

*Hallelujah*



RUTHFRED LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

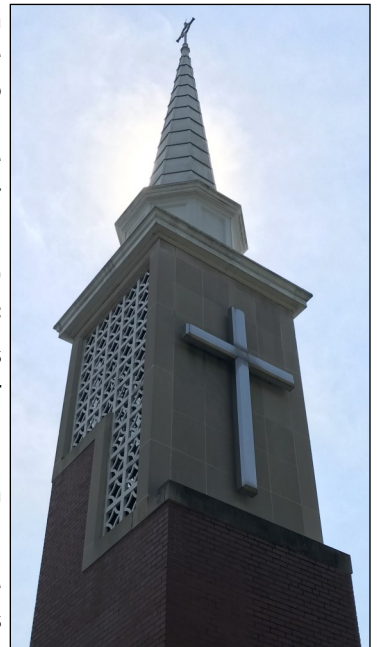
Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations ([www.aflc.org](http://www.aflc.org))

**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 *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 Third Sunday after Easter, April 30, 2023

Jubilate

## Prelude:

### **"Prelude and Fugue in C Major"**

(J. S. Bach)

### **"Pastorale on 'St. Columba'"**

(J. Goode)

### **"Prayer"**

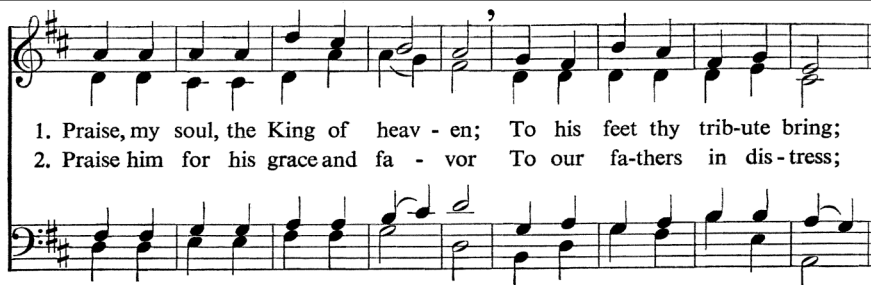
(F. von Hiller)

## The Opening Hymn:

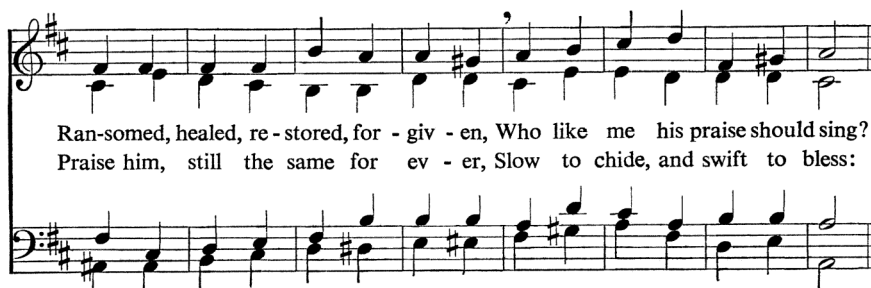
### **"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"**

(SBH #160, 1st tune)

(Please stand as we join our hearts in song)



1. Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; To his feet thy trib-ute bring;  
2. Praise him for his grace and fa - vor To our fa-thers in dis - tress;



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, Who like me his praise should sing?  
Praise him, still the same for ev - er, Slow to chide, and swift to bless:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.

3 Father-like he tends and spares us,  
Well our feeble frame he knows;  
In his hands he gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Widely as his mercy flows.

4 Angels, help us to adore him,  
Ye behold him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before him;  
Dwellers all in time and space:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

*Henry Francis Lyte, 1793–1847  
Based on Psalm 103*

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-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**

"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: Christ is Risen.

**C: He is Risen indeed and is coming again.**

P: Make a joyful noise unto God, all you lands, alleluia:

**C: Sing forth the honor of His Name, alleluia; make His praise glorious. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

P: Say unto God, how awesome are You in Your works.

**C: Through the greatness of Your power shall Your enemies submit themselves unto You.** (Psalm 66: 1-3)

**The Gloria Patri** (Sung in Unison; SBH p. 17)

**Glorify 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.**

"Kyrie" is from the Greek word 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 Hymn of  
Praise:**

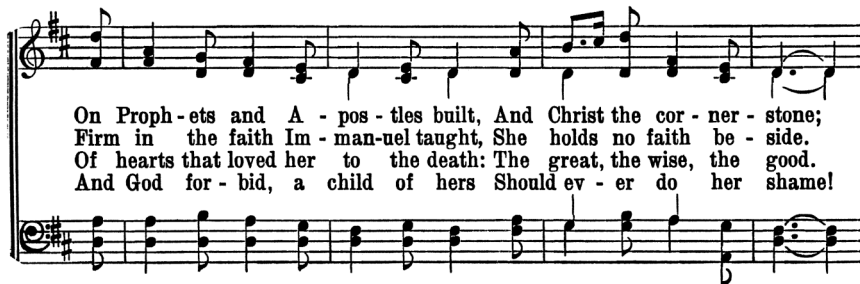
**"My Church, My  
Church, My Dear  
Old  
Church"** (American  
Lutheran Hymnal  
#87)

G. C. S. S. Book, 1887

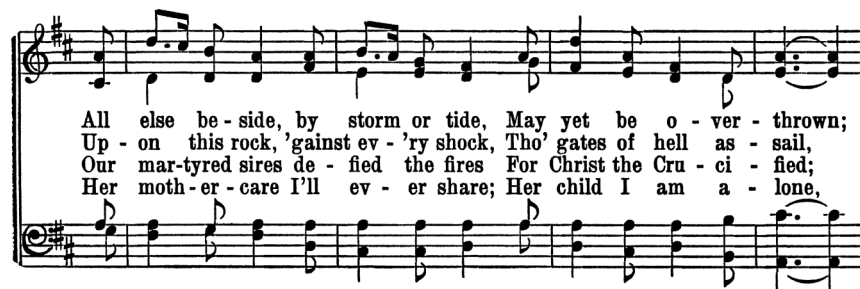
F. Giardini



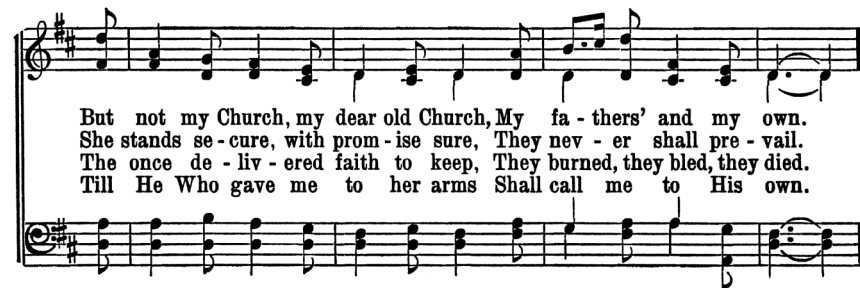
1. My Church, my Church, my dear old Church, My fa - thers' and my own!  
 2. My Church, my Church, my dear old Church, My glo - ry and my pride!  
 3. My Church, my Church, my dear old Church, I've heard the tale of blood,  
 4. My Church, my Church, my dear old Church, I love her an - cient name;



On Proph - ets and A - pos - tles built, And Christ the cor - ner - stone;  
 Firm in the faith Im - man - uel taught, She holds no faith be - side.  
 Of hearts that loved her to the death: The great, the wise, the good.  
 And God for - bid, a child of hers Should ev - er do her shame!



All else be - side, by storm or tide, May yet be o - ver - thrown;  
 Up - on this rock, 'gainst ev - 'ry shock, Tho' gates of hell as - sail,  
 Our mar - tyred sires de - fied the fires For Christ the Cru - ci - fied;  
 Her moth - er - care I'll ev - er share; Her child I am a - lone,



But not my Church, my dear old Church, My fa - thers' and my own.  
 She stands se - cure, with prom - ise sure, They nev - er shall pre - vail.  
 The once de - liv - ered faith to keep, They burned, they bled, they died.  
 Till He Who gave me to her arms Shall call me to His own.

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: Almighty God, in your kindness you show the light of your truth to those who live in error and darkness; so that they might turn to you and walk in your ways of righteousness. Grant unto all who are in the fellowship of the Body of Christ, the Church, that they might turn from those things that are contrary to their profession of faith, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; 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 First Lesson: Acts 2:42-47** (NASB)

<sup>42</sup> They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

**The Psalm: Psalm 23** (NASB, Read Responsively)

P: The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**C: He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.**

P: He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

**C: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.

**C: Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**The Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 2:19-25** (NASB)

<sup>19</sup> For this *finds* favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God. <sup>21</sup> For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, <sup>22</sup> WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; <sup>23</sup> and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; <sup>24</sup> and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

**The Gradual**

Alleluia, alleluia. The Lord has sent redemption unto His people. Alleluia. It is written that the Christ must suffer, and rise from the dead and thus enter into His glory. Alleluia. (Psalm 119: 9; Luke 24: 46)

**The Alleluia** (Sung in Unison)

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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 Holy Gospel Lesson: John 10:1-10** (NASB)

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

<sup>1</sup> “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup> But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them. <sup>7</sup> So Jesus said to them again, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. <sup>9</sup> I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly.

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 Bell Choir—*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* (L. Beethoven/C. Dobrinski)

11:00 Senior Choir—*A Joyful Song* (G. Young)

Come, let us sing unto the Lord.

To the rock of our salvation, make we now a joyful noise.

Let us come before His presence, let us come to Him with psalms;

Let us praise our Royal Maker, let us raise this antiphon.

Come, let us sing!

## **The Announcements**

## **The Children’s Object Lesson**

**Recognition of 7th and 8th Grade Confirmation Students and Their Parents** (8:30 and 11:00)

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.

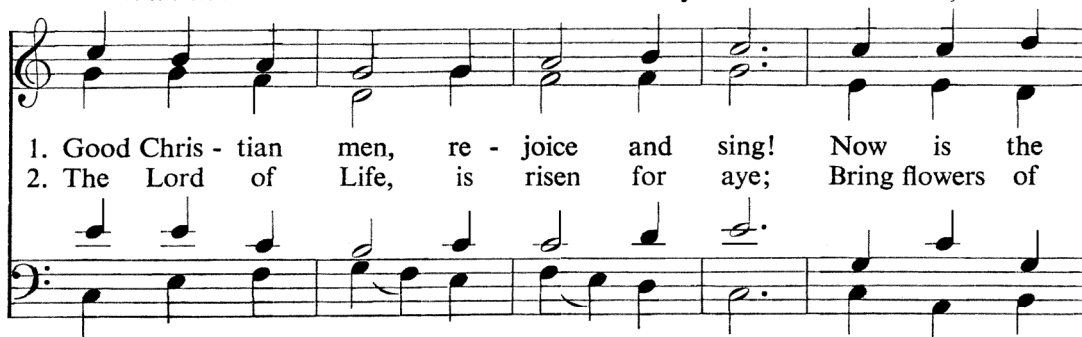
**The Sermon Hymn: "Good Christian Men, Rejoice and Sing"** (SBH #109)

VULPIUS (GELOBT SEI GOTT). 8 8 8. With Alleluias.

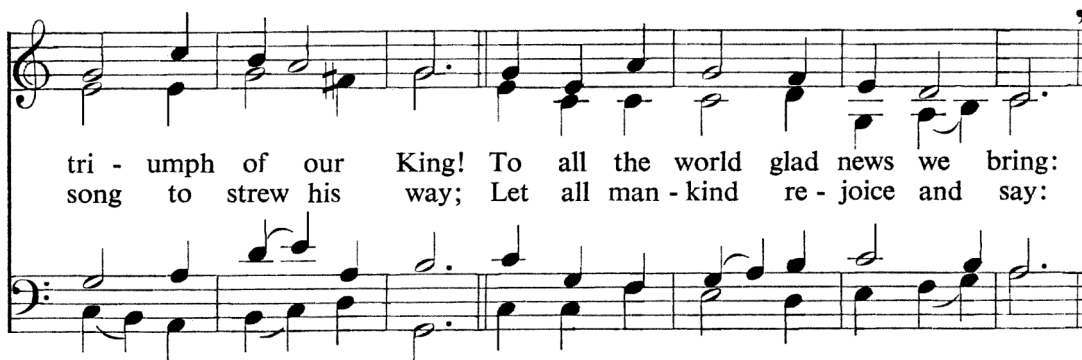
MELCHIOR VULPIUS, cir. 1560

Harm. by ERNEST MACMILLAN, 1893-

*With exultation*



1. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice and sing! Now is the  
2. The Lord of Life, is risen and for aye; Bring flowers of



tri - umph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:  
song to strew his way; Let all man - kind re - joice and say:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

3 Praise we in songs of victory  
That love, that life which cannot die,  
And sing with hearts uplifted high:  
Alleluia!

4 Thy Name we bless, O risen Lord,  
And sing today with one accord  
The life laid down, the life restored:  
Alleluia!

Cyril A. Alington, 1872-

By permission of the author

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:** "He Came to Give You Life!" | John 10:1-10

**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:**  
**"The Church's One Foundation"** (SBH #149)

**The Silent Prayer & Chimes**

**The Postlude:**  
**"Postlude in G Major"**  
 (G. F. Handel)

1. The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ her Lord;  
 2. E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth,

She is his new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the word:  
 Her char - ter of sal - va - tion One Lord, one faith, one birth;

From heaven he came and sought her To be his ho - ly bride,  
 One ho - ly Name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,

With his own Blood he bought her, And for her life he died.  
 And to one hope she press - es, With ev - ery grace en - dued. A-men.

3 'Mid toil and tribulation,  
 And tumult of her war,  
 She waits the consummation  
 Of peace for evermore;  
 Till with the vision glorious  
 Her longing eyes are blest,  
 And the great Church victorious  
 Shall be the Church at rest.

4 Yet she on earth hath union  
 With God, the Three in One,  
 And mystic sweet communion  
 With those whose rest is won.  
 O happy ones and holy!  
 Lord, give us grace that we  
 Like them, the meek and lowly,  
 On high may dwell with thee. Amen.

*Samuel John Stone, 1839-1900*

# Announcements

**The altar flowers** are presented by the Taylor family (Amy, Zach, and Alea) in loving memory of their beloved husband and father, DJ, to celebrate the day he and Amy met 29 years ago today, and also to honor him as he was taken to his heavenly home one year ago this week.

**The chancel rail flowers** are presented by Leslie Gill in honor and memory of her dear grandmother, Frankie Alice Lowther Davis, born this day in 1898.

**Nursery Today:** 11:00—Claudia Patalong.

**Guest Organist:** Please welcome Sibyl Mose as our guest organist today! Thank you, Sibyl!

**Special thanks** to Eric Wenthe and Kurt Ziegler. They are reading Scripture today at the 8:30 and 11:00 services, respectively.

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

**Prayers for Recovery and Healing:** Linda Donolo (broken leg & hip replacement). Linda is currently in Florida. Send cards to: 307 Reynolds Ct., Naples, FL 34112. Sylvia Fitzgerald—broken leg. Amy Taylor—upcoming rotator cuff surgery. Amy Jones (Al Malone's daughter)—broken pelvis. Her address is 1216 Valley St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136. Carol McDowell—knee replacement. Abby Stutzman—autoimmune disorders. Bob Bohaski is now home recovering from his recent surgery. Lundy Castro (Jen Carlson's father)—his cancer continues to spread. Erna Jochum—Concordia Health Center Room 283. Please keep them in your prayers, as well as all those in the Ruthfred family who are facing health or other challenges.

**Condolences:** Our pastor and congregation extend Christian love and sympathy to Margery Schell and her family on the passing of her husband, Fred, our faithful organist since 2012, on Friday, April 21, 2023. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

**Condolences:** Our pastor and congregation extend Christian love and sympathy to Marie Wilmer's family. Marie, who had been a member at Ruthfred since 2000, passed away in Hilliard, OH, on Thursday, April 20, 2023. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

**Current Fund:** Given by Priscilla Tarr in thanksgiving for the beautiful Easter basket, which truly brightened my day, as did the included cards. Thank you!

**Music Fund:** Given by Joyce Bock in memory of Fred Schell. Given by Marian Meyer in memory of Fred Schell.

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

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

# Announcements (cont'd)

**VBS 2023:** Dates are July 24-28. The theme this year will be “Twists and Turns.” Come and learn how following Jesus will help you through life’s twists and turns. Registration is open at: <https://www.myvbs.org/RuthfredLutheran/>. This link allows parents to register their children for this fun event and also allows volunteers to sign up to help make VBS a success! Please note that all volunteers age 18 and older must have current clearances in order to serve with children and youth at VBS, Sunday School, and youth events. Clearances are good for 5 years. Contact Felicia Rieck in the church office for more information.

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

**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).

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

**National Day of Prayer:** Please join us on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, at 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. in the Adult Sunday School Room to pray for America. We will have a guided, informal time of prayer in a group (or groups) for approximately 45-60 minutes. Come and lift up your prayers vocally or silently.

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

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

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

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

## Announcements (cont'd)

### Special Congregational Meeting

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





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

What did Jesus mean when He told His disciples in John 20:23, "*If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.*" In part, it means that right here at Ruthfred, when we confess our sins, and hear the Absolution (the declaration of forgiveness), that's not the pastor's forgiveness you're receiving, IT'S GOD'S! How!? Well, let's see what the Bible says. Come to Sunday School class today and find out as Pastor McMinn leads a class focused on the Absolution, using Bryan Wolfmueller's The Absolution: an Anthology as a resource.

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## **Upcoming Adult Class**

Why is Ruthfred part of a tiny national church body called the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC)? What's the AFLC, what's a congregation, and why does that matter to me? Starting Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> Pastor McMinn and others will guide the adult Sunday School class through a series called "*The Gospel in The Congregation*," written in part by Pastor James Molstre, a former pastor at Ruthfred. Join us for this brand new series, which includes great videos and a short, helpful workbook. Don't assume you already understand the Biblical role of a congregation and your part in it. Come and see for yourself what it's all about.



## **YOUTH NEWS:**

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

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

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

**TNT** will meet at Ruthfred on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7-9 p.m.

### **Looking ahead**

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### **Questions/concerns?**

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

# Ruthfred Lutheran Preschool

Register now for the 2023-2024 school year!

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



Register online at [ruthfred.org](http://ruthfred.org)

Contact [preschool@ruthfred.org](mailto:preschool@ruthfred.org) for more information or to schedule a tour.

## Honoring our Junior and Senior Confirmands

### Senior Confirmands

Joshua Cimarolli

Jonathan Tarrant

### Junior Confirmands

Morgan Dolence

Courtney Felicetti

Evan Gusky

Ryan Handshue

Asher Manzo

Elliot McMinn

Holly Miller

## This Week At Ruthfred

**Today (4/30) 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Easter**

8:30 a.m.—Worship Service

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School

1 1:00 a.m.—Worship Service

## Church Anniversary Sunday

**Monday (5/1) St. Philip & St. James, Apostles**

9:30 a.m.—Craft & Sew

7:00 p.m.—Elders' Meeting

## Tuesday (5/2)

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team

7:00-9:00 p.m.—VBS Decorating

### Wednesday (5/3)

5:45 p.m.—Children's Choir

6:45 p.m.—Senior Confirmation Class

7:00 p.m.—Senior Choir

## Thursday (5/4)

10:00 a.m.—National Day of Prayer Observance

7:00 p.m.—National Day of Prayer Observance

### Friday (5/5)

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

**Happy 91<sup>st</sup> Birthday, Martha Schneider**

**Sunday (5/7) 4th Sunday after Easter**

8:30 a.m.—Holy Communion

9:45 a.m.—Fellowship Breakfast

1 1:00 a.m.—Holy Communion

## Noon-ish—Parents' Date Night Planning Meeting

6:00 p.m.—Holy Communion

## City Mission Food Sunday

With the psalmist we proclaim, “You prepare a table before me ... my cup overflows” (Psalm 23:5). Welcome to worship as we praise and thank the Lord our Shepherd.

Attendance for Last Week:

Sunday Worship...235    Sunday School...80

8:30 Live Stream...42

## Prayer Requests

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

[illegible]

☐ Please keep this request Private (to be kept for the pastor only).

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

## 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](mailto:PastorMcMinn@ruthfred.org)

**Melissa Bostaph** | Parish Assistant  
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 225)  
[MelissaBostaph@ruthfred.org](mailto:MelissaBostaph@ruthfred.org)

**Sally Ondrejko** | Office Manager  
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 222)  
[SallyOndrejko@ruthfred.org](mailto:SallyOndrejko@ruthfred.org)

**John Morden** | Accounting Manager  
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 224)  
[JohnMorden@ruthfred.org](mailto:JohnMorden@ruthfred.org)

**Felicia Rieck** | Administrative Assistant  
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 221)  
[FeliciaRieck@ruthfred.org](mailto:FeliciaRieck@ruthfred.org)

**Brian Lyskava** | Custodian

**Andrew Vogel** | Multi-Media Coordinator  
(412) 568-3215  
[AndrewVogel@ruthfred.org](mailto:AndrewVogel@ruthfred.org)

**John Sperandio** | Live Stream & Social Media Asst.  
[JohnSperandio@ruthfred.org](mailto:JohnSperandio@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](mailto:Preschool@ruthfred.org)

**Ruthfred Lutheran Church**  
3401 South Park Road  
Bethel Park, Pennsylvania 15102  
Phone: (412) 835-7140  
Email: [ruthfred@ruthfred.org](mailto:ruthfred@ruthfred.org)  
[www.ruthfred.org](http://www.ruthfred.org)