

Psalms of our Savior



CARR

Ruthfred Lutheran Church

Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

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

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

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

The Sixth Wednesday in Lent, March 29, 2023

“Need Forgiveness? Hope in Jesus.”

Prelude:

Lenten Hymn Medley

(M. Burkhardt)

The Opening Hymn:

“Wide Open Are Thy Hands”

(SBH #66)

(Please stand as we
join our hearts in
song)

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of staves. The lyrics are: 1. Wide o - pen are thy hands, Pay - ing with more than gold The awe - ful debt of guilt - y men, For - ev - er and of old. Ah, let me grasp those hands, That we may nev - er part, And let the pow - er of their blood Sus - tain my faint - ing heart.

2 Wide open are thine arms,
A fallen world to embrace;
To take to love and endless rest
Our whole forsaken race.
Lord, I am sad and poor,
But boundless is thy grace;
Give me the soul-transforming joy
For which I seek thy face.

3 Draw all my mind and heart
Up to thy throne on high,
And let thy sacred Cross exalt
My spirit to the sky.
To these, thy mighty hands,
My spirit I resign;
Living, I live alone to thee,
Dying, alone am thine.

*Ascribed to St. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153
Tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, 1823–83*

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 Sin

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

Together:

O Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy and ask You for Christ's sake, grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Absolution:

The Introit (Read Responsively; Please stand)

P: At the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow.

C: Of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth. For He became obedient to death, even the death of the Cross.

P: Wherefore He is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Hear my prayer, O Lord.

C: And let my cry come to you. (Philippians 2: 9-11; Psalm 102: 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 Reading of the Passion History VI (Page 24)

"Jesus' Death On The Cross"

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

The Scripture Reading: Psalm 130 (NASB)

- ¹ Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD.
² Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.
³ If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
⁴ But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.
⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, and in His word do I hope.
⁶ My soul *waits* for the Lord more than the watchmen for the morning; *indeed, more than* the watchmen for the morning.
⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD; for with the LORD there is lovingkindness, and with Him is abundant redemption.
⁸ And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

The Confession of Faith: (Confessed in Unison)

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

The Special Music

2:00 Robert Vogel, piano—" *Beneath the Cross of Jesus/Lead Me to Calvary*" (arr. D. Wyrzten)

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty Rock
within a weary land;
a home within the wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and the burden of the day.

King of my life, I crown Thee now,
Thine shall the glory be;
Lest I forget Thy thorn-crowned brow,
Lead me to Calvary.

Upon the cross of Jesus,
mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One
who suffered there for me:
And from my stricken heart with tears
two wonders I confess,
the wonders of redeeming love
and my unworthiness.

The Anthem

7:30 Senior Choir—" *When I Think of Calvary*" (M. Dieterich)

When I Think of Calvary, Jesus, my Savior,
With shame my head is bowed, Thou did'st suffer for me,
Humbly now I sing Thee praise for my salvation,
Jesus keep me near Thee, For I need Thee.

On the cross I see Thee, Jesus, my Savior,
With thorns upon Thy brow, Thou did'st die to save me,
Humbly now I sing Thee praise for my salvation,
Jesus keep me near Thee, For I need Thee.

In the tomb they laid Thee, Jesus, my Savior,
Death claimed its victory, Darkness all about Thee,
Humbly now I sing Thee praise for my salvation,
Jesus keep me near Thee, For I need Thee.


The Announcements

The Sermon Hymn: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" (SBH #64, 1st tune)

Broadly



1. In the Cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tower-ing o'er the wrecks of time;
2. When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de-ceive and fears an - noy,



All the light of sa - cred sto - ry Gath-ers round its head sub - lime.
Nev - er shall the Cross for - sake me; Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the Cross the radiance streaming
Adds more lustre to the day.

4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
By the Cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

John Bowring, 1792-1872

RATHBUN. 8 7, 8 7.

ITHAMAR CONKEY, 1815-1867

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:

"Need Forgiveness? Hope in Jesus." | Psalm 130

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:

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

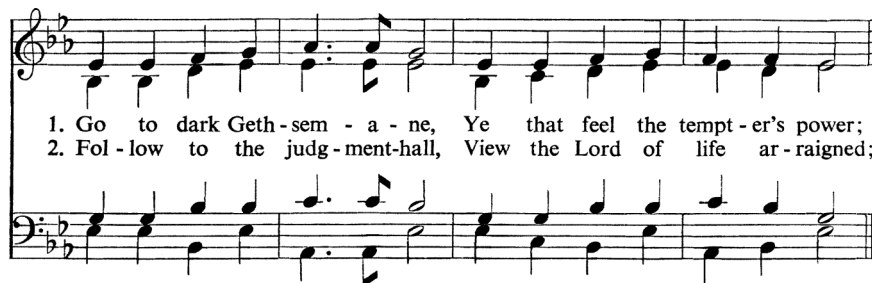
(SBH #78)

The Silent Prayer & Chimes

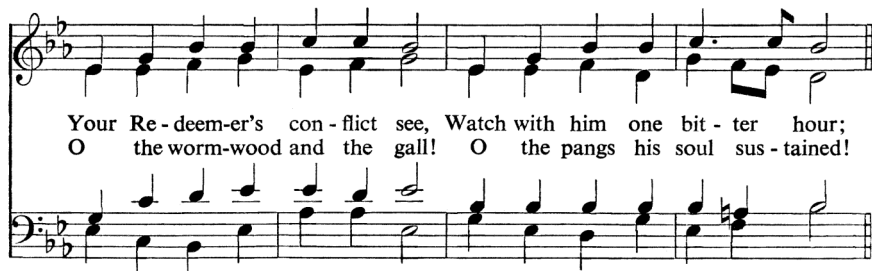
The Postlude:

"Jesus, Thou by Whom My Soul"

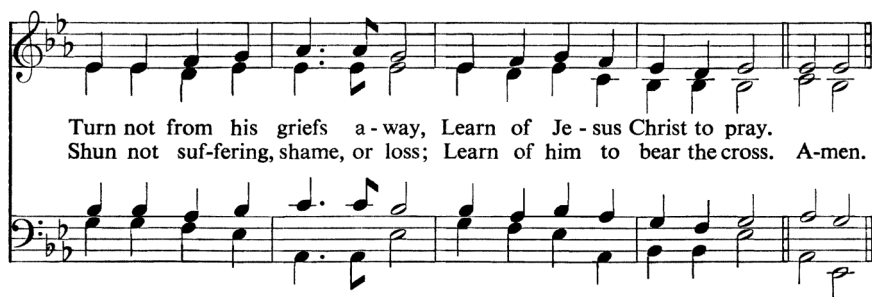
(J. C. Bach)



1. Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, Ye that feel the tempt - er's power;
2. Fol - low to the judg - ment-hall, View the Lord of life ar - rained;



Your Re - deem-er's con - flict see, Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
O the worm-wood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sus - tained!



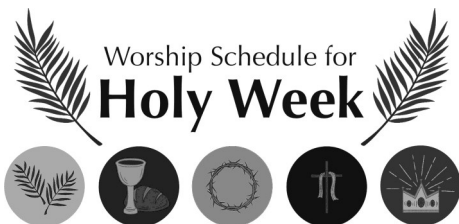
Turn not from his griefs a - way, Learn of Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf-fering, shame, or loss; Learn of him to bear the cross. A-men.

3 Calvary's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at his feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own Sacrifice complete;
'It is finished,' hear him cry;
Learn of Jesus Christ to die.

4 Early hasten to the tomb,
Where they laid his breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom;
Who hath taken him away?
Christ is risen!—He meets our eyes;
Saviour, teach us so to rise. Amen.

James Montgomery, 1771–1854

We welcome you to our service. This is a time of deep reflection and commitment. Let us make every effort to attend all Lenten services and spend time in fellowship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Sunday (4/2) Palm Sunday

City Mission Food Sunday

8:30 a.m.—Holy Communion

9:45 a.m.—Fellowship Breakfast

11:00 a.m.—Holy Communion

4:00-6:00 p.m.—Family Easter Festival

6:00 p.m.—Holy Communion

Thursday (4/6) Maundy Thursday

2:00 p.m.—Holy Communion

7:30 p.m.—Holy Communion

Friday (4/7) Good Friday

12:30–3:00 p.m.—Various Meditations

7:30 p.m.—Tenebrae Service

Sunday (4/9) Easter Sunday

7:00 a.m.—Sunrise Worship Service

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service*

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

1 1:00 a.m.—Worship Service*

*Holy Communion available after service

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 (to be kept for the pastor only).

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

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
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 226)
PastorMcMinn@ruthfred.org

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

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

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

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

Brian Lyskava | Custodian

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

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

Robert Vogel
Senior & Bell Choirs

Frederick Schell
Organist

Essi Efthimiou
Interim Organist

Melissa Manzo
Children's Choir

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

Ruthfred Lutheran Church

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