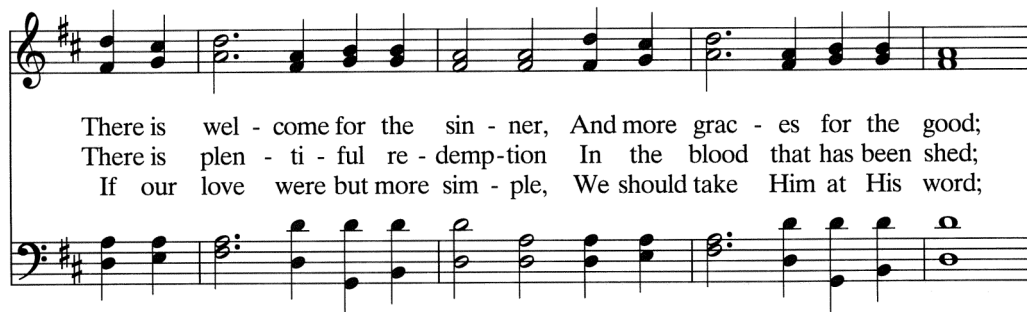
**The Sermon Hymn: "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"** (AMB #416)



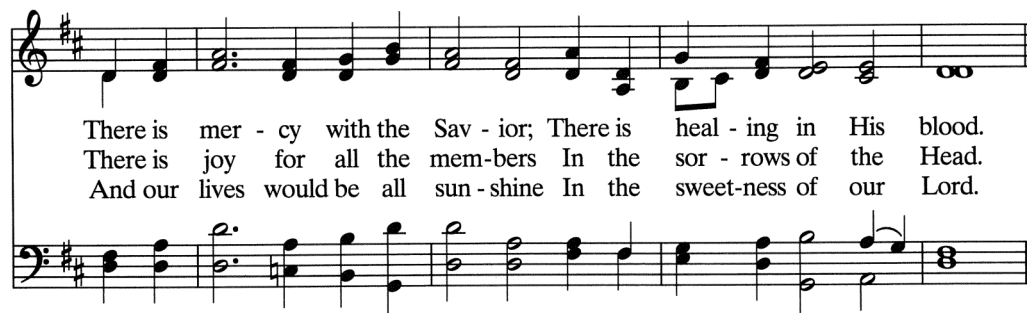
1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, Like the wide-ness of the sea;  
2 There is no place where earth's sor-rows Are more felt than up in heav'n;  
3 For the love of God is broad-er Than the meas-ure of man's mind;



There's a kind-ness in His jus-tice, Which is more than lib-er-ty.  
There is no place where earth's fail-ings Have such kind-ly judg-ment giv'n.  
And the heart of the E-ter-nal Is most won-der-ful-ly kind.



There is wel-come for the sin-ner, And more grac-es for the good;  
There is plen-ti-ful re-demp-tion In the blood that has been shed;  
If our love were but more sim-ple, We should take Him at His word;



There is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; There is heal-ing in His blood.  
There is joy for all the mem-bers In the sor-rows of the Head.  
And our lives would be all sun-shine In the sweet-ness of our Lord.

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:** "The Great Banquet's Invitation" | Luke 14:12-24

**Sermon Notes:**

**The Offertory Response** (Sung in Unison; Please Stand)

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

**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:

**"Come, Thou  
Fount of Every  
Blessing"** (AMB  
#187)



1 Come, Thou Fount of ev-'ry bless-ing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
2 Here I raise my Eb-en - e - zer, Hith-er by Thy help I'm come;  
3 O to grace how great a deb - tor, Dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;

## The Silent Prayer & Chimes



## The Postlude:

**"Postlude on  
Nettleton"**  
(M. Burkhardt)



Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, Call for songs of loud-est praise.  
And I hope, by Thy good pleas - ure Safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
Let that grace now like a fet - ter, Bind my wan - d'ring heart to Thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love,  
Je - sus sought me when a stran-ger, Wand-'ring from the fold of God;  
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;



Teach me ev - er to a - dore Thee, May I still Thy good-ness prove.  
He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.



Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790  
Tune: John Wyeth, 1770-1858

NETTLETON  
87 87 D

# Announcements

**The altar flowers** are presented by Chris Stout in honor of my husband, Ron, on his birthday.

**Nursery Today:** 8:30—TBD; 11:00—Claudia Patalong.

**Welcome to Our Guest Preacher:** Today we welcome the Rev. Dr. Jason Holt to the pulpit. Rev. Holt is the AFLC's Presidential Ministry Associate, a position he has held since January of this year. Prior to that, Rev. Holt served for 15 years as the AFLC Director of Youth Ministries. During that time, he was also the Executive Pastor and Volunteer Youth Director for Living Hope Church in Maple Grove, MN. Rev. Holt graduated from the Free Lutheran Seminary in 1999, and he earned a D. Min. degree, specializing in Ministry to Emerging Generations, from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in 2019. We are blessed to have Rev. Holt with us today while Pastor McMinn and his family are on vacation. Next Sunday, we will welcome the AFLC's Vice President, Pastor Gary Jorgenson.

**Special Thanks** to Will Charlton, who is leading the liturgy, and to Tom Sanders, who is reading Scriptures, at 8:30 and 11:00.

**Known to Be Hospitalized:** Donna Neil—Allegheny General Hospital, on hospice care.

**Prayers for Recovery and Healing:** Dot Corbett—now at Concordia for rehab. Debbie Huffman—at home recovering from surgery. Jodie Riley—breast cancer. Bill VanKirk—skin cancer. Karl Munn. Dee Coldsmith—Providence Point. Marian Meyer—back fracture. Ken Meyer (Marian's son)—stage 4 prostate cancer. Gene Hershberger—treatment for lung cancer. Amy Jones (Al Malone's daughter)—broken pelvis. Her address is 1216 Valley St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136. Abby Stutzman—autoimmune disorders. Virginia DiSalvo. Please keep them in your prayers, as well as all those members of the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

**Official Act:** On Friday, July 21, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. Pastor McMinn officiated at the funeral for Kay Wyrwas in the Ruthfred sanctuary. Please continue to be in prayer for Kay's family and friends as they grieve this loss.

**Condolences:** Our pastor and congregation extend Christian love and sympathy to Joanne Segerdahl and her family on the passing of her husband, Jim, on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

**Official Act:** On Saturday, July 29, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. Pastor McMinn officiated at the funeral for Jim Segerdahl in the Ruthfred sanctuary. Please continue to be in prayer for Jim's family and friends as they grieve this loss.

**Current Fund:** Given by Larry Greenberger in honor of Anne Fife.

**FBLC Scholarship Fund:** Given by Bob and Gladys Reith in loving memory of Joanne Salvetti.

**Music Fund:** Given by Chris Sopoci in memory of Kay Wyrwas.

**Pastor's Fund:** Given by Bob and Gladys Reith in memory of Kay Wyrwas.

**VBS Fund:** Given by the Marly Willis in loving memory of Joanne Salvetti, my VBS volunteer buddy.

**Youth Fund:** Given by Janice Marx in memory of my sister, Joanne Salvetti.

**Benevolence Committee Meeting:** We will meet tomorrow, Monday, July 31, 2023, at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge to begin preliminary discussion of the 2024 budget. We welcome any member of the congregation.

# Announcements (cont'd)

**Heartfelt Thank You:** I would like to thank my church family at Ruthfred for all the prayers, words of encouragement, and cards in support after my recent diagnosis of breast cancer. I thank God for the technology to enable my early detection, the wonderful and talented medical staff, and good prognosis. My journey will continue with radiation treatments and close monitoring for years to come. Please continue to pray for me and others in our church family who are facing the challenges of life. May God bless all of you!—Jodie Riley

**Staff News:** Tomorrow we will be welcoming Coltin Cox as our new full time Director of Youth Ministry! Please greet Coltin and his wife Rebecca. They are returning to the area from Nebraska, where they have been serving a church. Coltin and Rebecca's address is: 1663 State Route 2023, Monongahela, PA 15063. Our interim Director of Youth Ministry, Mason Mitchell, will be staying on for a time to smooth the transition.

**August 6 Holy Communion:** Please note that there will NOT be a 6:00 p.m. service on this day.

**Employment Opportunity at Ruthfred: Nursery Attendant:** Do you have a heart for the youngest in our Church family? We have a need for nursery workers. Please contact Shane Cox if you can help.

**Kids' Time Coordinator Needed:** This is a service opportunity for one or two people who love kids and love sharing God's love with them. Kids' Time provides bible study, games, and a snack during evening Journey Through the Word, October to the start of Lent. For more information, please contact Jason Weighley via email at [jason.weighley@gmail.com](mailto:jason.weighley@gmail.com).

**2023-2024 Preschool Registration** is now open online at [ruthfred.org](http://ruthfred.org). Contact Annie Buzon ([AnnieBuzon@ruthfred.org](mailto:AnnieBuzon@ruthfred.org)) with any questions or to schedule a tour. Spaces are available.

**Save the Date!** Ruthfred's annual church picnic is Sunday, August 20th, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. We'll be cooking up hamburgers and hotdogs; you bring a side or dessert. Last names A—K please bring a salad, L—S please bring a side (other than salad), and T—Z please bring a dessert. There will be fun activities for all ages, including a dunk tank, bounce house, face painting, and bingo. The Praise Team will also be performing. Please join us!

**Journey Through the Word Summer Film Festival:** Many excellent Christian movies have been released through the years. A variety of old and new, fiction and documentary, will be shown for your viewing pleasure! See the complete list of movies and brief summaries in the July issue of *The Herald*. Come for one; come for all! No registration is necessary, and **all** are welcome! Movies are shown at 10:00a.m. on Wednesdays through August 9<sup>th</sup>. This week's movie will be **"The War Room."** This drama presents the story of Tony and Elizabeth Jordan. Outwardly, they seem to have it all, but their marriage is crumbling. Their lives take an unexpected turn when Elizabeth meets Miss Clara and is challenged to establish a "war room" and a battle plan of prayer for her family. Priscilla Shirer stars as Elizabeth.

**Support Life:** Human Coalition/Health for Her in Bethel Park has contacted Ruthfred with some urgent needs. If you would like to make a donation, please place your items in the marked bin in the Fireside Lounge by August 13. If a group would like to go in on an item, they are in need of NEW (still in the box) Pack 'N Plays, travel systems, and infant car seats. Other needs include shampoo, lotion, diaper cream, wipes; NEW receiving blankets, baby blankets, and mini crib sheets; NEW or GENTLY USED **newborn** short & long sleeve onesies; **newborn** girls' sleepers; **newborn to 6 months** girls' and boys' spring/summer clothes; **newborn to 12 months** girls' fall/winter clothing; and **newborn** boys' fall/winter clothing. Thank you for your help. Please contact Jill Kurtz with any questions.

## Announcements (cont'd)

**Ruthfred 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Request:** Next April, Ruthfred will celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its incorporation. Planning has begun for celebrating this milestone. If you would like to join the planning committee, please contact Becky Evans. In the meantime, please be thinking about your happiest memories of Ruthfred. If you are willing to share a memory or memories, there is a collection box on the table near the elevator on the lower level. Or, feel free to send an email to [ruthfred@ruthfred.org](mailto:ruthfred@ruthfred.org). Thank you for blessing us with your memories!

**SHIM Back-to-School Drive:** Check out SHIM's website ([shimcares.org](http://shimcares.org)) for needed back to school items. They are collecting donations at their 5301 Park Ave., Bethel Park site (also accessible from South Park Rd.) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. til 4 p.m. through August 2. Some of the supplies they need are: 70-count spiral notebooks, pencil cases, index cards, pencils, pens, markers, crayons, folders and glue. Additional supplies are listed on the website.

**VBS 2023 Thank You:** Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, talents, or resources to help make VBS a success last week! This ministry for kids does indeed take a village to ensure its success, and many volunteers made it all possible. We especially thank the director, Jason Weighley, and his wife, Donna, who spent many hours coordinating and volunteering. They were supported by an amazing team of volunteers!





## **Adult Sunday School Class Today In Large Classroom**

Why is Ruthfred part of a 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? 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 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. This Sunday we will begin **Lesson 5—Congregation Self-government.**

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## **Summer Sunday School for Kids**

Miss Bunny (Barger) and Miss Susan (Wholey) will continue their wonderful Sunday School class for 4- & 5-year-olds through the summer. Jason Weighley & Friends will offer a special Sunday School series for kids ages 6—5<sup>th</sup> grade featuring the Torchlighters' animated films about heroes of the Faith. Students in grade 6 and up will join Mason for youth Sunday School classes. If you can help with the nursery this summer, please contact Shane Cox.

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## **YOUTH NEWS**

### **SWAP (6-8 Grade)**

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

### **TNT (9-12 Grade)**

**TNT** will meet on Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 7-9 p.m., at Julia Hoppe's house (5112 Windgate Rd., Bethel Park, PA).

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### **Questions/concerns?**

**Contact: Mason Mitchell at [MasonMitchell@ruthfred.org](mailto:MasonMitchell@ruthfred.org), or  
(c) (412)-926-8698**

**Save the Date!**

# **RUTHFRED CHURCH PICNIC**

**GAMES | FUN | MUSIC**



Get ready for Ruthfred's annual church picnic! We'll be cooking up hamburgers and hot dogs, you bring a side or dessert. Last names A-K please bring a salad, L-S please bring a side (not salad), and T-Z please bring a dessert.

..... **SUNDAY, AUGUST 20TH** .....  
**RUTHFRED BALLFIELD**

**3 PM - 7 PM**

## This Week At Ruthfred

**Today (7/30) 9th Sunday after Pentecost**

8:30 a.m.— Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School & New Member Class

11:00 a.m.—Worship Service

(Rev. Jason Holt preaching)

## Monday (7/31)

7:00 p.m.—Benevolence Committee (Fireplace

Lounge)

## Welcome to Coltin Cox, Director of Youth Ministry!

## Tuesday (8/1)

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

## Wednesday (8/2)

10:00 a.m.—JTTW Summer Films ("The War Room")

## Friday (8/4)

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

## Sunday (8/6) 10th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 a.m.—Holy Communion

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Holy Communion

(Rev. Gary Jorgenson preaching)

## City Mission Food Sunday

“[Nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:39).  
What better reason to worship together! Welcome!

Attendance for Last Week:  
 Sunday Worship...240   Sunday School...53  
 8:30 Live Stream...38

## Prayer Requests

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

[illegible]

☐ Please keep this request private (for the 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:

Name:

Children:

Address:

Phone (indicate home, cell, etc.)

Email:

I am a/an:

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

I would like to learn more about:

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

# Ruthfred Staff

**Rev. Bryce C. McMinn** | Pastor  
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[PastorMcMinn@ruthfred.org](mailto:PastorMcMinn@ruthfred.org)

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**Brian Lyskava** | Custodian

**Andrew Vogel** | Multi-Media Coordinator  
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**John Sperandio** | Live Stream & Social Media Asst.  
[JohnSperandio@ruthfred.org](mailto:JohnSperandio@ruthfred.org)

**Robert Vogel**  
Senior & Bell Choirs

**Essi Efthimiou**  
Organist

**Melissa Manzo**  
Children's Choir

**Annie Buzon** | Preschool Director  
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 234)  
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## Ruthfred Lutheran Church

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